



Richard Streit

December 21, 1935 - September 12, 2025

Richard John Streit, affectionately known as “DJ” to his family and friends, died peacefully at his home in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, September 12, 2025. He was just 3 months shy of his 90th birthday.

DJ was born in Chicago on December 21, 1935, to George and Marion (Ross) Streit. He attended Shrine of the Little Flower High School in Royal Oak, Michigan, and went on to study at University of Notre Dame where he graduated with his BSME in 1957. He served in the Marine Corps with training at Camp Lejeune and was stationed in the Asia Pacific for several years. DJ studied at John Marshall Law School in Chicago and graduated with his JD in 1965. He was admitted to the Illinois State Bar that same year and went on to join the law firm Ladas & Parry where he specialized in patent law. DJ worked there for more than 50 years, only retiring in 2023.

DJ was an old-school, hard-working attorney but he was always pursuing his many interests and sharing them with friends and family. Despite his urban work life, he loved the countryside and farming. He learned construction and completely restored his first farm near White Hall, Wisconsin, where he partnered with his beloved uncle Armond Paquin raising quarter horses. His Circle R Ranch became a beautiful playground destination for DJ’s friends and family, where he introduced us to horseback riding, tractor pulls, snowmobiles, and the music of Bob Wills. He learned to play the guitar and loved singing

country tunes for guests at the farm. DJ loved motorcycles and taught many in the family to ride. He took up karate and earned a black belt. He was an avid skier and loved racing his nieces and nephews down the slopes.

He married Carol Albright in 1992, and they were together for 25 years, sharing a new farm in Harvard, Illinois. They loved to travel to Mexico and eventually bought a home in Puerto Vallarta where DJ spent his last years after retirement. To help keep his lungs strong later in life, DJ studied opera and could belt out "O Sole Mio" on any occasion. He lifted weights, even at 88 years old. He was incredibly generous and quietly supported many family members and charities. Out at a restaurant, he would always pick up the check before anyone else at the table. He was like no other and will be sorely missed by his many work colleagues, family, and friends.

DJ is preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Joan Braun and Lois MacGregor, sister-in-law Charlotte Streit, brother-in-law John Tschudy, and nephews Michael Braun and Peter MacGregor (the only one of us who could ski faster than DJ).

He is survived by his brother Robert Streit and his sister Susan Tschudy, brothers-in-law Jim Braun and Tom MacGregor, his former wife Carol, his dear friends and adopted children Juan Luis Carbajal Estrada and Maria Lorena Esquivel Gonzales and grandkids Sophia and Richie (aka "Little DJ"), as well as his 16 nieces and nephews and dearest cousins from the Camilli, Grossinger, Johnson, Murphy, and Streit families.

For all of us, one song will forever remind us of DJ and the good times we shared:

Almost Heaven, West Virginia
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River

Life is old there, older than the trees
Younger than the mountains, growin' like a breeze
Country roads, take me home
To the place I belong
West Virginia, mountain mama
Take me home, country roads

-- From Take Me Home, Country Roads

-- By John Denver-Mary Catherine Taffy Nivert-Danoff-William Thomas Danoff

A Celebration of DJ's life is being held in Chicago on October 26. as well as in later in Puerto Vallarta and Michigan. Please contact the funeral home for information.

In lieu of flowers, donations in DJ's memory can be made to the Santa Chiara Children's Center in Port-au-Pince, Haiti (<https://santachiaracc.org/>).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Here are scenes from DJ's burial at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Kewadin, Michigan, the day after Thanksgiving, 2025. It was very cold and windy but we were glad to be together as a family to celebrate DJ's life and kindness. Thanks to Esther for the pictures and video, and to the Elk Rapids AMVETS Post #114 for honoring DJ's service to our country.



Tony Streit - December 21, 2025 at 05:40 PM

CS

So very beautiful and caring.

carol Streit - December 21, 2025 at 10:26 PM

CW

DJ's legacy of love lives on in this loving family! So proud and grateful to be a part of it. Thank you Tony and Esther for this post!

Chad Williams - December 22, 2025 at 12:42 PM

JT

I am so grateful to be a part of this family. Thank you uncle DJ for being there for us all.

Jenny Thomas - December 22, 2025 at 02:21 PM

LS

He is now reunited with Goldie, galloping through the Universe. Thank you Uncle. Thank you a million times over. You loved and were loved - a full circle life that will live on in us always.

Lynn Streit - December 22, 2025 at 05:34 PM

TS

DJ you'll be missed by so many people who shared time with and enjoyed being in your company. We'll always remember the good times we had with you and Carol at the farm ... thank you for being the generous soul and friend to us .

The Stange's - January 02 at 07:14 PM



“ Here's a tribute video we made for DJ that was shared at his memorial in Chicago, as well as with family at Thanksgiving, and with Juan and Lorena in Puerto Vallarta. The music is courtesy of DJ's friend and vocal coach Davin Youngs. Of all the songs DJ is known for, this one seems to speak to all of us in our time of grief.



Tony Streit - December 21, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ 46 files added to the album Puerto Vallarta Celebration



Tony Streit - December 21, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ 35 files added to the album *Michigan Memorial Service*



Tony Streit - December 21, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ 32 files added to the album *Chicago Memorial Dinner*



Tony Streit - December 21, 2025 at 04:33 PM

NI

“ Uncle Dick, DJ, Richard... You played so many interesting and mysterious characters in my life. I'm forever grateful for the unconditional love you shared with my mom, your sister. It taught me what is true and pure. You also taught me valuable lessons on how to act around horses, I have applied these lessons to countless interactions with other animals and especially with people. I think you did too. You were a main character in a supporting role. I will miss your sweet smile and your warm embrace. Rest in peace and love

nicky - November 10, 2025 at 12:11 PM

MK

“ We were saddened to hear about Richard’s passing. Richard was my patent mentor at Ladas from 1989 to 1996. My wife Theresa and I enjoyed being invited to Richard and Carol’s wedding, and parties at the farm and Chicago home. Richard was a kind and generous host. We always felt welcomed.

When Richard learned that I played racquet ball, he invited me to play during lunch. Being decades younger than Richard, I was surprised at his athleticism. We played often and he won nearly every game. There was never a need to “let the boss win”. It was fun and he never bragged. If I said anything about the game, he would just give that classic Richard smile and glance.

Richard was also a driving force in the office. He was in the office early and worked hard. I admired and respected how he practiced law and ran the office. But he clearly also enjoyed his other interests, including the farm, music and family. When our daughter was born, Richard and Carol gave our daughter a beautiful dress.

As we had lost touch, it was a surprise to hear that he had passed. But it was not a surprise to hear that he was still going strong up to the end.

Theresa and I enjoyed spending time last night at Richard’s celebration of life. We very much enjoyed meeting and speaking with Richard’s family and learning more about Richard. Thank you!

Mike and Theresa Kenaga

Mike Kenaga - October 27, 2025 at 12:40 PM

RY

“ *It is with deep respect and gratitude that I remember Mr. Streit, a truly dedicated intellectual property professional. He was exceptionally knowledgeable, always on top of everything, and deeply committed to his work and colleagues.*

During my tenure at Ladas, I had the privilege of working closely with him—not only about the practice of IP law but also about professionalism and integrity. More personally, I remain profoundly grateful for his generous support in helping me secure my residency, which allowed my family to live in the United States without difficulty.

Mr. Streit’s guidance, kindness, and dedication left a lasting impact on many of us. I miss him and take comfort in believing that he is at peace, after having fought a good fight and run a good race.

Rachel Yu - October 16, 2025 at 09:42 PM

DH

“ Dick Streit was the Jane Eyre of Ladas & Parry. He was the quiet, unglamorous, hero instrumental in keeping the show together. I joined the firm in February 1990. I don't think Dick spoke to me until he invited me to his Holiday Party that Christmas. It wasn't that he was being unfriendly or hostile. He was just contented to be in the background to the Chicago Office's Batman, Jack Chrystal, and Jack's Boy Wonder, Tom Peterson. So it was a surprise for my wife and I to enter Dick's Chicago Mansion and find it swarmed by his band of loud, colorful, and boisterous friends. Completely shocking was to see silent Dick pick-up a guitar, stand on a make-shift stage and belt out Take Me Home..... Country Roads....West Virginia. It was as though the Big Bopper had returned for a one-night stand doing a country-only set with Dick Streit as his cipher. After that, I never again saw Dick in the same light. I came to realize that he was not leading a double life: he wasn't just Mr. Jekyll on weekends. Yes, Jack and Tom may have been leads, but at Ladas' Chicago office Dick was the Director, Producer, Script-Writer, Talent Scout, Key Grip, and Martini. He inhabited each role magnificently. At no moment during my next 15 years at Ladas was there ever any doubt in my mind about who was the person in charge. Thank you Dick for demonstrating the irresistible power of a strong fiber, dependability, and honesty. Thank you for your integrity. Ba chóir go mbeadh an t-ádh linn bualadh lena leithéidí arís.

Dermot Horgan, former partner at Ladas.

Dermot Horgan - October 16, 2025 at 08:13 AM

MG

“*Dick Streit, as we knew him at Ladas, was adored by many, which was not an easy role to claim. The firm was/is a hard-working firm requiring many long hours from all the people there in trying to do the very best for its clients at a reasonable price. And that, definitely, frayed the nerves of many. But Dick was always on top of it, like the wise sage, seeing what we mere mortals could not see and supporting us all and buoying us in the waters of life. I am heartened to learn what a lovely family life he had, as he so deserved that given the fact that he was so kind, caring, and wise for those of us who were his work family. G-d bless sweet Dick. If there is a heaven, he is without a doubt there, and if there is not, he did all that he could to bring heaven to the rest of us. Thank you, Dick. You are and were loved, adored, and revered by many. We shall all dearly miss you.*

Mavis Gallenson, retired partner of Ladas & Parry

Mavis Gallenson - October 13, 2025 at 11:19 PM

DB

“ DJ was the guardian angel of my little family. I had just arrived in Chicago when I was introduced to his wife Carol while I was working downtown and we became friends. She invited me and my husband Erion to spend Thanksgiving with her family at their Circle R ranch in Harvard IL and we met DJ. I was shy and awkward, but he put us at ease with his friendliness and easy-going manner and when I had no one to help me on a difficult situation he opened his heart and home to us and considered us part of the family. I have so many beautiful memories with DJ especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas time. He knew my love of flowers and his first Christmas gift to me it was this beautiful faux orchid that I treasure. He has done so much for us, and I will always be grateful to him. He was proof to me that God does exist and sends his goodness to us through wonderful people like dear DJ. Me and my family will always remember him. May he rest in peace and my condolences to his family.

Denada Bace - October 13, 2025 at 01:20 PM

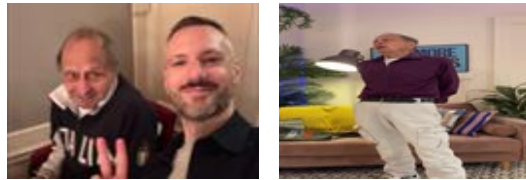
DY

“ *Richard (as I knew him) came to me for voice lessons back in 2018 and we became unlikely, fast friends. He loved to sing, even though he struggled to both hear and breath -- he lit up at any opportunity to use his voice. I realized quickly that he wasn't actually that interested in the learning aspect, he just wanted to hang out, connect and sing together... and so we did. We eventually ended up attending vocal recitals at Orchestra Hall which he never really liked because he claimed the singers didn't sing loud enough. Ha!*

I enjoyed getting him to tell me the stories of the many different lives he had lived and he always conveyed a deep care and love for his family, especially his siblings and their children.

His quirky sense of fashion always entertained me and spoke to his creative desires.

I treasure my time with Richard and still hear his voice singing around my studio. I'm so grateful for our time in this form together.



Davin Youngs - October 13, 2025 at 11:29 AM

JT

“ DJ was my uncle. Growing up in Michigan I didn't get to spend as much time with him as my Streit cousins in Illinois but always felt the family love when he would be at Thanksgivings and other special occasions. DJ was quiet but great to talk to. When he had something to say it was something good. I remember his chuckle, especially when brother Dan would tell stories of their adventures together. Uncle DJ was kind and thoughtful and he always sent the best Christmas presents. One of my favorites is a very nice Chinese Checkers board that still sits in our living room and gets played with often. Thank you uncle Dick, we will miss you. Jenny and Matt Thomas and family.



Jenny Thomas - October 10, 2025 at 12:45 PM

CW

“ Uncle DJ! Where do I begin? What a fun and loving uncle! A welcome member of the family at our Thanksgiving gatherings for many years. A biking destination in Wisconsin where we learned how to ride motorcycles and eat lots of ice cream. A ski buddy uncle who could stoically drive us across the country or endure a long train ride with nephews from the midwest to the Rocky Mountains. A "host with the most" in Nuevo Vallarta Mexico along with Juan and Lorena and family. Inspiring and sharing in many ways. We love you DJ and we miss you! Chad and Kathy Williams, Chris and Stephany Williams and Family, Tim and Jenna Koeller and family.



Chad Williams - October 03, 2025 at 05:43 PM

BE

“ We are saddened to announce that our dear partner, colleague and friend, Richard Streit passed away on September 12 of this year. He dedicated more than 65 years of full time employment at this firm before semi retiring only two years ago at age 87. To say he worked just full time is an understatement as he regularly worked weekends and long hours. He was instrumental in bringing-in and serving clients, such as U.S. Fortune 500 companies, not to mention across the globe many foreign and domestic large corporations, research institutes, and universities. He helped develop foreign markets for our firm in developing countries which brought our patent filings into a top 10 list in the U.S., in terms of the number of filings. However, while for many years he was considered a senior partner he was always about change for the growth of our firm, the benefit of our clients, and the betterment of our employees. He was not only a pioneer in developing new foreign work from developing nations, but in also hiring and promoting diversity and foreign language speakers. When few law firms had very few female patent attorneys, we had many, and then subsequently one of the highest percentages of female equity partners of just about any IP firm. He hired and mentored a host of individuals with different nationalities, so our firm began to appear to be a mini U.N. His contributions and accomplishments were not just to our firm, but to its people, our clients and our many foreign colleagues. My 25 year association with this firm was through his efforts and on a personal level I also owe him significant gratitude. One of my favorite attributes about him was that he never demonstrated knee-jerk behaviors, but only reasoned behavior at bringing consensus to any decision, as well as then enlisting the dedication of others for any actions. Yet he virtually would take no credit for the ultimate success resulting from his actions.

It seems with all of this, where was the time for a personal life or for personal accomplishments and to do great deeds for others. By way of a short background about that, it is noted that his personal life was also a model of achievements. He was a U.S. Marine, an

expert skier, an equestrian, an operatic singer, held a license for raising endangered African and Asian Wild Cats, and was a Harley Davidson biker, to name just a few of his personal endeavors. He further donated money to hundreds of charitable causes across the globe.

Our colleague and friend, we will miss you. Yet the journey over the time we had together, while too short, certainly managed to be a personal treasure for us, and our journey with you will not be forgotten. Rest in Peace our Friend, and may your memory always be for a blessing. Our deepest condolences to Richard's many relatives and his multitude of friends.

Donations in Richard's honor could be made to the Santa Chiara Children's Center in Port-au-Pince, Haiti (<https://santachiaracc.org/>) or the charity of your choice, and his obituary may be found at <https://www.inclusivefuneralcare.com/obituaries/richard-streit/#!/Obituary>. Memorial services to celebrate his life will be held in Chicago the third weekend of October, in Elk Rapids, Wisconsin, during the November, Thanksgiving Weekend (where most of his family resides), and in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in late December, (but also the earlier services in Mexico with a Mariachi band could be viewed at the above link).

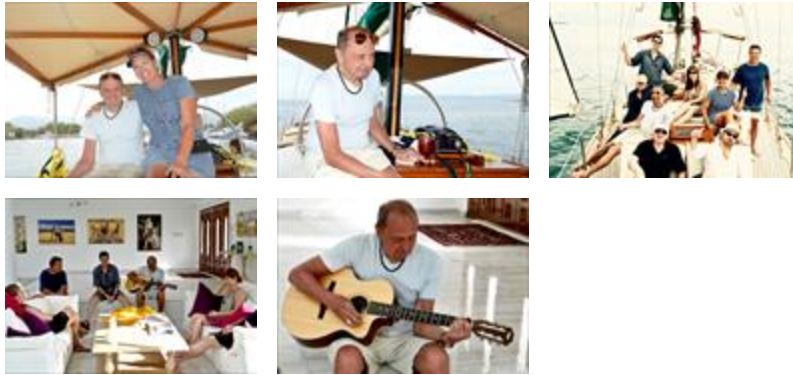
Again sorry about this sad news.

*Burt Ehrlich
Honored on Behalf of Ladas & Parry LLP
And for Myself in Preparing this Tribute*

Burt Ehrlich - September 29, 2025 at 04:41 PM

TZ

“ Such great memories from my youth skiing Copper Mountain with Uncle DJ, Mom and Nicky. Who knew I would move to CO. We also had the great opportunity to visit the ranch in Whitehall; he sure had a passion for ranch life. DJ brought and gave joy to so many of us. In recent years Keith and I enjoyed spending time with DJ in Puerto Vallarta. He was forever generous, caring and entertaining. No one loved Karaoke more than DJ. You are loved and missed dear Uncle.



Tracy Zahller - September 27, 2025 at 07:53 PM

JJ

“ So many great memories of my wonderful cousin. From watching in awe as he worked at the Detroit zoo, to visiting Notre Dame, to seeing him in that sharp uniform astride the excavating machine, to going to lunch in downtown Chicago to the farm and on and on. But I'm proudest of the fact that my framed certificate of admission to the United States Supreme Court Bar hanging in my office features the name of my sponsor Richard J Streit! Love you DJ!! Jim Murphy

James V Murphy II - September 27, 2025 at 01:18 PM

JT

“ My lifelong love of horses and wide open spaces is thanks to Uncle DJ. He always connected with me human to human, encouraging me and keeping in touch. Kian, Emmet, and I send all our love to family and friends and to our uncle, may he rest in peace.

Joanna Tschudy - September 27, 2025 at 12:20 AM



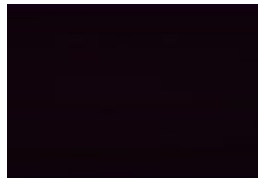
“ Wanted to share with all a moment after the memorial mass for DJ in Puerto Vallarta, where the mariachis offered one last tribute - the Mexican version of "My Way/A Mi Manera" - no more fitting selection IMO.



Tony Streit - September 21, 2025 at 05:04 PM

LE

“ To our angel in heaven, thank you for all the love and for being a part of our life's. We will miss you so much. Rest in peace dear DJ



Lorena Esquivel - September 20, 2025 at 09:10 AM

CJ

“ 8 files added to the album MacGregor Family



Cari Jacob - September 18, 2025 at 05:06 PM

LJ

“ I am saddened to hear of Mr. Streit's passing. I worked with him while he was at Ladas & Parry. I remember he always had a "twinkle" in his eye. I know we had some rough times where he would holler at me, and I back at him, but I always respected him. He sang for us many times at Ladas & Parry parties. I remember when we had a retirement luncheon for him on his last day, and he hugged me and told me to take care of myself, and I told him the same thing. I know even after he retired he would send me emails. God Bless you Mr. Streit, and rest in peace.

Louise Johnson

Louise Johnson - September 17, 2025 at 01:38 PM