



## Kyle David Rickles

January 19, 1945 - September 16, 2017

Kyle David Rickles, 72, passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family, on September 16, 2017. Dave was born in Boaz, Alabama on January 19, 1945 to the late Guy and Thelma Rickles (Richardson). He attended Boaz Elementary School and Boaz High School.

Dave graduated from Auburn University in 1969 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He first worked as a Fire Protection Engineer in Atlanta, Baton Rouge, London, England, and Detroit. In 1977, he moved with his family to Naperville, IL, employed as an Account Executive, then Vice-President for commercial insurance companies. In 1989 Dave incorporated his own risk management company, Risk Solutions Group, Inc., retiring in 2012.

Dave met his wife Veronica (Guza) in Atlanta and married in 1971. They were happily married 46 years. Dave is survived by his wife and their three sons and families: Brent, daughter Phoenix; Ben, daughters Arianna and Maria Celeste; Justin (Leslie), daughter Hannah. Extended family, Natalia, David, Vanessa (Marcio), daughter Violetta. All greatly loved.

While raising his family, Dave volunteered as Cub Scout leader and basketball coach, as well as being on the Boards of Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Service and Family Shelter.

Dave and his family lived in Naperville, IL for 26 years. In 2003 Dave and his wife returned to Georgia. In 2007 they moved to Florida to be near their son's family, settling in Ocoee in 2013.

Dave enjoyed fixing/building, gardening, listening to the Blues, and especially

building and maintaining his fish ponds in Illinois. When his granddaughters arrived, he enjoyed nothing more than being in their company, playing or just simply watching. As recently described by his granddaughter: “kind, funny, and loved helping people”.

Besides his wife, sons, and granddaughters, Dave is survived by brother Larry (Toni), sister Linda (Allen) Taylor, sister Charlotte (Joe) Lackey; many brothers- and sisters-in-law; 11 nieces and 13 nephews. The family wishes to thank family and friends for all the kindnesses this last year, with special mention of John Southall, life-long friend.

Friends and family are invited to the Memorial Service for Dave at DeGusipe Funeral Home in Ocoee, FL on Sept 30th at 1pm. You may sign the guestbook at [www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com](http://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

SEP **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory West Orange Chapel

1400 Matthew Paris Blvd.

Ocoee, FL 34761

(407) 695-2273

todd@degusipe.com

<https://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com>

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ *If I possess any character qualities that you find commendable, they exist in me because of my dad and mom. I hit the life-lottery jackpot upon birth -- given a dad and mom that took to parenting the way Lennon-McCartney took to songwriting. Collaborating to form perfection.*

*Perhaps I'm still in the shock/denial phase, but I don't feel as though my dad is gone. His passing, to me, feels like an esoteric technicality. Like discussing whether Pluto is a planet or an asteroid. His "being" is still here, unaffected by labels. Every time I make someone smile, he and my mom are there. Every action I take that earns a "thank you" in response, there he is, standing right next to my mom. In every challenging situation I face, he and my mom are there actively guiding me through it.*

*The songbook my parents wrote for me on life and love is so profound and virtuosic that, at 44, I'm still just beginning to master their basic tunes. I'm sure this is a big reason why I feel like I haven't lost Dad. His life-lesson discography is so deep that I feel as though I've only begun to understand his "I Want to Hold Your Hand" era of wisdom and still have his even richer "Strawberry Fields" and "Let It Be" life lessons awaiting me.*

*Dad, thank you for being the best. The most loving and giving father imaginable. You're the ultimate rockstar of fatherhood. My hero.*

*Proud Son of Kyle David and Veronica Anne Rickles,  
Brent Rickles*

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**Brent Rickles** - October 01, 2017 at 04:47 PM

VR

*Thank you for posting, Brent! Especially I am grateful that you spoke these words at your dad's Celebration of Life. I'm sure he was smiling - and tearing up, too -- as you spoke.*

**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:54 PM

MN

“ *From Mac Nelson, friend from Albertville and Auburn:  
I got to know David at Snead Jr. College in Boaz. We were not close friends at that time but we did get to know each other fairly well. I transferred to Auburn in 1966 and was drafted into the Army in December 1966. After I was discharged in 1968 I returned to Auburn to complete my degree. I needed someone to share rent and Dave and I wound up sharing a room in Thunderbird apartments on Thach Ave. (It's still there). Dave helped me a lot that year. I was still just a green kid fresh out of the Army, trying to adjust to my prosthetic leg. David encouraged me, but he didn't cut me any slack either.*

*I don't know how he could afford it but Dave bought a state of the art Reel-to-Reel sound system. We had some good times listening to music and recording goofy stuff. Our one room apartment had a large window. One day Dave decided to wash it. After soaping the window he stood back and "flung" a bucket of water to rinse the window. Water and window (and maybe the bucket) collapsed into the floor of our room. I was not with him when he explained that to the landlord.*

*Dave and I became close friends that year. When Karen and I were married in August 1969 David was Best Man in our wedding. Dave graduated and moved up north and I was married with another year of school to complete. For one reason or another we failed to regularly keep in touch. I've always regretted that I neglected our friendship.*

*David was a wonderful person. I was pleased to read of his many accomplishments and especially what a devoted family man he was. Karen and I send our condolences to Veronica and family.*

**Mac Nelson** - September 30, 2017 at 11:39 AM

VR

*Thank you, Mac, for sharing your memories of Dave. These were times before I met him, so I was glad to read them. He remembered you, too!*

**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:46 PM

JD

“ From Jack Davis, friend from Boaz, AL:

*Dave and I have been friends from the earliest of age. The Rickles farm was on the south side of Mt. Vernon Road northwest of Boaz, Alabama, and the Davis farm was on the north side of Mt. Vernon Road. The farms partially overlapped/faced each other. Slab Creek ran through the Rickles pasture land where Dave and I fished for small fish - not really for fish to eat - they were too small, but for the fun of catching some small bream. I remember Dave and I tossing a baseball back and forth – we were maybe ten years old – very vague memory.*

*Dave and I graduated from Boaz High School; he in 1963 and I in 1964. I attended his graduation in the Boaz High School Auditorium in the spring of 1963. Since he was one grade ahead of me we had no classes together.*

*We both attended Snead Jr. College in Boaz. It was during this time that we became even closer friends. He had a job working at the H. D. Lee manufacturing plant that was then operating in Boaz. He (and several other male students) resided with Rev. Gunnin (“Boompa”) in a house on North Main Street in Boaz. Boompa was the religion instructor for Snead (which at that time was a private school owned by the Methodist Conference). I would often join in the Rook games at Boompa’s on the weekend. Boompa was an ardent Rook player.*

*Dave and I both headed to Auburn University in the fall of 1966. Neither of us had ever been to the Auburn campus (to my knowledge he had never visited there). We simply knew that we were going to Engineering School there. We and another person from Boaz, John Arthur Floyd, lived in a private dorm called War Eagle Apartments on West Glenn Avenue. By walking between buildings, we were a one block walk to the edge of the Auburn campus. It was a challenging three years at Auburn. Strangely, we had (to the best of my faded memory) only two classes together during the three years. Our class schedules were probably different because he had to schedule around his job at a Firestone gas station in Auburn and I had military classes in addition to the engineering classes.*

*Dave (to the best of my memory) was at Auburn all the time during the three years and so was I except for the summer of 1967 when I had to attend Air Force Officer Training Camp. Neither of us was enamored with Chemical Engineering – difficult and boring. We graduated in 1969. He was elated to get (instead of a position in some chemical plant) an offer to join an industrial insurance company. I was commissioned into the Air Force.*

*I valued Dave's friendship greatly. I will always remember him visiting me (of all places!) at Rhein Main AB in Frankfurt, Germany, just about a year or so (would have been about 1973) before I met Linda (a tourist to Germany with her military family) who has now been my wife of 43 years. Dave was in Europe with his company and during a business trip to Germany he took time out and went out of his way to visit me. Over the years we have remained in contact via telecon and email.*

*Kyle David had a difficult and challenging early life as a young man, but he overcame that by hard work, intelligence, and the values instilled in him by his Christian Grandmother, "Ma Rick".*

*My condolences to his family.*

*Jack Davis September 26, 2017*

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**Jack Davis** - September 29, 2017 at 08:16 AM

VR

*Thank you for sharing your memories of Dave. Your life-long friendship was treasured by Dave.*

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**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:43 PM

FF

“ *From Your Hope and Legacy Family purchased the With Distinction for the family of Kyle David Rickles.*



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**From Your Hope and Legacy Family** - September 28, 2017 at 09:26 AM



“ *Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kyle David Rickles.*



September 27, 2017 at 06:42 PM



“ *David was a dear childhood friend , and we graduated high school together.  
He was truly a gentle, caring, generous soul. He was super intelligent, funny ,  
talented and wise beyond his years.  
Even though we had not been in touch for many years, his friendship was/is a treasured gift. Few people like David grace our lives. I will always smile when I think of him .  
God's comfort, grace and peace to his family and those dear to him*

**Patricia Noel Foster** - September 24, 2017 at 08:08 PM



*Thank you, Patricia, for writing about Dave. I will treasure your words.*

**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:42 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kyle David Rickles.*



September 22, 2017 at 02:23 PM

CD

“ *When I think of Dave I think of his big smile and his big hugs. I'll miss your smile and your hugs Dave.*

**Cecilia Dillow** - September 20, 2017 at 06:01 PM

VR

*Thank you, Cecilia. He enjoyed your and Bill's company and was always happy when he was around you!*

**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:47 PM

CD

“ *Cecilia Dillow lit a candle in memory of Kyle David Rickles*



**Cecilia Dillow** - September 20, 2017 at 05:57 PM

WF

*Dave, It was our pleasure in having you as our neighbor. We enjoyed you and your laughter and Smile. We will always remember you, You will be sadly missed. Love Willie and Sylvia Fenn*

**Willie and Sylvia Fenn** - September 21, 2017 at 02:32 PM

VR

*Thank you for sharing, Sylvia and Willie. Dave loved sharing quips with you, neighbors!*

**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:53 PM

TF

“ *The Dillow family purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Kyle David Rickles.*



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**The Dillow family** - September 20, 2017 at 05:51 PM

JG

“ *Dave was an accomplished engineer and businessman. But most of all, he was a loved member of our family. When Dave was in the room, his energy and great sense of humor were contagious. He cared, not only about his 3 sons and their families, but for all the children in the family. Dave's and Veronica's home was always open to all of us. Whenever any of us went to Chicago, Dave took us wherever we wanted to go and do whatever we wanted to do. Trips to Chicago were fun! We will miss you, Dave, and the spark you added to all our family gatherings. Your spirit will live on in Brent, Ben, and Justin and your grandchildren.*

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**Jan Guza Goddard** - September 20, 2017 at 03:12 PM

VR

*Thank you, Jan, for posting your memories of Dave. He loved being a member of our family and each person was important to him. He liked hanging out with ya'll.*

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**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:49 PM

TF

“ *The Goddard Family purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Kyle David Rickles.*



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**The Goddard Family** - September 20, 2017 at 02:53 PM

DG

“ As the first brother in law in a family with six girls, Dave was a significant member of our family for a long time. He was an exciting addition! Dave brought a lot of fun and excitement to a kid growing up in suburban Atlanta in the 70's, Whether it was playing football with us or helping my mother with repairs around the house, he made an impression. Unlike most adults of that time period, he actually played with us! Dave's work ethic and energy level was off the charts. As a teenager, I got to spend a couple of summers with him and his family in Chicago. He always made me feel that "anything is possible," Thank you, Dave, for all the memories and your "can do spirit." We will miss you!

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**dave guza** - September 20, 2017 at 01:18 PM

VR

*Thank you for your memories, Dave! I think he drew energy from you guys, too! He became a kid around you guys -- maybe even sharing a childhood that he didn't have himself!*

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**Veronica Rickles** - October 22, 2017 at 08:51 PM