



Ricky Devoe Prater

August 11, 1952 - March 7, 2020

Ricky Devoe Prater, 67, of Walnut Ridge, died Saturday, March 7, 2020, at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Rick is survived by his wife and best friend, Lesha (Gilmore) Prater of the home, whom he married on January 18, 1975; his daughter and son-in-law, Shantelle (Prater) and Kyle Redden of Walnut Ridge; and granddaughter, Lexington Redden.

He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Herbert Robins of Powhatan, brother-in-law, Garland Gilmore of Walnut Ridge; sister, Debbie Workman of Portia; and many family members and friends.

Born on August 11, 1952, he was the son of Burl Jr. and Virginia (Decker) Prater of Portia. He was a 1971 graduate of Black Rock High School and served in the United States Army from 1972 to 1974 at Camp William H. Colbert in Korea during the Vietnam War era.

After serving in the Army, Ricky went to work on the river for Huffman Towing, Inc., in 1974 then transferred to Agri-Trans in 1984. In 1992, Agri-Trans was purchased by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) where Rick continued as a captain for the American River Transportation Company (ARTCO) until his retirement on February 28, 2013. During his time with ADM, Rick trained numerous pilots and steered 24 different towboats throughout his career retiring from the M/V American Beauty.

Rick was a devoted husband, a loving father and an exceptional grandfather. He was a member of the Free Street Church of Christ. He loved fishing, being

on the river, swimming, classic rock music and collecting guns.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Jerry Prater of Pocahontas; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Hubert and Verna Gilmore of Walnut Ridge.

Visitation will be held at Bryan Funeral Home on Friday, March 13, at 5 p.m. for family and at 6 p.m. for friends. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m. at Bryan Funeral Home with Terry Spradlin and Lloyd Clark officiating. Burial will follow at Lawrence Memorial Cemetery in Walnut Ridge.

Pallbearers are Randy Robins, Robert Robins, Richard Mitchell, Dennis Drury, Terry Matheny, Marcus Matheny, Owen Wilson and Rex Ennis.

Honorary pallbearers include Joe Snodgrass, Adam Holland, Ty Matheny, Bryan Smith, Justin Robins, Bryan Robins, Mike Pinkston, the late Leroy Drury, the late Tommy Wayne Drury and the late Junior Faulkner.

Cemetery Details

Lawrence Memorial Park

Colonial Dr.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **13.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bryan Funeral Home
415 NW Texas St.
Hoxie, AR 72433

Funeral Service

MAR **14.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Bryan Funeral Home
415 NW Texas St.
Hoxie, AR 72433

Tribute Wall

DZ

“ It is with sadness I came across this notice. Forty years ago I was young man starting to work on the river and Ricky was the pilot on my boat. He kept me focus on the job and those life skills have stayed with me. My prayers to the Prater family.



David Zanitsch - July 06, 2020 at 03:53 PM

LP

David, thank you so much for your comment. He was a bigger than life person to his family, and is greatly missed. He had some health problems, but his death was totally unexpected.

Lesha Prater - August 03, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ 170 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bryan Funeral Home - March 13, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Lesha, so sorry to hear of Rick's passing. I did not know him personally, but from our conversations at work I know he was a good husband and father. May God give you strength and peace during this time and days to come. Love Joyce Waddell

Joyce Waddell - March 12, 2020 at 12:23 PM

CF

“ Lesha/Shantelle, I can't begin to tell you how much Rick meant to me and my family. Had it not been for Rick, I don't think I could have made it through all the rough times I experienced during Junior's illness and death. He was always there for me and remained a close friend the rest of his life. I valued his advice on so many things ranging from financial to technical support . He as very knowledgeable in those areas. I will miss his phone calls to check on me. You are in my prayers and thoughts.

Carolyn Faulkner - March 10, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Ricky Devoe Prater.



March 09, 2020 at 08:36 PM