Richard Anthony Schmitz

Apr 8, 2016

MISSOULA – Richard "Rick" Schmitz, age 57, died unexpectedly on Monday, April 4, 2016, in a tragic train accident while at work.

Rick was born on Nov. 21, 1958, in Dubuque, Iowa, to parents Leroy (Ben) and Rosemary Schmitz. He graduated from Potosi High School in Potosi, Wisconsin, in 1976 and worked various jobs in the Midwest before relocating to Montana in 1978.

Rick began working for Montana Rail Link as a track laborer in 1997; later he transferred to the mechanical department as a hostler/laborer, and continued in this capacity for more than 18 years. Rick loved everything about the railroading industry and took great pride in his work.

Rick was a motorcycle enthusiast that really loved his Harley and other outdoor activities including snowmobiling and could often be found working out at a local gym. Rick was in recovery for over 30 years and enjoyed fundraising for various local charities.

Rick is survived by brothers, Steve Schmitz of Dubuque, Tim Schmitz of Milltown, Nick Schmitz of Dubuque, Joe Schmitz of Falls Church, Virginia, Mike Schmitz of Dubuque, Rob Schmitz of Kuwait; sister Libby Sides of Cuba City, Wisconsin; many nieces and nephews and loving friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Ben Schmitz and sister Sandra Schmitz.

A memorial service, followed by light reception, is scheduled on Saturday, April 9, at 11 a.m. at Garden City Funeral Home, 1705 W. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59808.

An additional memorial service will be held in Potosi later in the year.

In lieu of donations, contributions to UM Foundation/Montana Autism Center at PO Box 7159 Missoula, MT 59807 (UMFoundation@MSO.umt.edu) would be most appreciated.