



Richard Lee Henderson

January 19, 1945 - February 3, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Richard Lee Henderson

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – CAIRO
4815 Sycamore Street, Cairo, Illinois

Richard Lee Henderson, age 80, of Mounds, Illinois, passed away Monday, February 3, 2025 at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

He was born on January 19, 1945 to Charles and Evelyn (Jett) Henderson in Cairo, Illinois.

He attended and was baptized at Cairo Baptist Church, now Mighty Rivers, where he began his Christian walk as a teenager. Richard graduated from Cairo High School in 1963. He was quite the athlete, playing both baseball and basketball. During High School, he worked as a Soda Jerk at The Dairy Treat after school. After graduation, he married Gayle Vines and they moved to the St. Louis area where he took a job at McDonald-Douglas building

aircraft for the war effort in Vietnam. He was offered a waiver for the draft since he was building the aircraft for use in the war, but he respectfully refused, and along with many of his friends joined the United States Marines, where he earned the rank of Corporal, with Rifleman Status, and received a Purple Heart for injuries he received in combat. Following his time in the Service, he returned to Mounds and started his career as a mechanic with his Father-in-Law at Vines Garage, working there until he and Gayle divorced. He then bought that business and it became Henderson Automotive at a new location on Blanche Street in Mounds, where he worked for over 40 years until suffering a stroke in 2023. He was a St. Louis Cardinals fan, and very seldom missed watching a game. He enjoyed golfing when he was younger, loved classic cars and was quite a good cook. In 2014, he met and started a life with his sweetheart and fiancée' of 10 years, Julia Duff-Thrower. They built a wonderful life together and enjoyed eating at various restaurants, visiting local tourism venues with Rendleman Orchard being their favorite, and spending time with the animals at their farm in Pigeon Roost, near Olive Branch. He was a member of the Southern Grace Community Church in Mounds where he served as a Trustee for many years and also a member of the Mounds VFW Post, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Marine Corp League. He was a loyal Patriot to his Country and was proud to have served

Also surviving are his sister, Gwendolyn Marie Sevier of Pekin IL, his nieces, Kittra Zantout of Sahuarita, AZ, Lisa Henderson of San Francisco, CA, and Debra Morris of Pekin, IL, his Nephew, Kenneth Henderson of Covington, KY, several great nieces, great nephews and cousins, Julia's children, whom he claimed as his own; Heather, Ben and Joshua Cowsert, her Grandchildren, Houston, Inge and Emma Porter, Kit and Wiley Cowsert, his best friends Tammy St. Arbor and Kevin Beegle, and his beloved neighborhood cats, which he enjoyed, his favorite being Adolf.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his older brother, Jerry Henderson.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM at Southern Grace Community Church (formerly Mounds United Methodist) with Rev. Doug Atkins officiating. Visitation will be held the day of service from 11:00 AM until the time of service at the church.

Interment will follow the funeral service at Mound City National Cemetery with Military Honors by the American Legion Post #178.

Memorials can be made to Southern Grace Community Church and/or Mounds VFW Post and/or the Mounds Public Library and/or the Smiles Senior Center, who provided him with many good lunches through the years.

Crain Funeral Home in Cairo is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mound City National Cemetery

Mound City, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Southern Grace Community Church
Mounds , IL

Funeral Service

FEB 10. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM.

Southern Grace Community Church
Mounds , IL

Interment with Military Honors

FEB 10. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Mound City National Cemetery
Mound City, IL

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Richard and I were friends in high school. He let me ride on his motor scooter a few times! He has a great sense of humor, and I am very sorry to hear about his passing.

Dana (Ewing) Bloomberg, Palo Alto, CA.

Dana Bloomberg - February 24, 2025 at 03:01 PM

KZ

“ KITTRA Zantout lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



KITTRA Zantout - February 09, 2025 at 06:21 PM



“ Marie Sevier lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



Marie Sevier - February 07, 2025 at 09:10 PM

DM

“ Deborah Morris lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



Deborah Morris - February 07, 2025 at 02:55 PM

CW

“ I have known Richard for many years. He was a good friend of my brother, Ronnie Bourland, they were in the same class. He was at our house many times with him. I am sorry about his passing but he is with the Lord now in peace. Prayers for his family and Julia.

Chari Willis - February 07, 2025 at 10:39 AM

MD

“ Marie, Kittra, Mick, Mason, Nadya, & Deb purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Richard Lee Henderson.



Marie, Kittra, Mick, Mason, Nadya, & Deb - February 06, 2025 at 10:45 PM

NH

“ Nick Henderson lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



Nick Henderson - February 06, 2025 at 10:39 PM

JH

“ Jerry Henderson lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



Jerry Henderson - February 06, 2025 at 10:38 PM

DM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Morris - February 06, 2025 at 01:46 PM

KH

“ Ken Henderson lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



Ken Henderson - February 05, 2025 at 10:29 PM

DP

“ David Petermichel lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson



David Petermichel - February 05, 2025 at 02:12 PM

MC

“ I was saddened to hear of Richards passing. I've known Richard for a very long time and have fond memories of him through the years especially on the golf course. Condolences to all of his family and to Julia. Rest in piece my friend. The fight is over and you are safe at home!



Morrissa Clanahan - February 05, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Henderson.*



February 05, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ *Katie Henderson lit a candle in memory of Richard Henderson*



Katie Henderson - February 04, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ *Kim and Terry Mckee purchased the 8" Angel holding Dove for the family of Richard Lee Henderson.*



Kim and Terry Mckee - February 04, 2025 at 09:24 PM