



Richard Cotner

December 27, 1943 - August 19, 2021

Richard Cotner was born on Monday, December 27, 1943 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Carrell and Lucille (West) Cotner. He passed from this life to his eternal home in Heaven on Thursday, August 19, 2021 from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma surrounded by his family at the age of 77.

Richard grew up in the tree nursery business, Cotner Nursery, in Tulsa. He graduated from Edison High School in 1961 and from Okmulgee Tech in 1964. He married his high school sweetheart, Linda Mark on June 5, 1964. They were married 57 years, 2 months and 14 days. They were blessed with three sons, Mark Cotner, Mike Cotner and Kevin Cotner. He taught industrial electronic classes at Tulsa Technology Center for 30 years and retired in 2018 as an industrial training coordinator.

He was active in the Gideons, International and enjoyed passing out Bibles and giving Gideon reports at various churches. He also attended several International Gideon Conventions with his wife and family. He was active in his church, County Line Baptist in Broken Arrow. He never met a stranger and enjoyed traveling all over the United States, especially the western states. He enjoyed camping, hiking and visiting museums and national parks. He spent as much time as he could with his grandchildren, Rick Cotner and Katee, Danielle Oakley and David, Austin & Ashley Cotner, Connor Cotner and Hallie, Elise and Dakota Cotner, Faith Cotner & Jessica Wright and his great-grandchildren, Carter Cotner, Abigail Cotner, Callie Rae Oakley, Luna Cotner, Michael Wright and Millie Wright.

He was a ham radio operator for many years starting in high school and introduced his hobby to his boys and grandchildren. He enjoyed gardening and planting trees on his land east of Broken Arrow. He enjoyed visiting with friends and family. He had lots of energy and liked to keep busy as much as possible. He and his wife enjoyed bicycle riding for most of their married lives. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his three sons - Mark (Tami), Mike (Heather), Kevin (Crystal); two sisters, Sue Birdsong and Linda Merkle (Jerry); 9 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, multiple nieces and nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by parents, Carrell and Lucille Cotner, his brother, Jim Cotner, nephew Jason Cotner; nephew Brent Birdsong, and his brother-in-law, Ardon Birdsong; nephew Mark Eldridge and brother-in-law, Richard Eldridge.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to either The Gideons International or The Baptist Children Home in Owasso is suggested by the family

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG **23**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

AUG **23**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Memorial Service

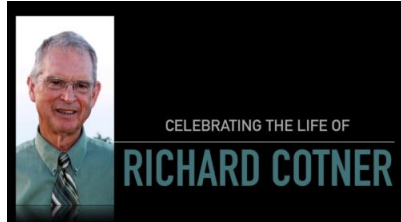
AUG **24**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Richard Cotner*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - August 20, 2021 at 09:56 AM



“ *Richard Cotner*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Ah, Richard, what a man of character and friend you are. I was always blessed by conversations we had. So, my old friend, it's not "goodbye", but "see you later"!*

I missed our staying in contact these recent years, but you were always in my thoughts and prayers.... I am really looking forward to our heavenly reunion.

Peace to the family.

Dave Hensley

David Hensley - September 07, 2021 at 12:19 PM

TS

“ Richard had such a big impact on my life. Always a smile and an encouraging word and it was so appreciated. He took an interest in my family and would bring baby chicks or bunnies for my girls to see. Unfortunately, the chicks met their demise after coming to the Smith household, but it was a good learning experience. Luckily for the bunnies, I said "no" to leaving them at our house!

Richard would often run into former students and they would share how he had impacted their lives and he loved that. The same would happen to me. I occasionally would have people ask me if I knew Richard Cotner, that he had been their instructor when they were at Tech. He touched so many lives.

He was always taking pictures or leaving a disposable camera for us to take pics on our own. At the office we would moan and groan when Richard would get his camera out. I still giggle at him taking his camera out and having it wrapped up with a plastic bag and rubber band. He just wanted to capture those moments. I have a picture of he and I that I keep in office and I'm thankful for that.

Richard and Linda rented one of their houses to us while we were building our house. We had a family Christmas at "the farm" and my family still talks about that being one of their favorite holidays.

I never felt worthy of Richard's friendship and was always afraid I would disappoint him, but I'm so grateful to have had him as a friend. He will be missed by so many.

Tami Smith - August 25, 2021 at 08:30 AM

CC

Tami, thank you so much for the kind words. Richard never met a stranger and he indeed touched so many lives. We still laugh about the camera in a plastic bag with rubber band around it. It was great seeing you.

Crystal Cotner - August 30, 2021 at 07:37 PM

MW

“ *The kindest, most caring person. One of the first people I met when I started to work at Tech. Always a professional, a great instructor, and a mentor to all. He made a great impact on fellow co-workers, students and was an example of the hands and feet of Christ. Extended prayers to family and friends.*

Marcia Werner - August 24, 2021 at 10:11 AM

CC

Thank you so much! Richard loved his co-workers at Tech.

Crystal Cotner - August 30, 2021 at 07:34 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Cotner.*



August 23, 2021 at 07:56 PM

“ I first met Richard when he was a full-time Avionics Instructor at Spartan School of Aeronautics and I had just joined the staff of Tulsa Technology Center as an Electronics Instructor; that was in the early 70's. We were both teaching in the adult evening program. It wasn't long until we got together with our wives and children in a social setting. A short time later Richard joined the staff at Tulsa Tech, over the next several years many times for our annual August conferences and our mid-winter conferences; Linda, Jenean, and our children would join us in OKC or wherever we met for the conference(One year we were in Dallas) these were technical update schools. These times together made our times away from home much more enjoyable for not only us but our families as well. Richard always had something to say to anyone he met, words of greating and encouragement. He gave his students not only good technical advice but also good advice for living a good life. Richard had been a licensed amateur radio operator since he was a teen, his love for the hobby was shared not only with his students, but with his co-workers also. I had been interested in amateur radio since I was a teen, but had no one to work with me to learn morse code. Richard took it upon himself durning our lunch time in the fall of 1981 to teach me and another fellow teacher(Jerry Stierwalt) morse code. That was a job! but he succeded, he gave me my Novice class exam the following spring. I progressed from the novice to the extra class license, and have been active with amateur radio to this day. Thank You Richard!

We also have had many opportunities to share our common faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, I arranged for Richard to share Gideon work at our church a few years ago. We will all miss Richard, but we know he is complete now in the presence of his Lord and Savior. I have enjoyed having Richard and his family as friends for all these many years. Linda, Mark, Mike, Kevin, and all your family, our prayer is that God will Grace you with all his bountiful Mercy at this time.

Charles(KA5OUG) and Jenean(N5VLK) Herndon 73

SK

Great comment about Richard. I guess kind of in a way, he is responsible for my passion in ham radio as well. As he did with you and Jerry, you used that fire he put in your heart to help push me into the ham radio hobby. I had Richard as an instructor at Spartan and thoroughly enjoyed his teaching style. I have fond memories of the side stories about life he shared with the class, such as the "Belch-fire bat mobile with the metal flake paint job" or the "brain sucking vampire girls friends"... his lessons included life lessons along with our tech school topics. He made a difference! Rest In Peace K5FQS!

Scott Bratt KG5VW - August 26, 2021 at 02:48 PM

CC

Thank you so much for your kind words. They mean so much to us.

Crystal Cotner - August 30, 2021 at 07:32 PM

JT

“ I had the privilege of knowing Richard and Linda as a child and have very fond memories of family get-togethers. I remember Richard as a wonderful man who was always kind, friendly, and fun. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jennifer McConnell Treece - August 23, 2021 at 10:10 AM

KC

Thank you Jennifer. Good to hear from you!

Kevin Cotner - August 23, 2021 at 04:52 PM

BH

“ I first met Richard at Oklahoma State Tech in Okmulgee, Ok where we were students in Industrial Electronics. He was my Best Man at my wedding in 1964. After college, Richard went to work for Phillips 66 in Bartlesville and I went to work at Public Service Company of Oklahoma. We remained friends over the years and together took our families on a memorable ski trip to Colorado. I must say with love, Richard was one of a kind! He loved to work with his hands, he excelled teaching our kids and most of all, he loved and followed the teaching of his Lord. May God bless Linda, Mark, Mike, and Kevin at this time, but rejoice that Richard is walking those streets of gold!
Love, Bill & Linda Hulet

Bill Hulet - August 22, 2021 at 11:08 PM

KC

Hulets your words are much appreciated during this time. Thanks for sharing your thoughts and history with our family and dad.

Kevin Cotner - August 22, 2021 at 11:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Cotner.



August 22, 2021 at 09:00 PM

BR

“ As I sit here this early Sunday morning looking at the Colorado mountains and thinking about Richard and all of his family, the word that comes to mind is PEACE. Richard is at peace today. All of the childhood memories come flooding back and as it has already been said "Westville". Those memories are precious. What I will remember most about Richard is his kind, gentle ways and his humor. His smile was infectious. He will be missed by all who knew him. Sending love, hugs and prayers during this time to his family from your Colorado family.

Bev Rogers - August 22, 2021 at 10:20 AM

KC

Beverly, thank you for sharing this. Dad always loved those mountains in Colorado.

Kevin Cotner - August 22, 2021 at 11:25 PM



“ Richard was my father-in-law for 15 years and is my kids Pepa. Though his son and I parted ways, he and Linda will forever be part of my life through my kids. He set a Godly example for them and all who knew him and was always about having fun. He will be missed by many, but especially by his family who loved him dearly! I know that he is in heaven rejoicing and rejoining family that went before him. Perhaps even he and my mom are swapping grandchildren stories and working in their beautiful gardens. I am thankful he was part of my journey for over a decade and in my children's lives. Mike, Linda and the rest of the family, I am so sorry for your loss! My prayers are with you as you face the difficult days ahead! Rest In Peace Richard! 💕💕

Ann Schuh - August 21, 2021 at 10:53 PM

KC

Thank you Ann for sharing your kind words. We appreciate it!

Kevin Cotner - August 22, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Cotner.*



August 21, 2021 at 10:44 AM

DW

“ I learned this morning that Richard passed last night, and the news brought mixed emotions. There was immediate sadness as I considered our loss and its impact, especially on those closest. But softened by relief that another family member had escaped the tyranny of an aging mortal body to a better place. Then, slowly, joy, as I remembered our childhood and young adult years together: growing up in the “Westville” family compound, experimenting with electricity; swimming in that cold pool on a hot day; discovering the stars, planets, and Sputnik; the elation of fireworks, M-80s and culverts; coon hunting at night on Joe Creek; making funny faces in family portraits during those crowded Christmases at the grandparents, tag football on holiday gatherings, pinstriping a Packard with decals, Morse Code and ham radios, late nights talking with Linda and Mary while listening to folk music ... Finally, the satisfaction and pride of knowing a man who gave more than he took, strove to do right, and lived life well. A devoted family man, whose kindnesses to my parents in their later years I’ll always remember, a man who chose to teach young minds and shape futures, a man passionate about his beliefs and willing to give of himself, particularly as a Gideon, to share them with others. A good life indeed He is missed.

David

David West - August 21, 2021 at 01:25 AM

KC

David,
Amen to everything you said. Your comments were so good to read.
You knew dad before my time but that was him exactly.
Kevin

Kevin Cotner - August 23, 2021 at 04:56 PM

JM

“ I have had 2 brother-in-laws in my life. Richard Cotner was in a tie with my other brother-in-law, Ardon Birdsong, for the best brother-in-law spot. Richard was always very careful to give me "the usual family discount" when I bought anything from him. He was never too busy to take time to visit when I had time to go visit him. Even though he will be missed, I would not think of having him miss being in the presence of his Savior. See you later, Richard. Jerry

Jerry Merkle - August 20, 2021 at 11:20 PM

KC

Thank you Jerry for the funny and kind words.

Kevin Cotner - August 23, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Cotner.



August 20, 2021 at 06:52 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Cotner.



August 20, 2021 at 04:36 PM

GJ

“ Gary & Jackie purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Richard Cotner.



Gary & Jackie - August 20, 2021 at 02:20 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Richard Cotner.



August 20, 2021 at 10:07 AM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Cotner family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Richard.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - August 20, 2021 at 06:58 AM