



Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges

September 14, 1944 - March 1, 2020

Celebration of the Life of Richard 'Rock' Lee Bridges

September 14, 1944 - March 1, 2020

Richard 'Rock' Lee Bridges passed away during the early morning of March 1st at the age of 75. A well-known resident of Institute, Rock was born in Gary, West Virginia to Frances and James Bridges Banks. Rock came to Institute in 1962 to attend West Virginia State College (WVSC) where he received a B.S. in Education and later obtained an M.A. in Counseling and Guidance from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. During his undergraduate studies, Rock fell in love with both the school, becoming a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, and fellow student Gwendolyn Tyree. Married whilst at WVSC, Rock and Gwen had one child, Elizabeth Ann Bridges, and remained married for 53 years.

Immediately following his studies, Rock worked for Union Carbide. He then moved to a position with the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center and remained a faithful employee there for 42 years. Throughout his career, Rock received numerous awards for his dedicated service to the people and state of West Virginia including the WV State Board of Rehabilitation's Faithful Service Award and the West Virginia Governor's Certificate of Appreciation in Recognition for 30 Years of Service.

Rock was known for his devotion to hospitality in his personal life as well. He always had an open door (specifically, an open garage door) to welcome all friends and family. Though he had no biological siblings, Rock felt his wife's brothers and sisters were like his own and treated them as such. Rock had a love for hosting friends and family in his home. He could always be depended upon to entertain, especially during homecoming season, where he and Gwen made their home the place to be. Rock was a dedicated member of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church where he served in several positions, such as the Junior Warden, Vestry and respected member of the choir.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Gwendolyn Bridges; daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth Ann and Maurice West; two grandsons, Maurice and James West; twelve brothers and sisters from his wife's family; as well as countless other extended family members and friends.

Memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2020 at St. Christopher Episcopal Church, 821 Edgewood Drive, Charleston with the Rev. John Fondriak officiating.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. prior to the memorial service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donation to St. Christopher Episcopal Church, in memory of Richard Lee Bridges, 821 Edgewood Drive, Charleston, WV 25302.

You may visit Rock's tribute page at BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave.,

St. Albans is honored to serve the Bridges family.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Christopher Episcopal Church
821 Edgewood Drive
Charleston, WV 25302

Memorial Service

MAR 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Christopher Episcopal Church
821 Edgewood Drive
Charleston, WV 25302

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Matt Green & Family lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges



Matt Green & Family - March 05, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges.



March 05, 2020 at 09:43 AM

VJ

“ Liz,
i am so sorry to hear of your loss. You look so much like him and what a beautiful smile. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Valerie

Valerie Jacobs - March 04, 2020 at 02:47 PM

JD

“ Joseph I Davenport purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges.



Joseph I Davenport - March 04, 2020 at 02:37 PM

DB

“ *My deepest sympathy to this family. May the Lord bless you during your time of bereavement.*



Doris J. Boyden-McCormick - March 04, 2020 at 12:27 PM

JD

“ *Janet Dickerson-Jones lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges*



Janet Dickerson-Jones - March 04, 2020 at 11:44 AM

DT

“ *+I thank God for my friendship with Rock. I have lost the best volunteer partner I have ever had. May God continue to be with Gwen, Liz, and the rest of the family. I will him blowing his horn as I stood outside my church. Doug Tench*

Doug Tench - March 04, 2020 at 10:35 AM

JB

“ *Josh Bryan lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges*



Josh Bryan - March 04, 2020 at 09:49 AM

NW

“ Nabe (Kyosuke Watanabe) lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges



Nabe (Kyosuke Watanabe) - March 04, 2020 at 09:25 AM

JJ

“ Julie Jones lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges



Julie Jones - March 04, 2020 at 09:19 AM

LT

“ Layhle Tyree lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges



Layhle Tyree - March 04, 2020 at 08:41 AM

WG

“ Rock is remembered as a friend, a fellow PR, a dedicated Kappa brother and an overall nice and kind person. I am so glad to have known him and trust that Gwen and the family will find comfort in knowing his spirit is with them always.
With deepest sympathy, Bill (P.G.) Greene

william Greene - March 04, 2020 at 08:17 AM

RF

“ Rachel Smith De Four lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee "Rock" Bridges



Rachel Smith De Four - March 04, 2020 at 08:16 AM

GL

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the Bridges family. I grew up with Richard in Wilcoe, W.Va. In Wilcoe we were all family. I pray that God will comfort you and give you peace at this difficult time.

Glenda Hairston Lottier ▲
Cleveland, Ohio



Glenda H. Lottier - March 03, 2020 at 10:14 PM

NJ

I worked with Rocky at the WV Rehabilitation Center in Institute for several years. I will always remember his kindness and always present smile. Thoughts and prayers for his family.

Naomi Johnson
Elon, North Carolina

Naomi Johnson - March 04, 2020 at 12:05 PM

CK

For Gwen, Scamp and the rest of the family,

Though we were not in touch very often; 'Rock' was my very best friend... My prayers and condolences are with you...

Carlyle King
Sacramento, CA

Carlyle King - March 04, 2020 at 11:33 PM

MM

I worked with Rock at the WV Rehabilitation Center for a little over 10 years. He was never too busy to help if he was needed. He cared about the students and staff he worked with and I am blessed to know him. My prayers for you and your family. He will be missed.

Michelle McKeller - March 05, 2020 at 10:15 AM

BC

Gwen and the family,

Rock always had a smile on his face and a loud hello whenever I saw him. A good friend and Kappa Brother. I will miss him. Thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief.

Bill Clayborn

Bill Clayborn - March 06, 2020 at 10:02 AM