



## Richard "Rick" Willis Choate Jr.

March 23, 1953 - April 28, 2019

Richard "Rick" Willis Choate, Jr. passed away on April 28, 2019, surrounded by loved ones in Enid, Oklahoma. He was 66. Born in Enid, Oklahoma to Betty and Richard Choate, Sr., he was smart and skillful, growing into a hands-on young man working with his father drilling water wells around Enid. Rick was a graduate of Enid High School. A standout athlete and great friend, he spent his free time competing in sports and socializing. After high school, Rick traveled and worked in the oil fields while honing his craft in construction before starting his own general contracting and water well company back in Enid. Rick was tremendously skilled in his field and had no limitation on his creativity and problem solving. His acumen translated into the artful ability to make or fix virtually anything. Always thinking ahead, he operated with precision and planning. He valued loyalty and hard work and stood up for himself. When he wasn't working on a project or coaching, he enjoyed the simple things in life. Rick was a proud father to three children, Channing, Nick, and Connor, and one step-son, Shane. He was their coach, mentor, guardian, and disciplinarian; instilling manners, academics, athletics, and music in his kids. His children's favorite quality about him was that he had a big heart, possessing a quirky, secretive way of helping others. He believed that everyone, including those with disadvantages, deserved to be treated the same, going out of his way to make someone's day with a wink, hand shake, or a thank you to somebody that would never expect it. Left to cherish their memories of him are his children Channing E. Choate, Christian "Nick" Choate, and Connor L. Choate; step-son Shane Poplin and his wife Addie, and their two children, Hannah and Haizlee; Rick's girlfriend, Karen Lash. A special thank you to Karen Lash, who loved him unconditionally, illustrated by sacrificing her time to travel for countless appointments and continuous emotional and physical care these past five years. Thanks to his much beloved nurse, Angela Riggs, for her devoted care throughout his illness.

To honor Rick, his family is holding a private memorial and celebration of his life. Condolences may be made online at [www.AndersonBurriss.com](http://www.AndersonBurriss.com). In the event you would like to reach out to the family, Anderson Burriss can put you in touch with Rick's daughter, Channing. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Stephenson Cancer Center

at OU Medical.

<https://giving.oufoundation.org/OnlineGivingWeb/Giving/OnlineGiving/CancerInst>

# Comments

---



“ I was a jounior in high school and was helping coach Jr Olympics. He was a true athlete from head to toe I enjoyed coaching him and in fact we went fishing together several times after that. Rick Rest In Peace

**Gary Polwort** - May 05 at 04:57 PM

---



“ Rick, my dearest cousin, rest in peace.. no more pain. I remember when you were born. I was 9. Your parents Richard and Betty were wonderful people. Betty lived with us and was like a big sister, Richard, your dad shaped my life more than ANYONE!. When I was 15, I helped him drill water wells all over Enid. He was brilliant and the toughest guy I ever knew. I watched also how he influenced you and encouraged your sport abilities. You were a great athlete and a wonderful human being. Only so sorry we didn't't have more time together in the last years. I value so much our phone conversation a couple of years ago and my sympathy goes to Karen who took care of and comforted you in the last days of your journey! Love you and your entire wonderful family. Thank you for having such a positive influence on my life. Love, Cousin Robert

**Robert Fisher** - May 05 at 07:04 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Robert Fisher** - May 05 at 06:52 AM

---



“ Karen Lash, I was saddened to read of your recent loss of Rick. Sympathy, love & prayers sent to all who mourn his passing.





“ Please accept my most sincere condolences to your family, loved ones and friends of RICK! My name is Jack Branstetter; and I met RICK in the earlie seventies. We played basketball together and RICK was a big reason that our team went to the state YMCA the 1973 men’s tournament in Ardmore. We finished third thanks to his contributions and commitment. I never heard a harsh word from him; even though he once broke a finger in one our games diving on the floor for a basketball. He was all out in his endeavors! RICK was kind, friendly and laidback! Again, my heartfelt condolences to everyone! I pray that our Lord Jesus will comfort and heal you!

Most sincerely,

Jack

**Jack Branstetter** - May 02 at 04:55 PM

---



“ Rick was a student of mine at Enid High School. He was smart, kind, and creative. He was a fine young man, and I'm certain he became a wonderful man. I am very sorry for your loss. Susan Waggerman

**Susan Waggerman** - May 02 at 09:37 AM

---



“ Gayla Johnson lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Willis Choate Jr.



**Gayla Johnson** - May 02 at 02:05 AM

---



“ Gail, Courtney, Whitney and I are so sorry for your loss. We were acquainted with Rick but did not know him well. Channing and our beloved son, Austin, went to Enid schools together from K to Enid High. Rick was always so friendly and caring. Austin was injured his senior year, while playing for the Plainsmen against Tulsa Union. We were up virtually all night in Tulsa at Hillcrest hospital. The following Saturday morning Rick showed up our house about 9:00 am with a sack of breakfast sandwiches from McDonalds for us. I will never forget that. He was so concerned

about Austin. He was always a big fan of and complimentary of Austin. He and I cried together in my driveway that Saturday morning. Our family was very proud to award Nick the "Austin Box 12 Foundation" scholarship when he was a Senior @ Enid High. Our prayers and thoughts are with you kids. Craig Box

**craig Box** - May 01 at 10:48 PM

---



“ Janet Peters lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Willis Choate Jr.



**Janet Peters** - May 01 at 10:33 PM

---



“ Deborah Parton lit a candle in memory of Richard "Rick" Willis Choate Jr.



**Deborah Parton** - May 01 at 10:07 PM

---



“ Rick was very special to me! He was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer 6 months before I was. Channing is actually like my daughter! I remember when Rick got his feeding tube..I teased him alot! I told him I was going to put Vodka down that damn tube..and we laughed hysterically! As someone fighting the battle like Rick..he was a "true warrior"! Yes he is gone the memories will never go away! My thoughts are with my beautiful Channing..she was Rick's Princess! I am so sorry for your loss but as a fellow warrior..he is certainly at peace!

**Janet Peters** - May 01 at 09:58 PM

---



“ I'm thankful that Ricky had children whom he loved and adored. He always enjoyed living and life. I'm grateful that Karen was able to take care of him when he needed her the most. I will always cherish and love him, forever.  
 Connie Culbertson

Connie Culbertson - May 01 at 04:53 PM



“ Connie, would so love to talk to you. email.  
 praxisfisher@aol.com

Robert - May 05 at 07:05 AM



“ Good by to an old friend from the past. He never quit smiling each time our paths crossed and had that twinkle in his eyes when he reminded me he was older than me. From my initiation into the neighborhood when I was in the 3rd grade to now I always knew if I ever needed anything he would be there. Our life was blessed to know him. May you find peace in your hearts each time you think of him.

Mary Kate Reading - May 01 at 09:46 AM



“ My husband, Rob Cummins, introduced me to Rick when we moved to Enid in 1992. He coached our son, Daniel, in baseball when he was about 5 or 6. I remember him giving these boys serious encouragement saying to them, “Now boys, I know everyone says it doesn't matter how you play the game as long as you're having fun. Well, losing isn't fun. So we're going to play hard and win.”  
 I'll never forget how serious he took that job. Even though the boys were just starting out he really coached them. He didn't treat them like little kids who didn't matter. Rick you will be greatly missed.

Daneille Cummins - April 30 at 05:00 PM



“ I grieve with all of you....As Rick's South neighbor for many years, he helped me a lot to keep my fence up & house standing during our many storms throughout the years. He was an all out great guy. I grieve with you also Karen because I know how difficult it is to care for someone that becomes so ill. You showed your love for him to his last breath. Rick, we will miss you

Patsy Bonnett - April 30 at 05:23 PM



“ Shane , Nick, Conner, Channing...,Love You all

Patsy Bonnett - April 30 at 06:04 PM



“ So sorry for y'all. I didn't meet Rick til High School, he was a great friend. Watched him play basketball all through HS. Lost track after HS but Rick will remain in my heart. I was always jealous of his good looks, but I'll always remember him as a great friend. Again, so terribly

sorry for your loss.

**Steve Cropper** - April 30 at 07:51 PM



“ I have known the Choate Family for many years. He and his Dad sunk my well in 1976 in Enid. Knew him socially and personally. God gained a very good man.

**Connie Henderson** - April 30 at 09:38 PM



“ So very sorry to hear this. Tick and I were in the same grade at Enid High. I knew him better later in life as I dealt with him at Walmart. Always very nice and easygoing. my condolences the friends and family.

**mike obrien** - May 01 at 12:39 AM



“ I know Rick will be truly missed and I pray for comfort and healing for his family in this time of grieving. I have fond memories of him from my youth and I know he touched so many lives in a positive way. He always carried himself with confidence and a smile to light up any room. Uncle Rick, may you rest in peace.

**Curt Culbertson** - May 02 at 08:02 PM



“ Karin, please contact me. Your bold emails not going through,  
Robert Fisher... [praxisfisher@aol.com](mailto:praxisfisher@aol.com)

**Robert** - May 05 at 07:53 AM