



R. Jack Richardson

January 19, 1935 - December 25, 2024

JAMESTOWN, NC – Jack Richardson, 88, formerly from Bluefield, WV, passed away on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, from injuries he received from a fall on Christmas Eve.

Jack was born on January 19, 1936, in Williamson, WV, to John William and Girly Mae Duncan Richardson. At the age of 17, he enlisted and served two years in the United States Marine Corps. He was honorably discharged in 1955 after receiving the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Shortly after returning to civilian life, Jack started dating and fell in love with Anna Justine Wallace. Jack and Ann were married in January 1956 and remained married for 63 years, until her death in 2019. Jack and Ann had four children, Jack Jr., Rusty, David, and Julie.

Early in his career, Jack worked for the Mercer Funeral Home and drove for Hennis Freight Line. Then, like his father, he began his long career with Norfolk & Western Railroad (now Norfolk Southern). His roles with the railroad included fireman, brakeman, conductor, and ultimately engineer.

To supplement his railroad income in the early 1960s, Jack established the first Datsun dealership in the State of West Virginia. The small dealership

eventually grew into Richardson Motors that included Datsun, Volvo, Fiat, Toyota, and Avco Motor Coaches. The dealership closed in the early 1980s.

After the closure of Richardson Motors, Jack returned to his railroad roots with the Genessee & Wyoming Railroad and Rail Link as an Engineer Trainer before retiring.

Outside of his family and work life, the most important part of Jack's life was his deep involvement in the various Masonic organizations. He was a member of the Bluefield Mercer Lodge No. 85 for more than 50 years and became a member of the Scottish Rite in 1966 followed by the York Rite. He later served as Potentate for the Beni Kedem Temple (Shriners) in 1987 and President of the South Atlantic Shrine Association AAONMS in 1990. He also thoroughly enjoyed his affiliations with various Courts of the Royal Order of Jesters.

In recognition of his long record of selfless service and leadership to Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite, the Supreme Council bestowed upon Jack the honorary 33rd Degree in 1985.

His favorite hobbies included fishing, gardening, taking care of his two cats, and playing cards (spades, poker, forty rummy and especially Kings Corner), and smoking cigars (down to the smallest stub).

Jack was preceded in death by his parents (John and Girly), his wife (Ann), and his five siblings Hazel Deskins, Cecil Richardson, Midge Harmon, Maxine Cardwell, and Bill Richardson.

He is survived by his sister-in-law Lynda Bodell Gentry (Hal) of Old Hickory, TN; son R. Jack Richardson, Jr. (Debbie) of Jamestown, NC; son Rusty Richardson (Kathy) of Lebanon, TN; son David Richardson (Donna) of

Pickens, SC; daughter Julie Richardson Phillips (Richard) of Oak Ridge, NC; 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will include Justin Richardson, Ned Phillips, Cole Richardson, Jimmy Rasche, Will Puckett, and Bill Carr. Honorary pallbearers include Jack's many Masonic friends from Beni Kedem Temple, the Scottish Rite, South Atlantic Shrine Association, and the Royal Order of Jesters.

The funeral service will be held at Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1:00 PM. The family will receive visitors at the Funeral Home from 11:00 AM until the beginning of the funeral service. Internment will follow at Monte Vista Park Cemetery in Green Valley.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to: Shriners Children's Hospitals, Attn: Shriners Children's, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394 www.ovetotherescue.org or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014. www.michaeljfox.org.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV 24701

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

JAN 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Jack, Rusty, David and Julie,
We send our deepest condolences. Please know you all are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe and Karen Simon - January 09, 2025 at 04:18 PM

GS

“ One of the most special times I spent with Jack was when we went to the Veteran's Day event in Jamestown! He loved God, his family & his country & served them all with tender care & some tough love when needed! There's a hole in my heart & my life.



GM Smithey - January 08, 2025 at 04:37 PM

RS

“ Renee S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of R. Jack Richardson.

Renee S. - January 06, 2025 at 10:33 PM

MB

“ I met Jack in 1998. He was quite the character. His jokes and his laugh carried an immense friendship that he shared with everyone. He used to wear a gold coal miner bolo that had a diamond in the helmet to show his love for West Virginia. Jack loved to play cards, that’s true, but he also enjoyed throwing the dice. Last time I saw him, he challenged me to a game, all in fun, but he admitted that it wouldn’t be too long because his knees weren’t into getting down on the floor! Jack was indeed a great friend and will be sorely missed by all that came to know him. Rest In Peace my departed brother and friend. Godspeed. Michael T R Benesch PRD



Michael T R Benesch - January 06, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of R. Jack Richardson.



January 06, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of R. Jack Richardson.

January 06, 2025 at 12:14 PM

DW

“ Jack was the true “Worlds most interesting man.” I worked with him on the RR and he was truly one of the best. Sorry to hear of his passing. May God bless you all.

David A White - January 05, 2025 at 12:39 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of R. Jack Richardson.*



January 05, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of R. Jack Richardson.

January 05, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of R. Jack Richardson.*



January 04, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of R. Jack Richardson.

January 04, 2025 at 10:17 AM

LC

“ Love, Bridge Club. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of R. Jack Richardson.



Love, Bridge Club. - January 03, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of R. Jack Richardson.



January 03, 2025 at 05:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of R. Jack Richardson.

January 03, 2025 at 05:29 PM

BG

“ Jack will certainly be missed greatly. His work with the Shriners who knew him was always appreciated. He and Ann were wonderful friends.

Ben and Sandy Gay

Ben and Sandy Gay - January 03, 2025 at 05:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of R. Jack Richardson.



January 03, 2025 at 05:05 PM



“ Thank you, Jack for many years of friendship. I'm very sorry that I can't come for your services. I hope to see you again someday. Give Ann and MiMi a hug from me. Rest in peace. Prayers for all your loved ones and prayers for the repose of your soul.

Cynthia Jo McGraw - January 03, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ I haven't seen Jackie since Grandmother Duncan passed. As a young kid , he was so full of humor- making us laugh.

Darla Duncan Moore, daughter of Clarence - January 03, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ My condolences to all of the Richardson family. I know it is very tough losing your Dad, but keep in mind, he had a very long and fulfilling life. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Greg Spry
Roanoke, VA

Greg Spry - January 03, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of R. Jack Richardson, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.
My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Marine Veteran, R. Jack Richardson, is “A True American Hero”
God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

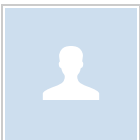
Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - January 03, 2025 at 09:34 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of R. Jack Richardson.*



January 03, 2025 at 07:59 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of R. Jack Richardson.*

January 03, 2025 at 07:59 AM

SL

“ Dear Julie, Jack, Rusty, David, and family,
Please accept my sincere condolences in your loss of your Dad. I lived across the street from your folks on Augusta Street. We had so many good times together. When I went over to introduce myself to them, my dog scared their cats up a tree. I felt so bad. I opened a can of tuna to entice him down and Jack said not to worry, he would come down for his dinner. He did! Your Mom called me one evening to help her look for one of the cats who was missing on a very cold night. We walked all around the neighborhood looking for him. Turned out he crawled into your Dad's truck engine to get warm and got caught there. Your Dad heard him when he got back to Bluefield. Never a dull moment with your folks and I dearly loved both of them. They were the most caring neighbors and made our neighborhood a great place to live. Please know that you all will be in my thoughts and prayers now and in the days to come.
God Bless,
Sue Luterick

Susan Luterick - January 02, 2025 at 09:03 PM