



Rakesh Ghai

April 5, 1971 - March 22, 2025

The Ghai family is heartbroken to announce that Rick Ghai, a beloved father, son, uncle and brother, passed away on Saturday, March 22nd.

Rick was born in Ames, Iowa; grew up in Miami, Florida, and lived in New York and Cleveland before relocating to the Orlando area last year. He was an accomplished Control System Engineer, having studied Electronics and Electrical Engineering at University of Florida and graduated from Florida International University.

Rick was preceded in death by his mother, Pravin (Malik) Ghai. He will be dearly remembered by his children, Ram and Sushila; former wife, Cassandra Knight; his father, Dr. Gauri Ghai; his brothers Vivek (spouse Lisa) and Ashish (spouse Leya); and his nephews Andrew (spouse - Sydney), Lucas and Desmond.

Services will be held at 1 pm on Thursday, March 27th at DeGusipe Funeral Home, Maitland FL.

Donations in Rick's memory can be made to the Jerry Garcia Foundation: <http://www.jerrygarciafoundation.org/>

Previous Events

Public Visitation

MAR 27. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory
9001 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Sihk Service

MAR 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory
9001 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Tribute Wall

HC

“ His CDM Smith Colleagues purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rakesh Ghai.



His CDM Smith Colleagues - April 03, 2025 at 10:11 AM

AA

“ I was surprised and saddened to hear of Rick's passing. We did not work together often but had worked together on annual basis for a few years. It was my pleasure to know him and exchange some of our expertise. My deepest condolences to his family as they mourn his passing.

Alexander Arzón - April 02, 2025 at 10:16 AM

ML

“ I worked with Rick and every time we spoke he always had a cheerful attitude that made him a pleasure to work with. My deepest condolences to the family during this incredibly difficult time.



Matt Lick - March 28, 2025 at 07:31 AM

ES

“ I was Rakesh's manager when he was first hired at CDM Smith and he was working out of the Cleveland office. Rakesh and I quickly bonded over our love of music we shared and I could appreciate his passion for the Grateful Dead. I also particularly remember our conversations during COVID when we would have frequent regular chats that I always enjoyed. Our CDM Smith family will miss Rick very much and I send our sympathy from our entire organization.

Eric Silverman - March 28, 2025 at 12:13 AM

GC

“ I was Rakesh's manager for the past couple of years and had started to lean on him for support on many projects including having him work with me on a progressive design-build project in Henderson, NC as well as leading the automation design on our Pender County, NC WTP. He was very easy to work with and had great communication skills so I could rely on him to take on the role of the day-to-day review of contractor submittals. He will be missed by the members of our automation team here at CDM Smith.

Greg Czerniejewski - March 27, 2025 at 02:25 PM

PO

“ I worked with Rick for a short time and traveled with him to a jobsite. He was such a strong light that helped guide me as a beginner. His kindness and passion were something truly inspiring. He will be missed heavily.



Patrick O'Sullivan - March 27, 2025 at 11:10 AM

PB

“ Prerna Bhatnagar lit a candle in memory of Rakesh Ghai



Prerna Bhatnagar - March 27, 2025 at 09:37 AM

BN

“ Brian Allan Neal lit a candle in memory of Rakesh Ghai



Brian Allan Neal - March 27, 2025 at 09:14 AM

BN

“ Rakesh came down to Cincinnati to watch his beloved Dolphins and Tua Tagovailoa play the Cincinnati Bengals with me. We had a great time at the game. He will be missed greatly

Brian Allan Neal - March 27, 2025 at 09:13 AM

PA

“ I worked with Rakesh at CDM Smith. He was always the first one to help out when a request went out for assistance. And he always did so with a smile and a laugh. He will be missed not only for being an excellent engineer but for being one of the nicest and kindest people you would ever want to know.



Patricia Aker - March 27, 2025 at 08:38 AM

BA

“ *Brenda A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rakesh Ghai.*

Brenda A. - March 26, 2025 at 06:55 PM

SJ

“ *Susan, Juan, Laura, & Juan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rakesh Ghai.*



Susan, Juan, Laura, & Juan - March 26, 2025 at 12:34 PM

MA

“ *Missie, Amanda, Slade & Abbey purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Rakesh Ghai.*



Missie, Amanda, Slade & Abbey - March 26, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rakesh Ghai.*



March 25, 2025 at 11:11 PM