



Richard Lee Rice

March 21, 1950 - April 20, 2026

Richard Lee Rice, 76, of West Blocton, Alabama passed away peacefully on April 20, 2026, at his home surrounded by those who loved him. Richard was born on March 21st, 1950, in Ohio to Clarence and Wanda Rice.

The world grew stronger, safer, and kinder on the day Richard came into it. And on the day, he left, it lost a man whose life was defined by service, loyalty, and devotion to the people he loved.

A proud United States Army veteran, he learned early what it meant to stand tall, serve with honor, and protect those around him. He served the 192nd Airborne assault helicopter during the Vietnam war. His commitment to service didn't end when he hung up his uniform. He continued that calling in the community he loved, serving as a Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Deputy, then as a Birmingham City Firefighter, offering protection, steadiness, and compassion to those who needed it most. He was a member of the West Blocton Church of Christ, a Jack of all trades, a pilot, mechanic, engineer, welder, electrician, scuba diver, with a love of hunting and fishing.

But to those who loved him, his greatest titles weren't earned through badges or uniforms. They were earned at home — Husband, Daddy, Poppa, Brother, and Friend. He was the one who showed up and the one who could fix anything. His stories, his humor, his stubborn streak, and his unwavering loyalty will be carried forward by everyone blessed enough to have known him.

His legacy is one of courage, service, and love — a legacy that will live on in

the lives he protected, the people he helped, and the family he cherished. Richard Rice is survived by his wife Letitia Rice, his children Karen Lane (Jon), April Davis, Nikki Dearman (Thomas), Leslie Edwards (Adam), Jordan Pierson-Rice (Demi), Kristen Pierson-Rice and Zach Pierson-Rice. His grandkids Amber, Cody, Kyle, Maddi, Houston, Savannah, Ethan, Harley, Weston, Ava, Jordie, Lettie, great grands Ayden, Vanessa, Camryn, Lucy, Sister Pat Reeder, Mother-In-Law Shirley A. Bush and a host of nieces and nephews. Richard was preceded in death by his parents Clarence F. Rice and Wanda B. Wheeler Rice, his brother Fred E. Rice and Father-In-Law John T. Bush.

A service honoring his life will be held at McCalla Memorial on April 22nd, 2026, where family and friends will gather to remember the man who gave so much of himself to his country, his community, and his loved ones.

Cemetery Details

Alabama National Cemetery

3133 Alabama 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home
4780 Letson Farms Parkway
P.O. Box 629
McCalla, AL 35111
(205) 477-4888
info@mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com
<https://www.mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

APR 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home
4780 Letson Farms Parkway
P.O. Box 629
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Tribute Wall

CN

“ *Richard Rice was for sure one of the most solid friends of my life. Solid in every way his faith, love for his family, loyal to his word, The one person who I could trust in many ways. I never heard him say anything negative about anyone. Memory's of hunting fishing doing projects together and a lot more will always live in me. Richard will be missed by many!*

Curtis Nix - April 22 at 08:58 AM

PR

“ *6 files added to the album Younger years*



Pat Reeder - April 22 at 07:14 AM

PR

“ Rich was my older brother by 3 years. I could fill up this album with special memories. The most recent was when I arrived at the hospital and he was still on the ventilator. The doctor was encouraging us to talk to him and wake him up. As most siblings do, they fuss and argue over the craziest things. I was trying to encourage Rich to wake up... I asked him to wake up and we could have a good fight. Rich slowly made a fist with his hand. I knew he was ready. :)

One night as a teenager we were sleeping when dad yells ... shut your doors. Mom and I both got our doors shut but Rich didn't. A bat had got in the house through the chimney. Dad and Fred were down stairs watching a ball game. The bat had dove at them several times and then came up the stairs to Rich's bedroom. Rich woke up and started swinging a baseball bat at the flying bat. He chased the bat down the stairs swinging the baseball bat as he went and finally made contact... the bat went flying across the living room and hit the chimney. Here it was, three in the morning and we are all screaming and yelling so Dad quieted us down. The next morning the neighbor came over and said "I'm not usually nib-by but what happened over here at 3 in the morning. The noise had started as quick as it had stopped". LOL I believe she enjoyed our event as much as we did. Rich had many a talent and ability. If he didn't know how to do, it he would figure it out.

Rich and I lived far away from each other, but we were always close at heart. I lost my oldest brother in January and now Rich.

I organized a few cousin reunions, and he and Letitia was always there.

I am going to deeply miss both my brothers.

Pat

Pat Reeder - April 21 at 09:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Lee Rice.

April 21 at 01:38 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Rice.



April 21 at 01:38 PM



“ Karen and David Dillon purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Richard Lee Rice.



Karen and David Dillon - April 21 at 10:39 AM



“ Karen and David Dillon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Lee Rice.

Karen and David Dillon - April 21 at 10:39 AM



“ Your EBZ Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Lee Rice.



Your EBZ Family - April 21 at 09:15 AM

MS

“ Milo’s B Shift purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Richard Lee Rice.



Milo’s B Shift - April 21 at 09:09 AM

BB

“ Billy, Haley, and the boys purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard Lee Rice.



Billy, Haley, and the boys - April 20 at 10:07 PM

BB

“ Billy, Haley, and the boys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Lee Rice.

Billy, Haley, and the boys - April 20 at 10:07 PM

TH

“ The Holleys purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Richard Lee Rice.



The Holleys - April 20 at 09:50 PM

FF

“ *Family & Friends purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Richard Lee Rice.*



Family & Friends - April 20 at 09:47 PM

MS

“ *Richard will be sorely missed. He was one of the kindest souls I've ever known.*

Mary Ann Smith - April 20 at 09:40 PM

DE

“ *David and Pam Eaton purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Lee Rice.*



David and Pam Eaton - April 20 at 09:07 PM