



Wallace R. "Wally" Richman Jr.

January 21, 1939 - June 28, 2019

A gathering honoring and remembering the life of Wallace "Wally" Ridgway Richman, Jr. will be held at the Hayhurst Funeral Home, 1660 South Elm Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74012, (918-258-9623) on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wally passed away at the age of 80 on June 28, 2019 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Wally was born in Houston, Texas, on January 21, 1939, and was the first child of Wallace Ridgway Richman, Sr. and Lucy Talley Richman. Wally's father was in the oil business, and that meant numerous moves to different parts of the United States and the world. As a child and throughout adulthood, Wally always approached each move with a sense of adventure and a determination to enjoy and to make the most of each new locale.

Wally spent his first eight years in Baytown, Texas before the family, increased by a new sister, moved to Summit, New Jersey. Wally's favorite possession from those years was his snow sled. After all, snow was a novelty to a young boy from the Gulf Coast of Texas. After six years in New Jersey, the real adventures began with the move to Durban, South Africa. It was in South Africa that Wally learned how to play golf, a hobby he pursued with vigor up until his mid-seventies. He got close to par on several occasions, or at least that was what he said!

Mumbai (Bombay), India, was next. Wally was sent off to a boarding school up in the mountains of northern India because the American/English schools in Mumbai at that time did not go up to high school. He tried to pretend that it was so difficult being separated from his family but in reality, he was having the time of his life. Then back to the United States for a six month stay in San Antonio before moving to Abadan, Iran.

And again, it was boarding school as the oil company schools only went through the sixth grade in Abadan. Off Wally went to Beirut, Lebanon, the “Paris of the Middle East” where he attended and graduated from the American Community School (“ACS”). Here Wally thrived and made lifelong friends he kept up with via visits, reunions, telephone calls, letters and social media until his passing. He also developed his passion for jazz at ACS.

That summer for three (long or short...depending on whom you asked) months, Wally, his sister and parents drove a 1956 Ford station wagon from Beirut up through Turkey, Yugoslavia (as it was known then), down to Italy and through the rest of Europe. Wally was in charge of getting the daily newspaper, The New York Herald Tribune and from that point on, Wally always had to have his daily newspapers and he became a lifelong, voracious reader. Then Wally, probably very happy that that summer was over (!), went off to Texas A&M University and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Before Wally began his career in earnest, he was drafted into the United States Army and served most of his time in Germany. After that, it took Wally a couple of years to discover that he enjoyed and had a talent for the propane business. That business also meant numerous moves: Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Michigan, California and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Wally’s favorite place was Tulsa and he always said that would be where he would retire. He always felt “at home” in Tulsa and he treasured and enjoyed the wonderful friends that he

had made over the years. Those friends formed an incredible support system for Wally during his illness and were instrumental in making his final couple of years quite pleasant. His family will always be grateful for their kindnesses.

Wally is survived by his beloved daughter, Cynthia Lambert, and her husband Randy, and his grandchildren Hayden and Chandler and by his sister, Louise Richman whom he loved to tease and her husband Dennis Griffith. Wally's cat, Clarence, also survives him and just like the rest of us misses him terribly.

Radio programs were another important part of Wally's life. He especially enjoyed Public Radio Tulsa and should anyone desire to make a memorial in his name that address is: Public Radio Tulsa, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa, OK 74104. Thank you!

Previous Events

Service

JUL 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home

1660 South Elm Place

Broken Arrow, OK 74012

(918) 258-9623

hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ Wallace R. "Wally" Richman Jr.

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ Count on Wally for a smile and a wisecrack that required a retort. And, count on Wally to share an oath on the golf course now and then. We were really only together at Beirut and at our periodic ACS Alumni gatherings in places like Austin, Texas and Nevada City, California yet he made a lasting impression on me of his positive outlook.

Jack Sommer - July 13, 2019 at 12:41 PM



“ Much Love, Julie, Todd, Diane and Paul purchased the Garden Cross for the family of Wallace R. "Wally" Richman Jr..



Much Love, Julie, Todd, Diane and Paul - July 09, 2019 at 05:54 PM



“ Jim F Harbert purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Wallace R. "Wally" Richman Jr..



Jim F Harbert - July 09, 2019 at 04:46 PM

GM

“ I am Gladys (Glady) McWood Birdsong, formerly Woodruff. I met Wally at ACS in Beirut when I was a sophomore and he was a senior. We dated for a few weeks, and I teased him for the rest of his life about how unceremoniously dumped me.

My first marriage was to another ACS graduate and year above Wally's class, Mike Woodruff. They became closer when both attended Texas A&M, and as a young wife with baby, I was an Aggie Wife at A&M. Wally was a frequent guest at our table and became Uncle Wally to our two kids, Lori and Mark. He was a part of their whole lives.

In the mid 1980's when second husband Larry Birdsong and I moved to California, we saw Wally often and he was a regular Thanksgiving guest. We were sad when he moved back to Tulsa, but kept in touch and saw him when he visited.

He had a great sense of humor -- sometimes dark, often off-color, and loved to laugh. I appreciated his loyalty and how he kept in touch with all the people he cared about.

The picture of Wally is with my daughter Lori (Lorraine) and son, Mark, University of Texas graduates (hence her "Hook'em Horns gesture). Wally is responding with Texas A&M's.

We will all miss him very much. He will not be forgotten.



Gladys McWood - July 08, 2019 at 06:40 PM

DJ

“ Always kidded Wally that he was Older than me (Merle);both of us born in 1939. He in Jan. Me in June. June 28th to be exact. We first met in Pomona CA where he and his wife and baby girl Cynthia (6Mo. old) lived across the courtyard of a brand new Apartment complex. We became life long friends. They taught us how to play bridge, the guys played touch football,including our 2 boys, We visited them In Moberly MO. on a summer vacation road trip and Wally kept in touch by phone every Christmas & also visited us in SO Calif several times when he was here on business. We treasured our friendship with him.

Dick:

Wally called one day to say he had two tickets from Kansas City to Dallas and London and asked if I could join him. Merle asked if he had three and he said sorry- no.! Because I had past dealings with British police we were shown around by a Chief Inspector of New Scotland Yard. Even our hotels were selected for us. Interestingly the Chief Inspector was a jazz buff so he and Wally got on famously. We toured the invasion beaches at Normandy and Pointe du hoc where Col. Rudder's Rangers scaled the cliffs. Col. Rudder was President of Texas A&M when Wally was at A&M. Wally had an upbeat personality & we always shared a few laughs when ever we got together. And even though many years have gone by since we last have seen each other, I will have many fond memories of the times we spent together.

Dick & Merle Jenkins - July 07, 2019 at 01:57 PM

BB

“ I'm sad to learn Wally passed. He and I played golf together for several years. He always had good stories and tales to tell. Prayers for the family and friends who mourn, the the good times and good deeds are remembered. Wally was quite a guy!
BobB

Bob Branson - July 04, 2019 at 08:10 AM

HH

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



Hayhurst Funeral Home - June 28, 2019 at 12:06 PM