



Lonnie Richards

September 29, 1935 - June 22, 2013

Lonnie Lee Richards Lonnie Lee Richards passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on June 19, 2013 following a battle with melanoma cancer. Lonnie was born in Houston on September 29, 1935, to Marjorie and Earl Richards. He was an American Legion Award winner at Deady Junior High School and an outstanding athlete at Milby Senior High School, lettering in three sports. He was named to the All-City baseball and basketball teams and was recognized as Milby's Most Valuable Player in football. He married his high school sweetheart, Rosenel Christensen, in 1954. They both attended Sam Houston State University, where he was on baseball and basketball scholarships. He served as a freshman team coach during his senior year and graduated in 1958, the same year that he and Rosenel welcomed their twins, Rick and Lorri, into the world. Soon after graduation, Lonnie became Milby's head baseball coach and, later, head basketball coach for 9 years. He received a master's degree in 1968 at Sam Houston State University. He then joined the coaching staff at Houston Baptist University, serving as head baseball coach and then, head basketball coach. He remained at HBU pursuing his love for coaching until 1975. As the head coach when the program originally went NCAA Division I, Lonnie set the course for coaches to come in developing the basketball program into what it is today. Lonnie then accepted a position with residential real estate development firm Belin & Associates. He worked as project director at the Elkins Lake planned community in Huntsville for a decade, followed by 12

years at Hilltop Lakes. He retired in 1998 in order to spend time with his family. He and Rosenel , or Pops and Gram, as they known to many, have spent much time participating in the lives of their five grandchildren, cultivating an abundance of friends, travelling, spending time on Lake Travis, and playing golf on a daily basis at Elkins Lake. A man of great faith, Lonnie was ordained as a deacon at Broadway Baptist Church when he was 30 years old. He later attended Park Place Baptist Church, Sharpstown Baptist Church, and then Elkins Lake Baptist Church, where he continued to be active. He is a respected member of his community and is renowned for his kindness , encouragement, compassion, and enthusiasm for living each day to the fullest. Lonnie's greatest legacy however was the impact he had on the players he coached through the years, developing integrity and character through his unwavering influence. In 2011, his family gave him a surprise 75th birthday party where more than a hundred former players attended from across the country. They all took turns telling stories about what Lonnie meant to them and the influence he had sharing the Word, out of his passion for Christ. He is survived by his wife of fifty-eight years, Rosenel; son, Rick and his wife Karen of The Woodlands, TX; daughter Lorri Apel and her husband Greg of Houston, TX; five grandchildren, Blake and Ashley Apel and Ryan, Lindsay, and Cody Richards; one brother, Lawrence Richards and his wife, Mary Ann, of Horseshoe Bay, TX. The family will receive friends from 6:00–8:30 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2013 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, TX. Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 22 at the Elkins Lake Baptist Church in Huntsville, TX. The burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 24 at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston, TX. Flowers are appreciated, or contributions can be made to the Elkins Lake Baptist Church Building Fund. Checks can be sent directly to Elkins Lake Baptist Church. 206 State Hwy 19 Huntsville, Texas 77340 A special thank you to Dr. Nicholas Papadopoulos and his staff at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Lonnie Richards*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Rosenel~~I just found out about my dear friend Lonnie...I am heart sick...if you remember he was one of my favorite 'fun' classmates in Milby...I didn't realize that the two of you were married so soon after graduation & made a perfect pair...not sure if you remember me but my heart hurts for you and your wonderful family...my husband & I were married at Broadway Baptist Church in March 3 1956...God Bless you & your family. Marian Doane Bowling*

Marian Doane Bowling` - April 30, 2015 at 06:57 PM



“ *I played baseball at Milby for Coach Richards 1963-1965. He was a great coach. My best baseball memories are of those years playing for him. We won a lot of games and had a lot of fun doing it.*

So sorry to hear of his passing. He made quite an positive impression on me. I am glad I knew him. I am also glad he was a believer and is now face to face with the Lord in heaven.

*Blanton Daniels
Class of 1965*

Blanton Daniels - October 10, 2013 at 07:40 PM

FW

“ *Rosenel,*

So sorry to learn of Lonnie's passing. I regret that I was in San Diego at the time of the funeral and was unable to be present to pay my final respects to Lonnie and to extend my sincere condolences to you and your family.

As you know, we were classmates at Milby and Lonnie, Lawrence, and I were teammates under Coach Lambert. I think the last time we met was at Coach Lambert's funeral. Lonnie was a fine athlete and a fierce competitor. He was particularly tenacious as a defender on the basketball court. Lonnie, Lawrence, and I had some great times together at Milby. Although our paths didn't cross nearly often enough after we left Milby, I will cherish the memories of our happy times as teammates.

May God bless you and give you solace.

Frank Watson

Frank Watson - July 16, 2013 at 06:38 PM

DS

“ *So very to hear about the loss of your Mr. Richards. He did so much for those here at Elkins Lake over the years. Praying for you and your family that God gives you comfort and strength in the healing days ahead.*

Dale & Donna Story - June 26, 2013 at 11:21 PM

KP

“ *To the Richards family, I'm sorry for your loss. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of Mr. Richards's care the last few months. He will always be remembered for his kindness.*

Karen Perdon - June 25, 2013 at 02:34 PM

BN

“ *Rosenel, I will be praying for your family at this difficult time. Lonnie was such a nice gentleman. He definitely will be missed by many.*

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - June 23, 2013 at 06:53 PM

GM

“ *Mr. Richards was a fine gentleman, who made the world a better place. We have wonderful memories of him and his influence on our own son. He will be dearly missed.*

*Love to you all,
Gayelene McIngvale*

Gayelene McIngvale - June 23, 2013 at 02:12 PM

MW

“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers. I'm so sorry for your loss .*

Mellicent Wiley - June 22, 2013 at 04:55 PM

JN

“ *Rosenel,
I'm so sorry. God be with you and your family.
Jason Nolan*

Jason Nolan - June 22, 2013 at 10:03 AM

GB

“ We are deeply saddened by the news regarding Coach Richards.

I was fortunate to be in Coach Richard's biology class and thankful to have him as my basketball and baseball coach at Milby. He was such a genuine person who modeled the character and integrity that his students and players absorbed under his guidance.

Coach Richards will be dearly missed by everyone he encountered. May the memories of a special coach and his love for his family surround his loved ones and give them strength in the days ahead.

*Respectfully,
Grover & Sandy (Polly) Belcher*

Grover & Polly Belcher - June 21, 2013 at 09:14 PM

JM

“ *I was fortunate to be in Mr. Richards homeroom at Milby. I also kept score for the "B" Team that Mr. Richards coached. He was such a great role model for everyone. He certainly made a great impact on me. My prayers are with you, Mrs. Richards, and your family.*

Judy Stephens Maus - June 21, 2013 at 08:51 PM

RR

“ *Our family's condolences to Rosenel, Lawrence, Rick, Lorri and family. Lonnie was always gracious and kind and we know he will be missed.*

Rick Rivers - June 21, 2013 at 08:17 PM

PS

“ *Rosenel,
I was sad to read about Lonnie in the sports section but immediately
smiled with great memories of Lonnie when was I was growing up.
My prayers are with you and your family. Best.*

Paul Sanders

Paul Sanders - June 21, 2013 at 08:13 PM

GG

“ *Words cannot adequately express the respect we have for Lonnie.
In the good old days, our church softball team would play Elkins
Lake Baptist and know that we were in for a fierce competitor in
Lonnie, yet marveled at how he radiated the love of Christ. He was
always a positive, friendly influence on the field and in life. God
bless you as you say goodbye.*

Greg and Dani Gathright - June 21, 2013 at 07:03 PM

ST

“ *Mrs. Rosenel-
Know we will be thinking of you and your family. I hate we can't
make it this weekend. I will never walk into our church and not think
of his smiling face saying "good morning Miss Brown" and after
getting married, he would correct himself and we would just laugh.
Christmas Caroling to your family was such a treat for so long. We
love you and will be praying for you during thing time.*

-Scott & Bekah

Scott & Rebekah (Brown) Terry - June 21, 2013 at 06:25 PM

HB

“ Dear Family,

We loved Lonnie as a dear friend and brother in Christ. He and Joel enjoyed playing baseball together and were always able to "turn 2" and get that double play. Lonnie was Joel's deacon and gave so much comfort to Joel when he was in hospice.

Rosenel, we love you and we are here for you.

Much love! Randy, Sarah, Austin, Ricky, and Helen Bass

Helen Bass - June 21, 2013 at 05:35 PM

BR

“ *My condolences to the Richard's family. Lonnie was a very special person and I wish that I had met him. Related we are probably not, however my mother's name was also Marjorie. I was born in Houston in 1941. Byron Richards, Groveton, Texas*

Byron A. Richards - June 21, 2013 at 04:25 PM

JN

“ *Rick=
Saturdays at 11a.m. we take WWII vets to lunch; so I will join you at 10:30 Monday at Forest Park Lawndale. You had a great Dad.
Regards to Family,
Jan Norris*

Jan Norris - June 21, 2013 at 11:34 AM

SD

“ Coach Richards was a legend, Milby's heyday of great basketball..and wonderful memories of my high school days 1960 - 1962. I am sorry for your loss.

stephanie danaher - June 21, 2013 at 10:12 AM

SC

“ Sending you my deepest sympathy in the loss of your beloved husband, Lonnie. My mom (Lois Ross) always spoke highly of Lonnie and Lawrence and had fond memories of them growing up. May the peace of God be with you.

Sheryl Cooper - June 21, 2013 at 09:29 AM

MK

“ We are sad to hear of your great loss. We extend our sympathy to the family.

Martha & Bill Krueger - June 21, 2013 at 09:00 AM

NJ

“ Rosenel, so very sorry to learn about Lonnie. Carry him in your heart and he will be with you always. What an impact he made on so very many lives! Norma Dell Jones (former SHSU Alumni Director--1977-1992) of Lovelady.

Norma Dell Jones - June 20, 2013 at 11:47 PM

BL

“*Rosenel,
Prayers for you! This time last year my children and I were walking
this path...our God is sufficient. You will miss Lonnie at some
unexpected times but all the while, know that you will see him again!
And breathe a "Thank You, Lord!"*

Becky Latham

Becky Latham - June 20, 2013 at 09:36 PM

CB

“*Rosenel and family,
We are so saddened by your loss. We will always remember
Lonnie's friendship and kindness to us. You will be in our thoughts
for peace in your hearts.*

Cheryl and Don Bumpass - June 20, 2013 at 07:50 PM

JT

“*Rosenel, Shirley and I want you to know that you and your family
are in our prayers. May the good Lord continue to bless and keep you
all.*

john talley - June 20, 2013 at 06:03 PM

DH

“*our prayers go out to the family of Lonnie. so sorry to hear of his
passing.
team mate @ SHSU. 1953-1956*

diana & rex hughey - June 20, 2013 at 02:46 PM

DB

“ Rosenel, Please know that we both will always remember Lonnie with so much love. How could we ever forget his cheerful greetings, hugs, and handshakes every time we walked into the church! We will miss him dearly, and continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will hold you and all your family very close during this time of loss. With our love and deepest sympathy, Dale & Lynnjl5ph

Dale & Lynn Bishop - June 20, 2013 at 01:11 PM

TG

“ Mrs. Rosenel, we were saddened to hear of Mr. Lonnie's passing. He was always so kind to us and our children. We will continue to keep you and your family in our prayers. ~Hugs.... Duane and Tina Gougler

Tina Gougler - June 20, 2013 at 11:14 AM

DW

“ Rosenel, Ricky and Lori and families
What a sad day. Lonnie will be missed, but many memories of all of you--High School, HBU, Skiing times at the various lakes. What a special man. We, my girls and I will be praying for you. What we have learned from a loss of this magnitude is that God is there and gives all we need to get through it. We pray for your strength and for comfort that only God can give. Love you all. Dot

Dot Fletcher Walton - June 20, 2013 at 10:42 AM

MS

“ *Rosenel,
We are so sorry to hear about Lonnie. We pray that God will fill that void you are experiencing, for the Holy Spirit to hold you up during this time and provide family and friends to lean on. You guys were so special to our family. We love you.*

Mike & Sandy

Mike & Sandy - June 19, 2013 at 09:36 PM

RC

“ *So sorry to about Lonnie's passing--Prayers for Rose Nell and the family*

Raymond W. Carroll - June 19, 2013 at 05:53 PM