



Richard Gerard Kissinger

April 8, 1952 - August 24, 2023

Richard Gerard Kissinger, 71, of Ponchatoula, LA, passed away Thursday, August 24th, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family. Born April 8th, 1952, in Galveston, Texas, Richard was the cherished son of Gloria Nonus Kissinger and Otto Murray Kissinger Jr., brother of Debbie and late sister, Marilyn. In his early days, Richard achieved the rank of Eagle Scout during his active years in the Boy Scouts. In 1974, he graduated from Lamar University with a degree in Business Management. After marrying his former wife, Kathy, they moved to South Louisiana where they ultimately raised their five beautiful children. Richard's career took him through notable roles in human resources at Gulf, Alliance, BP and BRI., yet throughout the years, his true passion was entrepreneurship. He fearlessly pursued his dreams, establishing ventures including Kissinger Gerard Accounting, The Tea Berry House, The Mason Jar, Lazer Wars, and Sidetrack Deli & Catering. As a chef and entrepreneur, he extended his dedication to the Ponchatoula Rotary Club as an honorary

member, sharing his culinary skills to their weekly meetings. In his adult life, Richard was known for his great sense of humor, being a musician, playing golf, and cooking for family, friends, and his church community.

Richard's legacy lives on through his family, and is survived by his daughters, Holly Kissinger of Los Angeles, CA, and Heidi Easley & husband, Dustin of Hammond, LA; by his sons, Zach Kissinger & wife, Angelica of Denver, CO, and Gunther Kissinger & Gabriel Kissinger of Plano, TX. He is also survived by his younger sister, Debbie Kissinger of Richwood, TX and grandsons, Brady Easley & Boston Easley of Hammond, LA.

A memorial service celebrating Richard's life will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 3:00pm at the First United Methodist Church of Ponchatoula. As we gather to honor his memory, let us reflect on Richard's legacy of determination, innovation, and enduring love for his family and community.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 27. 3:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
201 E Pine St
Ponchatoula, LA 70454
(985) 386-3561

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Memory of Richard Kissinger*

It is with sad hearts that my wife and I learned of the passing of Richard Kissinger. Rich, Richie, or Prince Savage as he was variously known to others depending on what stage that Rich came into your life.

This dimmed recollection is loosely based on facts.

Richie and I served on the Camp Karankawa BSA staff in the mid sixties for several years at ages 15,16, In terms of hierarchy, we were at the time on the lower of the upper echelon of camp Staff that actually had screened cabins on concrete pads with electricity. We earned between \$15 and \$20 per week for 6-7 weeks of the summer. Thought we had hit the jackpot.

As opposed to the Training Counselors (TC's) which camped in a separate area in canvas tents pitched over pallets. The TC's were younger scouts 13-14 usually there for two-week unpaid stints.

Biggest fear of the TC's was getting caught in Staff Camp.

The Staff was aged 15 to 21 depending on your job and some had little tolerance for the lone TC invader to our space. Staff Camp was at the top edge of the bank of the San Bernard River. The bank , known as Staff Hill, was more like a 25 foot mud cliff by which Rich and I shared a cabin close to the edge. Although Staff Camp had flushing toilets and community showers in the latrine area, Staff Hill was the customary area for late night bathroom relief breaks which created a smelly slippery slide for disposal of any TC's dumb enough or slow enough to get caught inside. Not saying we ever committed such acts as we were barely older than the Tc's. But our proximity to the bank afforded us prime viewing of the dispatches. I think because of the stench of Staff Hill is why we were assigned that cabin.

So why was Rich called Prince Savage? Customary amongst groups of teenagers, nick names are randomly assigned but usually have some commonality to the person whether it is a gang from Galveston or a bunch of scouts at camp. There was a King Savage, Smitty. Smitty earned his moniker. He was Savage. Several years older, he was slovenly, rotund and gross. But a cool kind of gross.

We played poker in his cabin, he smoked, and headed up the Staff wine making debacle. And the staff really liked Smitty. Known to wear the same shorts, t-shirt and underwear for the week (and maybe the next week). Smitty had a sleeping bag he slept in every night. Every hot sweaty summer night from June into sweltering August. And God only knows what possible biological functions took place in that bag. We suspected it was a cesspool of stains, odors, and DNA evidence! Thus, his well-earned title King Savage. We did not sleep in sleeping bags but made up our camp mattresses with the sheets and light spreads that our Mothers washed up over the weekend.

Rich's Mom was the best. Rich had more clean pairs of shorts and T-shirts than anyone I had ever seen. I swear I think she even ironed his T-shirts.

Rich was the antithesis to King Savage. Rich was the cleanest Scout at Karankawa. One day Rich was assigned to lead an overnighter of tenderfoot Scouts. But there was one problem. Rich had no sleeping bag since he never had needed one.

Smitty stepped up and said "Hey Kissinger you can take mine." Rich begrudgingly accepted. He later said it was one of his worst nights at camp. He said he had to sleep on top of the bag as he could not bear to think about crawling inside the King Savages infamous sleeping bag.

After he returned from the overnighter he went direct to the showers.

Staff learned of his sacrifice of using King Savages' sleeping bag and dubbed him Prince Savage, a moniker that lives to this day. Rich was best man at my wedding. As life happens, we drifted apart to raise families. Still stayed in touch and visited Rich in Ponchatoula where he extended his hospitality for either Madi Gra, or Strawberry festival. Great times. Rich, you will be missed. I'm sure you are Scouting the trail ahead for the rest of us where no sleeping bags are required.

Rest in Peace Scout.



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Gerard Kissinger.*



August 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *Expressing our sympathy to Richards entire family... we enjoyed his leadership in Scouting. He touched many young lives .The Yoes family; Glen, Tammie, and Luke*

Tammie Yoes - August 26, 2023 at 09:44 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Richard Gerard Kissinger.*



August 25, 2023 at 06:20 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Gerard Kissinger.*



August 25, 2023 at 04:04 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Gerard Kissinger.*



August 25, 2023 at 03:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard Gerard Kissinger.*



August 25, 2023 at 03:30 PM



“ *Rest in peace Richard. Prayers and hugs for Holly, Heidi, Zach, Gabe, Gunther, Dustin, Angelica, Brady Boston and your sister, Debbie and all your family
Much Love
Jane*

Jane Smith - August 25, 2023 at 03:00 PM