



Richard Woodrow Wroten

October 12, 1952 - September 23, 2019

Richard Woodrow Wroten, 66, left this life September 23, 2019, at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville while surrounded by his family.

Richard, beloved son of Leo and Leona Wroten, was born in Houston, Texas on October 12, 1952. A born and raised Texan, it was there that he met the love of his life. He was the cutest guy in Algebra class, or so we're told. This is what first caught the attention of a young Sharon Taylor who would later become his wife. She then fell for his perseverance, outstanding intellect, and all the ways he made an effort to understand and make her feel loved.

With his growing family, Richard traveled everywhere from Texas to Virginia to California to Japan, and ultimately settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he built his life and career for 26 years. He recently "retired" from his position as an Executive Partner with the Vantage Group and was able to get in some quality time with family and friends. He was a long time active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the members of which he considered to be an extension of his family. During his last year, he made the move down to Tennessee in order to be close to his kids and grandchildren. Richard was a life long knowledge seeker, and loved to read and study. He particularly enjoyed biographies and books pertaining to personal improvement and success. With a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from The University of Texas, we often referred to him as a professional business man. With that said, he had another side to him. He was an avid social butterfly who never met a stranger, or if he did, they didn't remain a stranger for long. He was a singer, a jokester, and a huge fan of traditions such as family home evening, his weekly visits with the R.O.M.E.O. Club (aka Retired Old Men Eating Out), and Friday night dates which he held sacred.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Leona Wroten, as well as his mother and father in-law, Frank and Pauline Taylor, whom he loved as his own.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Sharon Wroten; Children - Jessica (Jade) Atwood, Jason Wroten (LeighAnn Riker), Jonathan Wroten, J. Scott Wroten (Lisa Jones), and Joanna (Christopher) Myers; Grandchildren - Cheyenne, Kendra, Jacob, Adam, Caleb, Destiny, Lily, and Charlie; and most recently, his great granddaughter, Gwen; as well as his only brother, Craig (Wanda) Wroten.

A celebration of his life is to be held Monday, September 30, at the Oak Ridge (TN) branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Receiving of friends: 11:30am

Service: 1:30pm

Followed by the graveside service at Oak Ridge Memorial Park (TN)

Comments



“ Cousin Richard and his brother Craig were constant features at our home in Baytown, Texas. His father Leo and my dad, Bebo Waddell, were avid fishermen, and with their haul and my dad's trawling for shrimp, we would have enormous fish and shrimp fries including my dad's large family and Uncle Leo's sister, Odie, and her family. Watermelon and iced tea were on the menu, and homemade ice cream, and we kids would spend our time barrel-walking and catching lizards. Richard was noted for his ability to catch them and gained the nickname "Cousin Lizard." I was seven years older than Richard, so we were never close, but I remember his quick wit and pleasant disposition. Like most frugal survivors of the Depression, Leona would cut corners wherever she could, so she would collect from my mother the shirts I had outgrown and pass them along to Richard. I never knew how he felt about that--it's not like they were poor. Uncle Leo had a great job with Spaw-Glass, and Aunt Leona used to regularly rake in money playing bridge.

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Gaspar Ramsey - October 09, 2019 at 10:51 PM



“ Richard will forever be my friend. We met shortly after moving to Grand Rapids Michigan 28 years ago. He has always had a hand to help others and he did that for me. Six months after moving I lost my job and Richard made connections with people for me that eventually changed my life and ultimately lead to creating my own business in the Speaking and Entertainment industry. Richards skills and knowledge were shared with thousands in order to help them improve their lives. He was always a motivator and positive. He was frequently hired by our clients to train their leaders and staff. But beyond his business and teaching skills, he genuinely loved others and showed it in all he did. Over the years since our first meeting we have worked side by side in church callings, business arrangements and community work projects. Our daughters were also best friends.
We will miss a wonderful brother, friend and mentor.
David & Elisabeth Pace

David Pace - September 30, 2019 at 01:12 AM



“ I have many great memories of Richard. The first was when he had just come to Grand Rapids without his family. He came to our home for dinner. He spoke so highly of you, Sharon. He spoke of your love of the cello and he asked for the casserole recipe we had eaten so he could give it to you. Richard was a great teacher, a caring man, a humble man. Sharon and family, we are praying for you to feel the comfort of the Spirit at this most difficult time.

Kathy Hall - September 29, 2019 at 11:58 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers- The Maughans

Maughan Alva - September 29, 2019 at 05:37 PM



“ I didn't know Richard very long but you could tell he was a natural person he always expressed his love for people for that he will be missed

Sarah Heard - September 29, 2019 at 11:50 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Richard Woodrow Wroten.



September 28, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ I did not know Richard for very long. We served together in the Grand Rapids Stake ARP/FSG program. He was saying very kind and gentle person. He seemed to be a truth seeker. He was always kind and complimentary. He loved Sharon very much, as was evident when I saw them together. His peaceful, gentle nature is a great loss. May His love and care for you sustain you. Prayers for all of you.

Jane Gould - September 28, 2019 at 05:58 AM