



RICHARD STACY

I was born in 1946 and grew up in a small town in New Hampshire on the border of Maine, twenty miles from the ocean and thirty miles from the White Mountains. It was skiing in the winter and hanging at York Beach, Maine or at the local lakes in the summer. At 12, my passion was playing music and I was in a competitive drum and bugle corps from 1958 to 1965. We competed against other corps from all over New England, New York, and Quebec and we marched in John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Parade in 1961. We also performed at the New York World's Fair in 1964.

In 1965, I went to the University of Northern Colorado because I wanted to ski in Aspen and Vail. I only attended college for one year then moved to New York City in the late spring of 1966. When it started to get cold, I hitchhiked to Santa Barbara and a few months later found my niche in Redondo Beach, where I lived for the next twenty years. A few years later, I started a shop with handcrafted arts from the local hippie community and sold the shop in 1972. From there I traveled extensively through Mexico, Europe and North Africa.... on a shoestring budget. Also, during this time I bought a 43-foot sailboat and sailed it across the Atlantic. A few years later, I helped a friend deliver a 40- foot sloop from Honolulu to San Pedro.

In 1975, I got the opportunity to invest in a bar across the street from King Harbor in Redondo Beach. Our favorite bar had burned down and one of the guys in our little clique was dating one of the Sweethearts of the Rodeo. Our goal was to have our own place to hang out and use the room to feature the singing group. After the first year in business, we were on the verge of bankruptcy so I became the general manager. I built the club into a showcase for national talent with Vince Gill, Bonnie Raitt, Roseanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, Cher, Gary Busey, Willie Nelson, Donna Summer, the Carradines, Joe Walsh, Dan Ackroyd and many more in the Rock, Country and Blues genre.

By 1982, I had outgrown the night life and wanted to live in the daytime, so I sold my share of the bar and took a job with a friend who was a tile contractor. I was only planning to help him for a few weeks but found that I liked working with my hands. I started my own tile business a few years later, met my wife and spent the next 30 years being the patriarch of my new family. When we married, Stephanie had three young children and I had a teenage son.

We moved to Cambria in 1988, where we put down roots and raised our family. Sadly, we lost one daughter to cystic fibrosis at 28 and a son to heart disease at 38. My biological son took over my business one year ago and we have a daughter who lives in Santa Maria. My parents live in a guest house on our property and Stephanie's mom also lives in Cambria. We are currently raising our deceased son's daughter, India, (13 going on 19) who is on a competitive gymnastics team. I was a member of the North Coast Ocean Rescue for 18 years and was involved with a few dramatic rescues, as well as many routine public assists for victims with poor judgment. The only thing that's ever been on my bucket list was to learn to play bridge, and you are all my partners in that.