



Rick S. Williams

MAY 9, 1954 - JAN 24, 2023



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Rick S. Williams

MAY 9, 1954 - JAN 24, 2023

It is with profound sadness that the family of Rick S. Williams announces his sudden passing on January 24th, 2023, at the age of 68 years. Rick will be lovingly remembered by his mother, Barbara Williams, beautiful wife of 49 years, Sharon Williams, and their children: Sloan and Amy Williams, Slade and Elizabeth Ann Williams, Lacey Williams McGhee and Alex McGhee, and Rick's six grandchildren, Carson, Caden, Cole, Callie, Eli and Wren Williams, brother Ted Williams, sister Lawana Pond and their families, and many dear friends from Pine Tree High School, Pine Tree Church of Christ, and the Williams family businesses. Rick was preceded in death by his father, Richard Williams, father-in-law William O'Connor, and grandson, Colin Williams.

Rick was a well-respected entrepreneur and Christian leader in Longview for most of his life. He was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas, on Mother's Day, May 9th, 1954. Shortly after, Rick's family moved to Arlington, Texas, for a few years before moving to Longview in 1965. On his first day of sixth grade at Pine Tree, Rick sat next to his lifelong best friend and business partner, Bob Wieber. During his youth, Rick sold newspapers for the Longview News-Journal and spent countless hours exploring the forests, rivers and lakes of East Texas before graduating from Pine Tree High School in 1972.

In 1973, Rick met the love of his life, Sharon, in art class at Kilgore Junior College. The pair married in 1974. The same year, Rick founded Rick's Sign Company which he ran successfully for 49 years and counting. Nearly every town in East Texas has benefited from Rick's sign work and artistic ability.

A man of relentless work ethic, Rick built the couple's first home himself, where they welcomed home their three children, Sloan, Slade and Lacey. Their home was the backdrop of countless beautiful family memories, including time spent riding golf carts and four-wheelers, planting gardens, throwing the football and enjoying the family's beloved black lab, Hoss.



Obituary

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In addition to running Rick's Sign Company, Rick was a prolific writer for Sign Business Magazine and a teacher at the magazine's trade shows across the U.S. Bob Wieber and his team compiled many of Rick's articles into a book titled "Best of Rick: In The Trenches." Rick also co-founded WPC Services and Royal Tire and Off-Road alongside his sons, Sloan and Slade. He was incredibly proud of his sons and the businesses they built together, which employ numerous East Texans who are like family to the Williams.

Although work was important and necessary, Rick's primary focus was living a Christian life and spreading the Gospel. He was an active bible class teacher at Pine Tree Church of Christ for most of his adult years, where he was a member for more than 57 years, serving as a deacon and elder. He enjoyed teaching all ages but really enjoyed his recent years teaching the seniors class at church. There was a lot of knowledge, experience (usually called white hair), and timely placed humor that class attendees offered to Rick and he loved it so much. Rick was a humble man that took every opportunity to give thanks to the Lord. If you needed prayer, he would pray vigorously for you. If you needed help, he would help without hesitation. He lived an honorable life because he knew in the end only one thing mattered, hearing the words "well done, good and faithful servant."

In what little spare time he had, Rick enjoyed flying airplanes over the East Texas countryside with his son, Slade, fishing with Sloan and his precious grandsons, and traveling with his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Lacey.

Memorial services for Rick will be held at Pine Tree Church of Christ in Longview, Texas, on February 3rd, 2023. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., and the funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., with graveside services to follow at Rosewood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rick's honor to Pine Tree Church of Christ's Missions Fund at 3221 Dundee Rd., Longview, Texas 75604 or Caring and Sharing at 2307 Mobberly Avenue, Longview, Texas 75602.



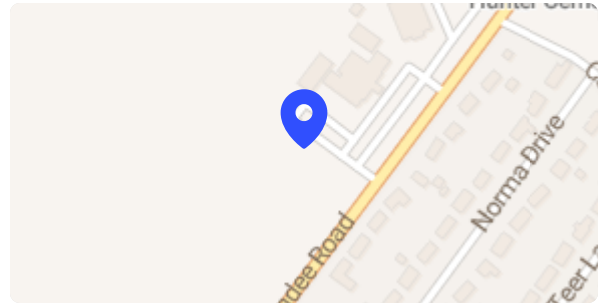
Events

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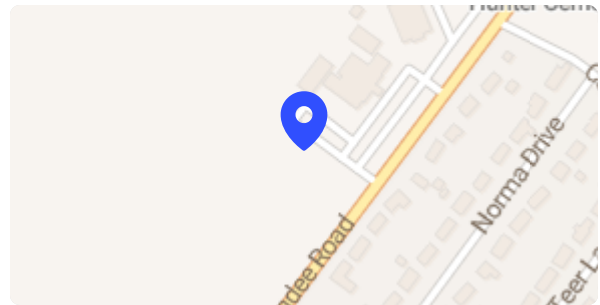
Visitation

- Friday**, February 3, 2023
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT
- Pine Tree Church of Christ**
3221 Dundee Road, Longview TX



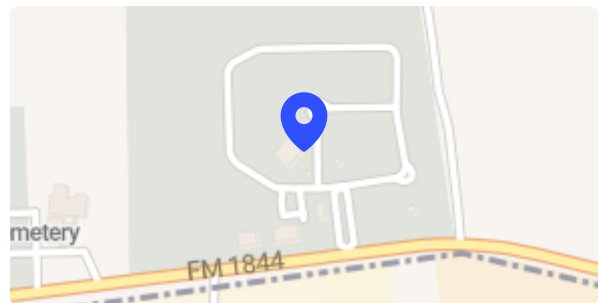
Funeral Service

- Friday**, February 3, 2023
- 2:00 PM CT
- Pine Tree Church of Christ**
3221 Dundee Road, Longview TX



Cemetery Details

- Rosewood Park**
1884 FM 1844, Longview TX 75605





Tribute Wall

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Edna (Ridgey) Nevill-Mckillop posted:

My heart is heavy in the sudden loss of your loved one. Not only was he a friend but Rick was the only person I trusted to put the signs on my work trucks in the 27 years I was in business as Slaughter Pest Control and Ridgey's Pest Control. I was always amazed at the way he knew exactly what would look the best and made it seem so easy! May your best, funniest, most tender memories be a comfort to you in the very difficult days ahead.

February 3 at 8:51 AM



Candi Duncan posted:

I would like to share a memory of Rick. Our family has done business with Rick's Signs for decades because he is the best. We were also neighbors on Dumas Rd. for years. Several years ago I decided to do a project at the Christian School where my children attended. We would have some teachers read the story Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot. It was about Col. Gail Halvorsen dropping candy from his plane during the Berlin airlift in 1948. I told Rick I needed him to fly his plane over the school and drop candy to the children to illustrate the story. He said you want me to do what? Lol. After his initial surprise he executed the mission perfectly. Rick will truly be missed by our family. He was a great man who leaves a wonderful legacy to his precious family. See you in Heaven! With much love and respect. Candi Duncan

February 3 at 4:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Williams family.



February 2 at 12:22 PM



Mike Chandler And Family sent a Serene Retreat to the Williams family.



February 2 at 10:56 AM



Tribute Wall

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Karen Edelman Cundiff posted:

I have been too upset to write anything until now, losing Rick was such a shock. Rick was a special friend, classmate, and tailgate supporter. In high school, we all knew he was a very talented artist, and would do great things in that arena. He became an artist with a sign company, melding his artistic perspective with great business sense, and a desire to meet his clients' needs. My family is thankful to have on our business new signage Rick created just recently. Rick hardly changed from high school, always handsome. Yet, he was a humble, quiet gentleman. He adored his beautiful wife, Sharon, and his kids and grandkids. As Randi stated, he was so kind to look out for Walter all these years. Though Rick wasn't in band, he was a huge supporter of Band Kids Forever and the annual homecoming alumni tailgate for many years. He created and donated numerous welcome and sponsorship banners, and most years, was found helping to hang all those banners, and take them down. His donations allowed BKF to give even more scholarships. That's just the kind of friend he was. He'd help any time he could. There are many comments about Rick's Christian witness, with good reason. Without fanfare, Rick lived out his faith in the way he treated everyone. He was a reliable friend. There's no doubt he heard, upon entering heaven, "Well done, My good and faithful servant." Deepest condolences to Sharon and the family. May the Lord hold you close and comfort you, as only He can.

February 2 at 10:03 AM



The Garvin Family sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Williams family.



February 1 at 1:46 PM



Steve And Melinda Wedgeworth sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Williams family.



January 31 at 9:25 AM



Tribute Wall

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Stephen Shore posted:

My condolences and prayers go out to the William's family. My dad started doing business with Rick back when I was a teenager in the late 1970's. I grew up thinking that if you needed a sign that you went to Rick's. I don't know how many signs, decals, truck door lettering, etc. we bought from Rick Williams in the over 40 years that had various family businesses. He was one of the most honest and ethical businessman that I have ever known. From what I can tell, he passed on that trait to his boys too. Longview lost a good man and a good business leader in the community. But what a great legacy he left behind.

January 31 at 6:53 AM



Sincerely, Alex Mcghee (Son-In-Law) sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Williams family.



January 30 at 12:45 PM



Sincerely, Frank & Terri Mcghee sent a Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate to the Williams family.



January 30 at 12:24 PM



Terry King posted:

I was so shocked to hear about Rick's sudden passing. I had the pleasure of meeting him and attending his seminars at the Charlotte, NC sign shows. I loved his "In The Trenches" articles as they were everyday sign business experiences happening to him as well as us here in our shop. I have learned so much from him over the years and respected him greatly. I am so sorry for your loss, and we will keep your family in our prayers. May God bless you in your ever loving memories of Rick. Terry King King Signs & Graphics Monterey, VA

January 30 at 11:08 AM



Matt And Bailey Eastwood sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Williams family.



January 30 at 9:08 AM



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Carol Whitworth posted:

So sorry to learn of the loss of Rick. We was a sweet Christian man. Sincere condolences to the family,Randy & Carol Whitworth

January 29 at 1:28 PM



Anonymous sent a Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant to the Williams family.



January 29 at 6:05 AM



Susan Hueg posted:

I can't believe he's gone. On this side of heaven, we're not privy to why someone so good is taken so early, but I do know he's in a good place. My heart breaks for Sharon, Sloan, Slade, Lacy and their families. You'd think already having 6 brothers I would not need another, but from the first moment I met Rick, he became my #7! I was fortunate enough to work know him both personally and professionally. He was a humble star at our events and I remember people waiting patiently in line to say hello. His magazine articles were just like him - down home and full of his thoughts , experiences and sage advice.Rick, you left us too soon. You were one in a zillion and you will be missed.

January 28 at 2:26 PM



Anonymous sent a Lily and Rose Tribute Spray to the Williams family.



January 28 at 10:39 AM



Bruce Richardson posted:

I didn't know Rick personally, as we didn't overlap in school. But I certainly know of his contributions to the community and to people's lives, and to the effort to memorialize Jack England. I hope his generous spirit will be a comfort to those who are feeling this loss so acutely.

January 28 at 9:43 AM



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RL

Randi Linn posted:

I have always thought so much of Rick. He was such a kind soul. I am so sad for his family and friends. He was so sweet to take care of Walter for so many years.

January 28 at 8:44 AM

TM

Thomas Mcdaniels posted:

Rick influenced my life as a young Christian. When I first met Rick I was a new believer and He was so kind and tempered in a Christ. Being around Rick gave me a sense of being with a man who knew who He was in Christ. I always sensed security when being near Him. Rick was truly the real deal in Jesus. Receive your reward, Rick, this is why we live for Jesus!!

January 28 at 5:08 AM

VB

Vickie Brewer posted:

We are so very sorry to hear about Rick's passing. He was such an incredibly nice guy, a gentleman in every way, and so creative. What a legacy he has left. He will truly be missed on so many levels of friendship and in business. We're holding your family close to our hearts and lifting you up in prayer. Wayne and Vickie Brewer

January 28 at 4:52 AM

SB

Sharon Bolton posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Rick's sudden passing. Rick and my brother Rod, were best friends along with Bob Wieber, since 7th grade. I have alot of memories of the three of them playing football in our front yard along with other friends of theirs. I am so sorry and I am keeping Rick's family and friends in my prayers. RIP

January 27 at 9:19 AM

TC

Tony Allan Curtis lit a candle in honor of Richard.

mrs willams and family i am very sorry for your loss, rest in peace mr willams

January 27 at 5:27 AM





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MS

Misty Stone posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Rick's passing. I enjoyed listening to his stories when he got his hair cut. He was a very interesting person, who will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you Sharon and all your family.

January 26 at 3:07 PM

HN

'Holley' And Pat Noon posted:

Longview lost a great artist that dedicated his skills to making outstanding signs. This talent was displayed across Longview. He was one of the kindest, most thoughtful, and was a gentleman in every respect. As a student, he exhibited the same qualities. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. May God give each of you comfort in the difficult days to come.

'holley' and Pat Noon

January 26 at 10:42 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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