



Richard I Walthall

November 7, 1932 - June 18, 2024

Mr. Richard I. Walthall, age 91, died peacefully at home in the early morning hours of June 18, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents; John (Jack) Walthall and Jenny Mae Dixon; his sister, Patsy; two sons, John and Ricky and a grand-daughter, Tabitha Strickland. He is survived by his beloved wife, Diane; two daughters, Jenny (Eddie) Forsythe and Alice (Tony) Elkins; grandchildren, Jessica (Brent) Kent and Joyle (Karol) Walthall, several great-grandchildren, one great-great granddaughter and other extended family.

Richard loved to travel. He visited 49 states, 59 National Parks, nine Canadian provinces and set foot on 5 continents, including Antarctica. Richard enjoyed spending time on the water. He was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and traveled extensively by boat. Richard piloted a boat to the headwaters of the Mississippi River and all of its tributaries.

Richard was an avid HAM radio operator (W4HW), and spent time building models of cars, boats, and planes. He did extensive volunteer work with multiple counties Emergency Management Agencies and other community organizations. Richard received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Bush.

Richard was born in Maryville, TN on November 7, 1932 but made his home in the communities of North Alabama. He was the first person to drive a house trailer through Birmingham. He was a graduate of Auburn University (1968), and retired from Reynolds Aluminum in 1993. He was an active member of Union Chapel Church.

A celebration of life will be at 11:00 a.m. on July 14, 2024 at Union Chapel Methodist Church. A private burial will be in Sheffield, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Union Chapel Church Building Fund (1212 Union Chapel Road, Union Grove, Alabama 35175).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

Union Chapel Methodist Church
1212 Union Chapel Road
Arab, AL 35016

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *The Muscle Shoals Amateur Radio Club extends belated condolences to the Walthall family.*

MSARC - July 25, 2024 at 11:22 AM

EB

“ *I remember the RV boat trip from Guntersville to New Orleans. A great fun time for us. We planned for meals we would cook on the trip, but rarely had to do any cooking. I'm really glad I never had to drive that RV!*

Eloise Barth - July 12, 2024 at 03:12 PM

VO

“ *Our condolences to you Diane&family.he was a great guy.RIP my friend*

Virginia ozaki - July 11, 2024 at 01:56 PM

RT

“ *My wife and I met Richard and Diane in the mid 90s while we were stationed with CG in Nashville TN. We have often fondly remembered the Walthalls and brought them up in conversation. Richard and Diane are among the finest people we ever had the pleasure of meeting.*

Within the Coast Guard Auxiliary you will find some of the best people in the planet. The Walthalls are first amongst equals. Richard will be missed.

Regionald & Naomi Tullos

Regionald Tullos - July 11, 2024 at 09:13 AM

BN

“ *Beverly Neeley lit a candle in memory of Richard I Walthall*



Beverly Neeley - July 10, 2024 at 07:08 PM

LH

“ *Lena Hulsey lit a candle in memory of Richard I Walthall*



Lena Hulsey - July 05, 2024 at 05:00 PM

DC

“ *Our sincere condolences to Diane and family. Richard will be so missed!*
Jackie and Donna Collins

Donna Collins - June 20, 2024 at 08:36 AM