



## Ricky Gene Byers

December 21, 1953 - January 5, 2018

Ricky Gene Byers, at age 64, passed from this world on Friday, January 5, 2018 in Florissant, MO. Ricky Gene Byers, died of a heart attack while at home the evening of Friday, January 5th, 2018. The first of three children, Ricky was born December 21st, 1953 in Meade, Kansas. Preceded in death by parents Billy Lee & Genevieve Pearl (Michael), brother Russel Lynn, and niece Oma LeAnn Clifford.

Ricky spent his childhood and Elementary through Technological School in Midwestern Oklahoma. He originally wanted to be a chef, but due to the high cost of supplies he decided on a mechanical degree. He spent the early years of his professional life in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandle. He did utilize his auto mechanic degree working at John Deere at various points-but he also explored the restaurant industry by owning and running a Sonic Drive-In for 5 years and then starting his own restaurant: The Next Door Restaurant. During this time, he was honored to be the president of the Booker Jaycee's group when he wasn't busy earning trophies in a local demolition derby. 1988 brought lasting change for Ricky when he moved with his mom and two daughters to St. Louis, MO to begin a 26 career in the recycling industry, eventually in charge of the design and oversight of the building of several recycling plants in St. Louis and across the nation. The few years prior to and following his retirement Ricky worked as a consultant to various companies, working with them on special projects and system flows.

I think everyone who worked with him would agree that the world lost a truly gifted engineer and natural born leader when Ricky passed away. Outside of his employment, Ricky enjoyed tackling special projects for friends and family – whether it was designing a custom snake cage for a 10-foot boa or specialized cabinets for overseas shipments that convert to furniture. He had a special way of thinking through processes, never taking short cuts-he established plans and tackled projects with a determined attitude, persevering until he figured it out. His booming voice was often gruff and off-putting, but anyone that took the time to get to know him soon learned that he held himself to a higher standard than he ever imposed, that though he was strict and a bit of a perfectionist- he was also understanding and fair.

Rick enjoyed entertaining when given the opportunity, throwing Super Bowl parties and BBQ's throughout the years. Holidays were filled with sounds of playful banter and teasing over a table of playing cards among the family, leaving countless sheets of score cards with Ricky's handwriting as a testimony of his honest nature. Yes, he was ornery. But he was also protective, caring, thorough, compassionate, and loyal.

Ricky's memory will be kept alive by wife Aixiao Li and son Jim Jia, daughters Melissa and Jodessa, their mother Belinda Stott, and granddaughter Grayciana. Sister Pamela (Jack) Crenshaw, nephews Johnnie (Shannon) Freeman, Cody (Shayla) Freeman, James Lee (Tracy), and nieces Veronica (Josh) Phillips and Brittany will remember him fondly. Ricky's life is celebrated by great nephews and nieces Seth, Savanna, Katie, Wyatt, Aspen, Becca, and DeAndra.

We welcome friends and family to celebrate Ricky's life Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO (9733 Olive Blvd., 63132). Visitation will be from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM in the evening, with funeral

services immediately following. Memorial donations in memory of Ricky can be made to the American Heart Association.

Donation Link: [http://honor.americanheart.org/site/TR/Events/General;jsessionid=00000000.app244a?pg=fund&fr\\_id=1030&pxfid=288294&NONCE\\_TOKEN=296397789DB03BA8EB3F6442A7F84DD4](http://honor.americanheart.org/site/TR/Events/General;jsessionid=00000000.app244a?pg=fund&fr_id=1030&pxfid=288294&NONCE_TOKEN=296397789DB03BA8EB3F6442A7F84DD4)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 10. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
9733 Olive Boulevard  
Olivette, MO 63132

## Funeral Services

JAN 10. 6:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
9733 Olive Boulevard  
Olivette, MO 63132

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ricky.....my good friend and a great collaborator. To his wife and son (who he talk about often with great admiration) and the rest of his family, I express my deepest condolences. We worked together for many years....so many interesting projects. A self-taught man who was firmly committed to the success of his company, his co-workers and his projects....applying a unique style of urgency and importance.*

*Nat Egesi  
RRT*



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**Nathiel Egesi** - February 22, 2018 at 10:29 PM

GL

“ To all Ricky's family I pray Gods arms around each and everyone of you. Ricky was a sweet and gentle man. I'll never forget the times I got to share with him. The many Bar B Que's with him and his family, and the year he bought the little car I had to use it in one of his demolition derbys. I would go over and watch him and his friend Raymond work on it. They spent a lot of hours working on it, laughing and joking around. They loved what they were doing you could tell that. I just couldn't wait to see him in the derby hoping that he would win. And he did. Was fun to watch. Have many picture's of him and his family. My oldest son's first Easter was with Him and his family in his back yard. It was a great day. So many memories with Ricky, Belinda and his girls and Mama Gene. I never got the pleasure to meet his Wife now or their kids but knowing Ricky they were sweet people. I'm sorry for your lose. I know he will be deeply missed. My love and prayers are with all of you. God be with you all. Love to you all from Gidget Ledbetter.

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**Gidget Ledbetter** - January 12, 2018 at 01:20 AM

LK

“ Dear Pappa Byers... I will always pre-drill in your honor when doing wood projects. What a great and greatly loved dad you were!

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**Loans Kopchak** - January 11, 2018 at 07:14 AM

JS

“ I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Ricky. My thoughts go out to his family. Ricky and I worked together for many years at Smurfit-Stone and he helped me advance to where I'm at today in the company. I considered him a mentor and attribute much of my work ethic to what I learned from him along the way. Many times when I'm working on a project on the plant floor, I'll ask myself WWRD - what would Ricky do? Yes, he was difficult to work with at times, but once I got past that, I believe that made our relationship better. He was always willing to help anyone, going above and beyond when asked. That's just the way he was in my eyes. He called often just to chat and see how I was and see if I need help with anything. He will be missed, not be me, but by other as well. Rest in Peace my friend.

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**JJ Schuster** - January 10, 2018 at 05:24 PM

JA

“ My sincere condolences on Ricky's untimely passing. He was a true friend. Gruff at times, but always there to help. A man of many talents who was not afraid to share those talents with others. Sincere condolences and prayers to his entire family.  
Jerry Adams

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**Jerry Adams** - January 10, 2018 at 05:02 PM



“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Ricky Gene Byers.



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January 10, 2018 at 02:33 PM

MH

“ Sad to hear of Ricky's untimely passing. He was a mentor to me while at Smurfit-Stone and to many others. He expected the best out of those he worked with and himself, never settling for half measure. Prayers to all his family. Mike Hatfield.

Mike Hatfield - January 10, 2018 at 12:18 PM

FF

“ Frank Ledford and family purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Ricky Gene Byers.



Frank Ledford and family - January 10, 2018 at 11:21 AM

KS

“ Ken & Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Byers



Ken & Archway Staff - January 09, 2018 at 06:53 PM



“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ricky Gene Byers.



January 09, 2018 at 04:39 PM

BG

“ I would like to express by deepest sympathy to the family of Ricky. He and family moved close to my family when he was in the 7th grade . He was such a hard worker, always doing a lot of chores and cooking for the family while Aunt Jean was working full time for the family. Ricky took every opportunity available to earn money to help out. His being very dedicated to family continued after he had his two daughters, working hard to make a living and devoted all extra minutes to being both mom and dad to them. I was at his house one night, and there he sit, putting Melissa's hair up in rollers. They were very lucky to have him for a Dad. He was a great guy, that will certainly be missed.

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**Barbara Garner** - January 09, 2018 at 03:23 PM

LY

“ My deepest sympathy to Ricky's Family. I worked with Ricky on many projects, but will always remember his famous Super Bowl Party and his love for the St. Louis Rams Football.  
Lora Young  
Hustler Conveyor Company



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**Lora Young** - January 09, 2018 at 02:51 PM



“ 17 files added to the album *Family Photos*



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**Mel Byers** - January 09, 2018 at 02:48 PM