



Richard Marshall McWhirter

October 1, 1942 - April 20, 2018

Memorial Services will be held at 2:00PM on Thursday, April 26, 2018 in the Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers for Mr. Richard Marshall McWhirter, 75.

Dr. Bob McFatter and Reverend Frank Carmical will officiate the service.

Richard (Rick) McWhirter was born in Dallas, Texas in 1942. He passed away on Friday April 20, 2018. As a young man Rick earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1958. He did his undergraduate study at Austin College beginning in 1960. After transferring to the University of Texas (UT) in 1963, Rick met and began dating his future wife, Gini. He graduated in psychology from UT in 1964, then hitchhiked to Alaska to work on a pipeline during the summer of 1964.

Rick began graduate school in psychology at UT in the fall of 1964. Rick and Gini were married in 1965. Rick served as a consulting psychologist in the Department of Defense in Vietnam in 1966. Rick and Gini's first son Derek was born in 1966.

Rick earned his PhD in psychology from Texas Tech University in 1969 and moved to Lafayette to begin his teaching career at USL in 1969. Rick and Gini's second son Jason was born in 1971.

As Rick's career progressed, he received tenure and eventually became a full Professor in the Psychology Department at USL. He also became a consulting psychologist at several Louisiana state facilities and the local Archdiocese.

Rick and Gini bought their ranch in Wimberley, Texas in 1978 and typically spent school semesters in Lafayette and summers and holidays in Wimberley. Rick and Gini have been active members of Lafayette's Southside Bible Chapel and Wimberley's Chapel in the Hills.

Rick retired from UL as a full Professor in 2000. He and Gini then spent time with family,

friends, school and church groups in both Lafayette and Wimberley. They frequently traveled with friends and especially school mates of their high school and college days.

Rick was an avid outdoors enthusiast, nature lover, and conservationist through the Blanco River Riparian Reforestation program following the 2015 flood disaster. He was an amateur arborist, botanist and defender of local flora and fauna. He was also a birdwatcher and fisherman (catch & release).

Rick was quite skilled as a carpenter, woodworker, furniture maker, and blacksmith. He built many unique rustic furniture pieces using reclaimed materials. He was an avid strategy game enthusiast and was at one point the Lafayette City chess club champion. Rick was virtually unbeatable at checkers.

Rick was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He gave generously of his time, energy, support, and wisdom to his family and hosted many visits to the McWhirter home and ranch over the years. He was a trusted friend, mentor, and advisor, not only to his students, but also to a wide range of people in his circle of acquaintances.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia "Gini" Mae Jones McWhirter; son, Derek Marshall McWhirter and wife Dawn, and their children Haydon, Kenzie, Camden; son, Jason Richard McWhirter; and sister, Marilyn McWhirter Gurney.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Eva Mae McWhirter Sr.

The family requests that visiting hours be observed at Delhomme Funeral Home- Bertrand on Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 1:00PM until the time of service.

At a later date a Life Celebration service will be held at Chapel in the Hills in Wimberley, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Sandy Creek Bible Camp, Mercy Chefs, or your charity of choice.

Personal condolences may be sent to the McWhirter family at www.delhommefuneralhome.com.

Delhomme Funeral Home, 1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Events

APR **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

26

Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers
LA, US

APR **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

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Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers
LA, US

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Delhomme Funeral Homes - April 25, 2018 at 04:32 PM



“ Our sympathies to Mrs. McWhirter, Derek & Dawn and Jason. Mr. McWhirter was such a pleasant soul. He was always interested in what was happening in your life. Danny and I are grateful for having met such an interesting and thoughtful person. Julienne always enjoyed talking about softball with him and was truly saddened to hear of his passing.

"When you lose someone you love, you gain an angel you know."

Our sympathies,

Danny, Shannon and Julienne Broussard

Shannon Broussard - April 27, 2018 at 03:50 PM



“ This was truly a shock to me. Rick was one of those few who were instrumental in my early life as well as my early career. There were so many things that he just "knew." He not only taught me psychology, he taught me other life skills as well. When I was at USL, Rick taught my Experimental Psychology class. He expected us to do a "publication quality" research project. My very first research publication was that project, a direct result of his class, his encouragement, his mentorship, and his expertise. We quickly became friends as I was also a Vietnam veteran who had returned to school, and we shared stories of our experiences. Faculty and students at that time seemed to share more than just classroom time. We socialized with families on many occasions and enjoyed being with each other. My wife, Earlene, enjoyed being with Rick and Gini as well. We compared stories of our (at that time) young sons. It was because of Rick's and Ted Friedberg's encouragement that I continued on in graduate school and ultimately obtained a Ph.D. in psychology. I will never forget some of the discussions with Rick, Ted, Rex, Steve, Irby, and others. I miss those days. Though we didn't see them quite as often as perhaps we should have, he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Gini and "the boys" and the whole McWhirter family.



“ Rick McWhirter: Talented, smart, humble, kind, helpful, prayerful, tough, Texan and kind-of Cajun. He loved God's Word and was able to teach it well. He had a great talent to create things like making a beautiful wooden pulpit for his church.

I was excited when he took my suggestion to bind his Bible by using black Gorilla tape - whoever gets that Bible probably won't ever have to bind it again.

When money was a little tight for me back in 1996 he helped me cut down a tall sweet gum tree in my back yard that almost fell the wrong way - that tree wanted to crush my fence. He was able to do neat stuff: He skinned a snake for my Son.

There is no doubt in my mind that Rick is in heaven with Jesus. He is so fortunate to be with Him but there sure are a lot of sad people down here on Earth.

... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." John 11:25

Eb Hoehl - April 25, 2018 at 08:32 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Marshall McWhirter.



April 25, 2018 at 09:42 AM



“ I'll always remember the weeks in the summers of my childhood that I spent at Rick and Gini's in Wimberley. It will always have a special place in my heart because of their hospitality. My father Jim Walker always treasured his friendship with Rick. As my mom said they loved to "lecture" each other, since they were both college professors. Rick was a man of tremendous character and the Walkers will miss him very much. Wishing Gini and the entire family comfort and peace.

Karen Walker Mirsky - April 24, 2018 at 11:08 PM



“ Rick, forever young, good conversation about many subjects. Always willing to help on projects. It was fun rearing children at the same time Rick and Gini were parenting young children. So sad for the loss Gini, Derek and Jason will experience. Love to all their family and to sister Marilyn from our family. Linda Friedberg Hughes

Linda Hughes - April 24, 2018 at 05:41 PM



“ Joe and I remember Rick with such fondness and appreciation. Rick was a man who shared our values and made it fun to be around him I loved they way Rick loved Texas and was the only person I knew who remembered the Nolan River, now gone. He directed me to a book about the Brazos River , we shared a common interest in that part of Texas. He was literate and artistic and I was amazed at his creative approach to the buildings on his ranch, recovering old structures and using the reclaimed wood to construct new buildings that reflected the culture and history of our Hill Country area.

Joe remarked on Rick’s enthusiasm and physical ability to help with the daily work at keeping our church running and beautiful. Joe loved Rick the conservationist, planting grass on the bare spots and using leaf and grass litter from our friend “Bulldog” and Joe, to protect the soil.

Joe and Peggy Snodgrass, Wimberley

Peggy Snodgrass - April 24, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ Stephanie, Stephen, Judy, and I send our deepest condolences to Gini, Derek, Jason, and family. Rick was a highly valued member of the Psychology faculty for the thirty years we shared there. We had many enjoyable times working together at his country property in Lafayette, and many good conversations during our travels to consulting locations. Rick will be deeply missed as an outstanding person by all who knew him.

With sympathy, Steve Hotard

Steve Hotard - April 24, 2018 at 04:16 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Marshall McWhirter.



April 24, 2018 at 04:02 PM



“ I was devastated to hear of Mr. Ricky's death. He was always someone I admired, loved and respected. He was also one of the strongest Christians I know. While my heart is broken, my soul rejoices. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Heidi Parker Martin - April 24, 2018 at 01:37 PM



“ Our entire family is devastated at the loss of Ricky. We all love him and always will. He was a most remarkable man and wonderful cousin, friend and family mentor to us all. Ricky always welcomed us to their home in Wimberley and our times there with him and Gini are very precious memories to us all. Ricky will be terribly missed but we are so very thankful to the Lord for the time that we had with him. Bobby, Claudia, Jesse, Donald and Rachel and families.

Claudia Brown - April 24, 2018 at 01:01 PM