



## Arthur Roy "Rick" Starnes

July 28, 1946 - December 10, 2020

Arthur Roy "Rick" Starnes passed away December 10, 2020 after a long struggle with Lewy Body Dementia. He was born July 28, 1946 in Bessemer, Alabama, the son of Jewel Arthur and Edith Lorene (Smith) Starnes.

He attended McAdory School where he began his music career under the direction of Bob Moore. He continued his trombone studies with Walter Moeck and graduated from Indian Springs School. While earning his degree at Eastman School of Music, he studied with Emory Remington. Rick served three years in the U.S. Army Band, then completed his education with a Master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Illinois.

Rick began his career teaching music at a small college for 10 years. He next trained as an aircraft mechanic then accepted a job with IBM, where he worked in many different roles for 20 years. After his retirement from IBM, he next worked for BBVA for 12 years.

Music was always an important part of Rick's life. He played with the Birmingham Community Concert Band, Celebration Winds, Ain't Misbehavin' dance band, the Bob Moore Band, the orchestra of Trinity UMC, and several other groups in the Birmingham area.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Adams McWhirter, stepdaughter Mary

McWhirter (Sammy Raviv), and numerous friends and family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. A private graveside service will be held at Coleman Cemetery with Reverend Alan Head officiating.

# Tribute Wall

JU

“ *This saddens me so. I met Ricky at a University of Alabama Music Camp but failed to keep our connection active. I regret that. Karen Moeck and Sonny Ausman were friends from that summer as well.*

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**June Hankins Ussery** - July 11, 2025 at 03:46 PM

MF

“ *I never laughed so hard in my life as I did when I was in rehearsal with Rick. Whether it was the Boulder Phil, Mahlerfest Orchestra or Alpine Brass quintet rehearsals, Rick always had something going on. He was an exceptional musician and he tried very hard to hide it from everyone. But as soon as you heard him play, you knew there was something special about his playing. I will miss him and his incredible sense of humor. God's speed my friend.*  
*Marc Fulgham*

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**Marc Fulgham** - June 04, 2023 at 10:03 PM

KM

“ *I just heard today that Rick had passed away and want to offer my deepest sympathy. He was my teacher in college and was an incredible musician and mentor. I was struck by his humility and kindness, and he knew how to bring out the best in those he taught. I became a music teacher as well, and he actually came to play for my middle school and high school students. While we were at college, he drove a small MGB and loaded 8 of us into it to get ice cream every year the Dairy Queen opened for the season. And the jokes....I have wonderful memories and know he will be missed by so many!*

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**Karen MacDougall** - August 25, 2021 at 03:43 PM

SH

“ I was a music major at that "small college" where Rick taught. I was also one of his student workers. I learned so much from him and he truly cared about his students. He was a huge influence on my life during my college years and was my inspiration for going into teaching. He showed me that it's important to care about my students and to become involved in their lives; he taught me that it's OK to have fun with my students; he never stood on ceremony. I still remember his corny inside jokes. I am so sad that he is gone!

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**Sharon** - August 25, 2021 at 11:54 AM

DL

“ I met Rick while playing in several bands in the Birmingham area. He was always kind, helpful, generous and very funny. I also had the opportunity to work with Rick at BBVA Compass several years. Rick and I took walks during lunch and talked about all kinds of things but mostly we laughed as we walked. He will be sorely missed by all.

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**Doyle Lovell** - December 14, 2020 at 12:11 PM

BD

“ We will all miss a fine man, great friend, and exceptional musician. I enjoyed the many hours with Rick in the bands we played in and the rides to and from when we stopped at Chic fil a for a peach shake after rehearsals. He was always an asset to any organization. If there is a dance band in heaven they have a fine new trombone master in the section. I will sorely miss his company, friendship, and humor

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**Bill Darden** - December 14, 2020 at 10:25 AM

PB

“ *I have enjoyed getting to know you and Rick through the band and at church. He will be missed by us all. Prayers for you, Dorothy. We know this last year has been tremendously hard.*  
*Alan and Peggy Brooks*

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**Peggy Brooks** - December 14, 2020 at 01:10 AM