



Rickey Wayne Gwaltney

October 3, 1949 - December 24, 2016

Rickey Wayne Gwaltney. 67 of Calico Rock, was born October 3, 1949 in Walnut Ridge and died early Christmas Eve, December 24, 2016 at the Calico Rock Community Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marlene Wilcoxson Gwaltney and canine companion, Stitch; three sisters, Gayla (Robert) Warden of Hoxie, Kayla Ellis of Mount Airy, NC, and Lilly Roseanne (Eric) Bailey of Moriarty, NM; a brother, Randy Gwaltney of Moriarty, NM; a sister-in-law, Patsy Gwaltney of Walnut Ridge; many nieces, nephews and friends.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Grace Whaley Gwaltney Ellis and stepfather, Henry Ellis Jr; his father, Elwood Gwaltney; two brothers, Mickey Lynn Gwaltney and Gary Gwaltney.

Rickey graduated from ASU in Jonesboro with a Bachelor's Degree in marketing. He served in the Army National Guard of Arkansas. He owned and operated Gwaltney Wood Floors for 20 years. He raised, kept and rode horses for 40 years on his and Marlene's farm at Gorby Road. His Sassafras Hill Farms in most recent years has provided quality Bermuda hay to many ranchers.

A Cowboy can be defined as a man that can "tuff up, get back on your horse,

one not to back down, never give up but always doing the best you can with the hand you are dealt.” Rickey was a cowboy with integrity. He was also an artist. Whether he was laying wood floors, building cabinets, raising horses or farming he did his absolute honest best. His college education gave him the skills to run his businesses but his spirit made his businesses into art. His floors were not just wood floors, his hay was highly sought after because of its quality – because it mattered to Rickey.

Rickey’s friends always knew while in Rickey’s company they would hear a story, share a kind word or a boost to “get back on your horse.” No one would ever see Rickey that you didn’t see “Stitch”. Rickey even took Stitch to be “Blessed” by Dr. Campbell twice at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Calico Rock where Rickey and Marlene was members for many years.

Rickey and Marlene spent 41 years enjoying their farm. This cowboy’s soul mate shared all of his dreams. Many of those dreams his friends watched come to fruition.

Visitation will be Thursday, December 29, 2016 from 6 P.M. till 8 P.M. in the Eddie’s Family Funeral Home in Calico Rock. Funeral Service will be Friday, December 30, 2016 at 1 P.M. in the Calico Rock Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Rev. Wayne Wood and Dr. Tom Campbell officiating. Pallbearers will be Chris Warden, Tom Coley, Lorne Johnson, Ray Cragle, Steve and Charlie Eldridge. Honorary Pallbearers will be David Brown, Jason Klipfel and Eric Knight. Interment will follow in the Palestine Cemetery near Calico Rock.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Calico Rock Cumberland Presbyterian Church or Palestine Cemetery Association Fund at the First National Bank of IZARD County.

Tribute Wall

LL

“Dearest Marlene,
I pray that our Lord gives you comfort and peace during this difficult time. I so admired Rickey for his hard work ethic and dedication to you and all his friends and family. May God be with you, I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Linda G Landrum - January 03, 2017 at 07:30 AM

JO

“Marlene, what a strong and classy woman you are! Today's funeral was the finest I have ever seen. What a great tribute to Rickey. He was much loved. I treasure the time we spent with him last week when he came for your Christmas gift. He was such a sincere and a hard working man. He loved you dearly. I enjoyed his stories and so respected his integrity. My heart breaks for you and your sweet "Stitch".



Joellen - December 30, 2016 at 06:09 PM

 Tammy Tenison

“So sorry for your loss Marlene. You are in our prayers.

Tammy Tenison - December 30, 2016 at 10:10 AM

PV

“Marlene, we are so sorry for your loss. Rickey was such a fine man. We are so appreciative of all he did for Shelley and John. We were looking forward to more time spent with you both! Love and prayers for you. Ross and Patricia Vanderbush

Patricia Vanderbush - December 29, 2016 at 05:25 PM

BE

“ Judy's memory says it all, long time friends and neighbors, so many life events shared together with our families, another father figure for our children, a strong man who would be there for you at any time of the night or day.

This last year with Ricky has been very special, we are slowing down, enjoying the small things with friends. I am so thankful for the love of the outdoors, animals and farm life we were able to share.

It isn't goodbye, not as long as we remember our stories and think of the twinkle Ricky would have in his eyes.

Brenda Eldridge - December 29, 2016 at 04:13 PM

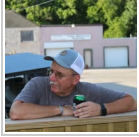
BC

“ Marlene, how do you pay tribute to someone who has always been there for us no matter what our need or what he was doing at the time? Always a story to tell and if he was interrupted, it got longer with a pencil illustration to go with it! Tom & I have just lost a small part of us,too. We are still in disbelief. We love you. We are here for you. Hoping good memories bring you peace and comfort .



Tom & Beth Coley

beth coley - December 29, 2016 at 02:45 PM



“ Rickey was an awesome friend . He would always go out of his way to help you or just to walk over and speak to you when he saw you .I always remember when he walked up to shake your hand you knew you had a real hand shake from a great guy and great friend.I'm so sorry for your loss Marlene , I know i will miss talking to him as will anyone else that knew him. God has gained a great one with him.

Johnny Light - December 29, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ Marlene, we are so sorry to hear. Rickey always made us smile. He was one of a kind! My fondest memory of him is how he would love to give all the women hugs and said that was the best part of having people over. We'll never forget him

Collette Dillard - December 29, 2016 at 01:42 PM



“ What a beautiful tribute written to honor the memory of a very cool guy. I just can't get over the shock of his sudden departure. Marlene, we love you and are here to support you. Grace and peace. Carol

Carol Campbell - December 28, 2016 at 10:53 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to all the family we know Rickey will be dearly missed by so many God Bless and many prayers Robin and Frances Whaley



Frances Whaley - December 28, 2016 at 09:12 PM

JE

“ Steve and I will cherish memories of our dear friend Rickey. I have so many memories and so many pictures of all of us deep in these woods building our houses, having parties, horseback riding, swimming in the creek, cutting our way out during storms, working on the roads together. It has been a lifelong venture with Marlene and Rickey and we all built a wonderful life on this land. We will hold on to those memories with smiles. May God give Marlene strength to get through this hardship. We are here to help.



Judy Eldridge - December 28, 2016 at 08:33 PM

RW

“ We are saddened to hear about the passing of Rickey. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time may God wrap his arms around you and hold you close. The Joe Whaley Family Aunt Joyce Randy and Perry.

Randy Whaley - December 28, 2016 at 07:33 PM

GL

“ Marlene, I cannot find the words to express how I feel right now. Since I bought the wind chimes like you & Rick have hanging from your tree every time I hear mine I think of you & he. That is pretty much every day! He ment & still means so much to so many. I am so blessed to have had our paths cross.

Garry Lawrence - December 28, 2016 at 05:48 PM

RH

“*Marlene, my heart is broken for you. I am so very sorry for your immense loss. I pray that you find comfort and peace in the love of your family and friends, but most importantly in the eternal love and mercy of Christ Jesus.*

Roxann Hill

Roxann Hill - December 28, 2016 at 04:10 PM

 Anna
Holland

“*Marlene so sorry for your loss. I can't tell you how much it ment to Darrell when Rick came to visit him when he was sick. Those two spend way to many hours doing nothing in Darrell's shop! He was always good for a story and a hug. He will be missed by all. Him and Darrel are a pair now. They might build a new sets of pearly gates who knows. I do know they will both be waiting on us when go home! Prayers to you and your family*

Anna Mae Holland

Anna Holland - December 28, 2016 at 09:12 AM

JD

“*Marlene so sorry to hear about Rick. The two of you made some great memories for J Paul and Clay. Me too! Thoughts and prayers are coming your way. 🙏*

jane doty - December 28, 2016 at 08:55 AM

DO

“*Marlene, I am very sorry for your loss. Prayers are with you.*

David Osburn - December 27, 2016 at 06:47 PM



“*Very sad news, Marlene. God bless.*

David Johnson - December 27, 2016 at 06:35 PM

GW

“*Marlene, I am so sorry for your loss. Ricky was truly 'one of the good guys,' to say the least. God bless and may His love help ease your grief.*

Gloria Howard Wilkerson - December 27, 2016 at 03:23 PM