



William Richards

July 21, 1956 - July 22, 2022

William Cowart Richards, 66, of Milledgeville GA, passed away on the morning of July 22, 2022. He is survived by his wife Vickie Mixon Brown Richards, his sons William Cowart Richards II of Milledgeville, Timothy Nathaniel Richards of Valdosta, GA, Kenneth Michael Richards (Stephanie) of Omaha, Nebraska, his stepsons Aaron Brown (Madelyn), and Seth Brown, both of Milledgeville, two brothers Robert Richards (Raylene) of Gulfport, MS, and Larry Richards (Donna), of McMinnville, OR, and sister Norma Jane Richards of Biloxi. He was predeceased by his parents Benjamin Ammon Richards III and Norma Agnes Fayard, of Biloxi, MS, and brother, Benjamin Ammon Richards IV, of Dallas, TX.

William Cowart Richards Sr. was born on July 21, 1956, at New Biloxi Hospital, in Biloxi Mississippi, the fourth of five children. His first job was working at one of the Gulf Coast's first, and now historic, McDonald's at age 15 to provide for his younger brother and sister after their father's incapacitating stroke. He had no car at the time so he would walk to work.

Those first hard but happy years led to the building of a tremendous, now rarely seen, work ethic. After graduating from Biloxi High School in 1975, he worked for Delchamps, a regional grocery store chain, while attending the local junior college. He next attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where he graduated in 1979, with a B.S. in Business Administration. He

completed his Master's Degree in Computer Science at LSU. His first professional job was in the accounting department at Mississippi Power in Biloxi, MS, where he remained until 1988, when he relocated to Arlington, Texas, and became an IT systems specialist at Northrop Grumman. During his years in Mississippi his two sons William "Will" and Timothy "Tim" were born on December 30, 1983, and July 1, 1986, respectively. During his years in Texas, his third son, Kenneth "Kenny" was born on August 12, 1992.

While in Texas, William discovered a love for introducing young people to the joys of camping and outdoorsmanship. He became a den leader of Cub Scout troop 491 and later the Troop Master of Boy Scout troop 340, both of which included his two eldest sons. William loved camping, and made numerous trips both with the Boy Scouts and his family to many local and distant places including the Appalachian Trail, Petrified Forest National Park, Redwood National State Park, Monahans Sandhills, and the Grand Canyon, just to name a few. These adventures gave his family countless fond memories and sparked a lifelong love of camping and the outdoors in all of his sons.

In 1996, a job opening at the then Milledgeville site of Northrop Grumman facilitated moving his family to Gray GA, where William built their home literally from the foundation up. This was accomplished while working full-time and living in a trailer parked in front of the house construction site. In 2002 he moved to Milledgeville Ga., where he became involved in Boy Scout Troop 87, with his youngest son and future stepsons.

William was a driven, conscientious worker, always going above and beyond what was asked of him. As a software engineer, he was a programmer extraordinaire, building systems in the aerospace industry for accounting, manufacturing, and defense. He created software systems that ran both efficiently and reliably. He learned to program in early Fortran and Cobol, writing software for accounting systems, but as the computer industry grew,

he mastered numerous computer languages, building applications across many different platforms. William's accumulated level of knowledge and experience made him an invaluable asset to his company, Qarbon Aerospace, his employers, and colleagues. William weathered several changes in ownership of the Milledgeville aerospace company from Grumman to Northrup Grumman, to Vought, then Triumph, and finally Qarbon. He was poised to retire on the day of his untimely death, only returning to close out things following a long overdue vacation.

William found love and happiness when he met his wife, Vickie, in Milledgeville. Neither of them knew what the term "soulmate" was until their hearts connected. Married for 12 years, both would say these were the happiest years of their lives. William and Vickie loved doing ordinary things together, as well as traveling. They square danced with the Oconee River Buskers for 10 years. Vickie became a Sci-Fi fan with William, and William accompanied Vickie to her many scrapbook workshops. Traveling took them across country from Alaska to the redwood forests of California, San Francisco, and the coast of Oregon, to Dallas and Ft. Worth, Texas, Biloxi, Mississippi, New Orleans, and the Gulf Coast. They enjoyed cruising, and visiting Florida from Key West to Jacksonville Beach. True Disney lovers, they were frequent visitors to Orlando. They traveled all over Georgia from the mountains to the coast. But there was no place like home and they loved just cuddling and watching Sci-Fi or RomComs on Netflix.

William was loved by many and will be missed by all. Say hello to Bandit and Sid as you cross that Rainbow Bridge to heaven.

Mississippi services will be Tuesday, August 9th, 2022, at 1:00 pm at Bradford O'Keefe Funeral Home, 675 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530. Burial to follow at Coalville Methodist Church Cemetery, 12298 Shorecrest Rd., Biloxi,

MS 39532.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 28. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Funeral Service

JUL 28. 3:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Interment

AUG 2. 1:00 PM (CT)

Coalville United Methodist Church Cemetery
12298 Shorecrest Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

Tribute Wall



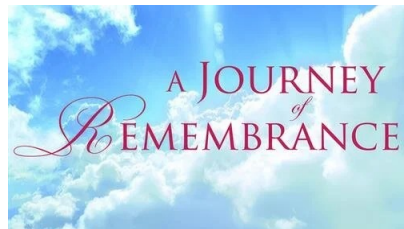
“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Webcast will start approximately 10 minutes before the service in memory of William Richards



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - July 28, 2022 at 12:36 PM



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of William Richards



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - July 28, 2022 at 08:41 AM



“ So sorry to hear of William's passing. he was always so engaging every time we saw him. Our prayers are with you. Terri and David Frolich

Terri & David Frolich - July 28, 2022 at 04:35 PM

CM

“ William was a wonderful person. I met him when I began working at Northrop Grumman almost 25 years ago. He was a great person overall and always willing to help with all the many I.T. issues at work. He will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Cullen McLendon - July 28, 2022 at 03:11 PM



“ 129 files added to the album LifeTributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - July 28, 2022 at 08:32 AM

CW

William was such a great fun guy! He was so dedicated to his family and job! RIP sir! 🙏🙏🙏

Cary Williams - July 28, 2022 at 12:32 PM

SP

dr.brown we are so sorry to hear about your love one passing away you and your are in our prayers johnny & sarah parker

sarah parker - August 01, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ Vickie, Mary and I are lifting up prayers for you and the boys. It was a privilege to be Williams's IT colleague for 24 years and I will always cherish his friendship and that sarcastic humor that helped get me thru some tough days. His work ethic, knowledge and skills were amazing and recognized by all. But he was just a great all-around guy and family man. He will truly be missed.
Barry and Mary Kitchings

Barry Kitchings - July 27, 2022 at 09:33 PM

KC

“ William was such a wonderful guy,, always willing to help and share his knowledge of anything that was asked of him,, especially computers,, thoughts and prayers for his family ,, William will be missed,,,,, Mike and Karen Classen

Karen Classen - July 27, 2022 at 06:12 PM

RF

Words can't describe what a wonderful, kind and intelligent man he was. He taught me a lot. Enjoyed the conversations we had in the break room. Rest in peace my friend.

Rick Fathi - July 28, 2022 at 12:45 PM

LM

“ Prayers from Friends at McDade Grocery.



Luther G Minor - July 27, 2022 at 11:12 AM

WT

“ With heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family. It was a joy to work with William at Triumph and I will always remember him. He was such a nice, kind and friendly man and taught me a lot about the computer. I'm so glad that I got to know William.

Wilma Trawick

Wilma Trawick - July 26, 2022 at 04:28 PM



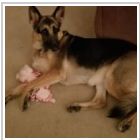
JR

“ Dr. Vickie, the Rosenberg family is so very sad over your tremendous loss. Over the years William was always a gentleman and a scholar, so kind and loving to you. It was a delight to see him at family affairs and discuss current events.

There is little that can be said to lessen the heartache. G-d bless you and the family.

Jack Rosenberg

Jack Rosenberg - July 26, 2022 at 03:28 PM



“ I worked with William on Project Bulldozer very closely for the last eight months. He was so very helpful to not only me, but to everyone. He was patient and kind, but at the same time, I loved his wry sense of humor! His ability to solve problems was truly incredible. I will miss him very much.

Wendy Kuhn - July 26, 2022 at 02:31 PM



WM

“ Kenny and I enjoyed working with William at Truimp-he was a great guy he will be missed. Praying for the family at this difficult time.

waylogene meyer - July 26, 2022 at 01:02 PM

BS

“ Will, Tim, & Ken, I also wanted to share that, as you know, William was very much a people person He was brilliant but never made anyone feel intimidated by his knowledge. I'm glad he and I were on Friday morning's meeting first. We got to chat and reminisce about what all we've been through together at work over the years. What a great guy!

Bobby Sasseen - July 26, 2022 at 09:19 AM

BS

“ William and I worked together for probably 15 years through company changes as well. He had the best sense of humor and always had us laughing at something. He also had the best work ethic of anyone I know. I will truly miss him!

Bobby Sasseen

Bobby Sasseen - July 26, 2022 at 08:23 AM

EC

“ Dr.Vickie and Family: I am so sorry for your loss. May God wrap His loving arms around you and give you peace and comfort during this difficult time. Elaine Campbell Carnes



Elaine C Carned - July 26, 2022 at 07:12 AM

SP

“ Steve Pierce lit a candle in memory of William Richards



steve pierce - July 25, 2022 at 07:32 PM

BG

“ Betty Corley Governale lit a candle in memory of William Richards



Betty Corley Governale - July 25, 2022 at 06:00 PM

BG

Enjoyed working with William at Northrup Grumman in the Systems Dept.. Always very kind and so helpful. Prayers to family as you go through this difficult time.

Betty Corley Governale - July 27, 2022 at 07:46 AM

CB

“ Cynthia Butts lit a candle in memory of William Richards



Cynthia Butts - July 25, 2022 at 03:10 PM

SD

“ Vickie,
Jeff and I want to let you know how sorry we are to hear of William's passing. He was always so friendly and welcoming both at services he attended with you and whenever we were sharing a sukkot celebration in your home. We know how much you will miss him as we share in your loss. May his warm memories give you comfort and blessing.

Shelley Davidson and Jeff Lehman

Shelley Davidson - July 25, 2022 at 09:03 AM

JS

“ William was always helpful to me whenever I had an IT question. He was a true gentleman and will be missed by all at Plant 66. Prayers for all!



Joe Sansotta - July 24, 2022 at 08:39 PM

LS

“ Linda Sloan lit a candle in memory of William Richards



Linda Sloan - July 24, 2022 at 04:12 PM

JR

“ Vickie,
I realize there are no words to give you
comfort at this tragic time.
Please know that my thoughts & love are with
you and the boys as you navigate through the
acceptance of Will's death.
With Sympathy,
Christy Brown Reichard



Janice Reichard - July 24, 2022 at 03:34 PM

PJ

“ Vickie - Just learned of William's passing. We are so sorry and know
what a wonderful man he was and how much he is going to be
missed. We will cherish our memories and know that you will do as
well.

paul and Diane Jahr

Paul K. Jahr - July 24, 2022 at 01:41 PM

MM

“ Vickie, Sorry for your loss. I knew William for many years as we
both worked At Vought (Grumman). He was kind and patient
working thru what ever system problems were presented. You know
you could count on him to come thru. I know he will be missed. Pam
and I extend our prayers to you and the family during this difficult
time. Mike and Pam McCabe

Mike and Pam McCabe - July 24, 2022 at 01:28 PM

SW

Vicki, I am so sorry to hear of William's passing. I worked with him at Grumman (Triumph). There wasn't a problem that William could fix for us. He was the kindest Man that I've had the pleasure of knowing. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. My the Lord comfort and strengthen you in the days ahead. Sherry Wagner ❤️🙏

Sherry Wagner - July 25, 2022 at 08:45 PM

NS

“ Vickie,
I am so sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of William through the many years at work. He was always helpful to everyone & such a gentleman. Please know my prayers are with you & all the family. Nancy Sammons

Nancy Sammons - July 23, 2022 at 10:55 PM

CP

Dr. Brown I am so sorry for your loss you are in my prayers as well as all the family !

Cherie Pennington - July 24, 2022 at 02:33 PM

VM

Vivian Mosley I worked with William in the IT department.I talk to him at the Hospital here in Milledgeville last week.He said to me he was retiring on Friday July 22.He was very dedicated to his job.He always gave us good advice in the IT department.My ❤️ is very heavy since I received the news about his passing.God have gained a angle to work on his computer.To his family please know my prayers are with you.

Vivian Mosley - July 24, 2022 at 10:43 PM

BA

I knew William from work. He was always helpful when ever One of us had a problem with our computers in Global Hawk. I'm praying for you and your family during this time of loss.

Bo Avirett - July 25, 2022 at 08:59 AM

MM

I enjoyed working with William at "The Airplane Factory." He had an encyclopedic knowledge of all things computer, a wicked sense of humor, and a very kind heart. He was always willing to help his coworkers. Condolences to his family for the loss of such a great guy.

mark mcculloch - July 25, 2022 at 10:55 AM

BA

William was a Kind, Patient, Fun-Loving Hardworker. William will be dearly missed by all who interacted with him. RIP - William. Our prayers are with his family.

Badri Aavan - July 25, 2022 at 11:59 AM

TE

I knew William from work. He was always helping people with their computer problems. He was always friendly and polite. I will be praying for his family.

Terry Epps - July 25, 2022 at 01:55 PM

YH

I am so sorry to hear of William's passing. There was never a time at work when I had a question or request that he didn't bend over backwards to address. The "airplane factory" will never be the same without him. My prayers are with his family during this most difficult time.

Yvonne Harrell - July 25, 2022 at 10:57 PM

TK

Kenny I am so sorry to hear about your Dad Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers ! William go turn it up in heaven man .

teresa kennedy - July 26, 2022 at 09:11 AM

JD

William was one of a kind when it came to computer issues. I considered him the Master of the IT department. Rest in Peace my brother.

Jeff Deen - July 26, 2022 at 10:41 AM

CW

So sorry to hear of William's passing. Our Prayers are with the entire family. He was a fantastic person to work with and was always willing to help me which was needed by this computer novice. Loved his sense of humor and he knew the right time to use it during meetings! He will be missed!

Clay Wood - July 26, 2022 at 10:49 AM

EB

"SIGH..." That was how William usually began his greeting when he answered his department phone at work, at least whenever I was calling! Regardless, he always provided immediate and effective help in a professional and friendly manner, no matter what the issue. He usually threw in a bit of lively sarcasm and his trademark wit to complete the package! :-)

William took on so much, it was little surprise that interrupting his train of thought with mundane log-in issues and such as he multi-tasked through the day would draw a sigh. I knew when I heard the "sigh" that a solution to whatever computer difficulty I was having would soon come to an end with his brilliant advice and assistance!

William was much more than a computer and systems problem-solver, of course. He was also a fine gentleman, an excellent conversationalist, and I'm sure much, much more to his loving family and close friends.

Like William, my father also worked right up to within moments of retirement and then died suddenly. I'm sorry for both of them (and many others) who just barely missed it, but in both their cases, I'm glad they didn't put off EVERYTHING until retirement, and were able to go out and enjoy the world, even as day-to-day responsibilities demanded their time.

William, you will be sorely missed, both professionally and personally. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Eric Buckley - July 26, 2022 at 06:22 PM

ST

I am sorry to hear that William passed away. It was always good to work with him. He was a whiz in the IT department and could help with solutions with most everyone else could not. I pray for the family and friends.

Susan Taylor - July 27, 2022 at 12:27 AM

MJ

I am sorry to hear of William's passing. I was immediately flooded by memories I have from my years of knowing him. I remember well his dedication to help all of us who he came into contact with daily through the IT department and his love of life and family were always present.

William was my and the plant's IT support guru for so many things at the airplane factory, especially when "failure was not an option", which was much of the time.

His programming ability in support of in-house needs was amazing. His singular efforts allowed systems to be born and to survive for years past their normal lifetime. His expertise in finding-outdated autoclave equipment and associated software was unrelenting. He was our bridge to the future, a future of which we had no idea of when it might arrive.

His love of life and family, his dry sense of humor, his thoughts about our work environment and his willingness to work through all problems was infectious. He took responsibility to fix things when no other resource was available and did so with little to no hesitation.

I am reminded of my many non-work related visits with William mornings before starting time in which we discussed recent events, news, technology updates, stock market buys and sells, computer software and equipment questions. These memories will not fade with time. May our memories of William be a blessing to all of us.

Marc Jocoy

Marc Jocoy - July 27, 2022 at 08:34 PM



Dr. Vickie, I am so sorry to hear of this. My thoughts and prayers are with you

Mervin G Graham

Mervin G Graham - August 01, 2022 at 03:06 PM