



Rickey Whitehead

OCT 5, 1951 - JUN 18, 2025



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FLORAL HAVEN

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Rick Whitehead passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of June 18, 2025. He was 73 years old.

Rickey Allen Whitehead was born October 5, 1951 to Richard and Josephine Whitehead. A life-long resident of the Tulsa area, he graduated from Rogers High School in 1969 and married Rita Mae Wands in 1975. They would have celebrated their 50th anniversary this November. Rick and Rita had 2 children, Regina and Ryan, then later adopted Vikki in 2000.

Rick grew up hunting, fishing, racing dirt bikes and playing baseball. After he married Rita, they often spent weekends on road trips on his motorcycle. In 1977, Rick and Rita opened Drive Shafts, Inc. While many questioned how they could work and be together 24 hours a day, they often shrugged and said they couldn't imagine it any other way. When Regina was born, Rick said that he had all the things he always wanted - a family with a wife and child and a successful business, but something felt missing. He found that something when he accepted Jesus. And like everything else in life, once he decided, he was all in. Rick and Rita centered their lives around the church. For over 35 years, Rick led, loved and served the people of Christview Christian Church. Through ups and downs, there are few who have walked through the doors of CCC who don't have a story of how he helped them at one time or another. Rick's favorite Bible verse was James 4:17. "So when you know the good things you should do and don't do them, you sin." It wasn't enough for him to do good things now and then; it was wrong to not do something that needed to be done. He lived that sentiment, taught it to his children, grandchildren and any who had the honor of walking through life with him.

More than just his own kids know what a good father "Daddy Rick" was because he loved deep and wide. But it has often been said that more than any other role he played, Rick was born to be "Papa." No matter the cost or distance, he attended every



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cheer competition, soccer game, swim meet, dance recital and gymnastics meet. From hospital stays to rides in the Hustler to grandparents' day in a hurricane...no request was too big or too small; no sacrifice too great.

Since retirement, between (or because of) trips with grandkids, Rick and Rita got to see the world, traveling to various countries and continents with family and church friends. Rick loved big, gave generously and reached far, and we all have a better picture of how God loves because we had the privilege of being loved by him.

Rick is preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Josephine Whitehead and his step-sister, Christy Ramsey. He is survived by his wife, Rita, step-mother, Patricia Whitehead, brother, Russ Whitehead and his wife, Kelli, daughter, Regina and her husband, David, son, Ryan and his wife, Liz, daughter, Vikki and her husband, David, grandchildren: Zoe, Brynna, Nicolas, Emaleigh, Madelyn, Hunter, and JJ along with countless more who knew him as Daddy Rick, Uncle Rickey or Papa.

Rick will be remembered and family will receive guests at Floral Haven Funeral Home in Broken Arrow, OK on June 23, 2025, from 4:00-7:00 pm. Funeral services will be held at Christview Christian Church on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 10:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, please Donate to Christview Church.

Link: <https://give.tithe.ly> Christview2525 S. Garnett, Tulsa, OK



Tribute Wall

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James H. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Rickey.



June 24 at 9:17 PM



James Hearn posted:

Heaven has welcomed home a man of great character and faith. We will truly miss seeing him, but I have no doubt he is better off where he is. The best memory that I have with Rick was watching him comfort my wife when our 19 year old son died. Her dad had never been there for her, but Rick showed up in a way that gave her the comfort of a dad. Another memory was when a storm came through and destroyed our car, the church came together and paid for a new car. Rick went with us to test drive and pay for the car. There are many more stories of fishing, men's steak nights, men's retreats, etc. but these are the ones that currently stick out.

June 24 at 9:14 PM



Tulsa Auto Spring Co. sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Whitehead family.



June 23 at 12:01 PM



Anonymous sent a Large Basket Garden to the Whitehead family.



June 23 at 8:31 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Whitehead family.



June 23 at 8:25 AM



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M Dardenne posted:

One day while reading the Tulsa World while visiting family I came across a job posting for DSI. I didn't even live in Tulsa but couldn't shake the listing. I went in to fill out an application. That's the first time I met Rick. I did a shop tour with him and after that I asked him when he wanted me to start. He giggled and told me he had other applicants but he'd be in touch. I called or stopped in twice a day for the next couple days until Rick told me to start on Monday. I had such a great feeling from Rick that I knew I was going to quit my other job and move 90 miles to Tulsa. I was employed by Rick for several years and it was always great. We all grew close there and I always felt "adopted" into the family. We would always joke about how I harassed him until he hired me. Laughing he'd save this guy must have really needed a job. I was a young man when I started there. I was raw in life not too removed from the military and less than 2 years back from Iraq. Rick led and taught me many things in our years together. He taught me a different outlook on life without knowing. Big R will definitely be missed

June 22 at 10:13 PM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Whitehead family.



June 22 at 12:59 PM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Whitehead family.



June 22 at 10:29 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rickey.



June 22 at 10:29 AM



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Kyle Smith posted:

Rick, Ryan and myself were fishing at Truman lake. Rick was on the front being our "guide" turned to say something and stepped on a crank bait, start stumbling like a mad man..... shoves Ryan like a lawn dart directly into the lake, I'm trying to figure out what is going on. Once we all came to our senses, all three of us had never laughed so hard in our life!!!!

June 21 at 4:28 PM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Whitehead family.



June 21 at 9:52 AM



Steve Gardner posted:

When he told me, he could not find the receipt for the money he had just withdrawn from the ATM machine in India. I couldn't hardly understand what he was saying, he was kinda mumbling, because HE HAD THE RECEIPT IN HIS MOUTH. This is just one of my many treasured stories about or with Rick. Steve Gardner

June 20 at 11:11 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rickey by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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