



Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey

March 12, 1948 - March 29, 2016

William Michael Ritchey

March 12, 1945- March 29, 2016

William Michael Ritchey, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, and friend, passed away on March 29, 2016 at his home in Mason, Texas at the age of 71. Mike was welcomed into heaven and reunited with the love of his life, Mary with whom he shared 33 wonderful years. Mike was also preceded in death by his parents Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Ritchey of Bryan, Texas. He is survived by daughters Shannon Dezell and her husband Sean, Jennifer Wofford and her husband Kurt, and JoLynn Joyce and her husband Wade Everitt, along with grandchildren Haley Dezell, Hannah Dezell, Heather Dezell, Hudson Dezell, Otto Wofford, and Ivan Wofford. He is also survived by his siblings David Ritchey and wife Bonnie, Janet Cable and husband Sam, and George Ritchey and wife Kay and many adoring nieces and nephews.

Mike graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in Bryan, Texas and was a graduate of the Class of 1967 Core of Cadets at Texas A&M University. He then graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1971. After earning his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree, he entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer where he received the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal for his years of service in Vietnam.

Dr. Mike Ritchey was a well known member of the Huntsville community

where he was the founding partner of Ritchey-Moore Veterinary Clinic. He cherished being able to work along side Dr. Mickey Moore taking care of many animals (and their owners) in Walker County. He never met a stranger and developed many wonderful relationships. He was an active supporter of the Walker County Fair and mentored many youth in 4-H as well as young students who wanted to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Following his retirement in 2011, Mike and Mary moved to Mason County and built their dream home on top of the hill, which they named Miracle Ranch where they enjoyed retired life. He made many wonderful friends and became active in the community as a member of the Lyons Club and The River of Life Church.

Mike was a true friend who was known for his gregarious personality, his loyalty to family, friends and community, and his dedication to his Lord Jesus Christ. He left a lasting impression on all those who met him and will be missed dearly.

A casual gathering will be held at his home in Mason on Thursday, March 31st at 6:00 pm.

A memorial service will be held at Northside Baptist Church in Huntsville, Texas on Saturday April 2, 2016 at 10:30 am (address: 1207 FM 980, Huntsville, Texas 77320).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to River of Life Church in Mason, Texas (address: 217 East College Avenue, Mason, Texas 76856) or Kanakuk Ministries (address: Attn: Crystal Mitchell 1353 Lakeshore Drive, Branson, MO 65616.)

Our entire family sends a heartfelt thank you to all for your kindness, support, love and prayers.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

Northside Baptist Church
1207 FM 980
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *We just heard the news of Doc's death. He was our vet and friend for many years and what a kind and generous man he was. Always so straightforward - yet caring. We are heartbroken to hear he is now gone. Our thoughts and prayers are with all his family and close friends he leaves behind. Doug and Charlotte Sanders*



Charlotte Sanders - April 15, 2016 at 02:19 PM



“ *To Janet, David and George: So many precious memories are flooding my soul of the countless happy and fun times our families shared! I am sure our Mike will be missed but what an unbelievable legacy he left. May God comfort you and refresh you as you celebrate Mike's life, and may you find peace knowing we will all have a fantastic reunion one day in heaven!!! Warmly in Christ, Peggy Jane Breazeale Gibson.*

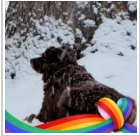


Peggy Jane Gibson - April 02, 2016 at 09:40 AM

HF

“ We were so blessed to know and be his friend. Our family is very sad as I know many are, but he was prepared to enter heaven and that is a blessing. He will be missed by us and many! I am thinking about him playing my guitar on his tailgate; a man of many talents!

Hanagriff Family - April 01, 2016 at 02:11 PM



“ I am almost beyond words. Mike was my Vet for many years, and I cannot even count the times he went above and beyond for me - he was a good friend and an exceptional human being. I always felt good knowing he was there, even after I packed up all my dogs and moved to Washington State. The Ritchey-Moore office was one of my last stops before heading north. I was torn up when Mary died, even though I hadn't met her. I certainly heard a lot about her and about the entire family - Mike was so proud of everyone! It is a hard thing to imagine a world without him. Godspeed and RIP, Mike Ritchey! You have earned it.

*Peggy Jennings
Kennewick, WA
pegbent@msn.com*

Peggy Jennings - April 01, 2016 at 09:27 AM

JM

“ Dr Ritchey was our vet for many years. He took care of our dogs and horses. Larry and I will never forget how compassionate he was with our animals. We are truly sorry to hear of his passing on to another journey. We offer our condolences to his family.



Judith and Larry Miller - March 31, 2016 at 09:34 PM

JW

“ John C. Woods, Joe D. Woods, Vicki A. Green, Jim B. Woods purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey.



John C. Woods, Joe D. Woods, Vicki A. Green, Jim B. Woods
- March 31, 2016 at 01:37 PM

CE

“ Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey



Charlotte Efird - March 31, 2016 at 01:36 PM

CE

You took very good care of all of our furbabies..

Charlotte Efird - March 31, 2016 at 01:37 PM

JW

“ With our deepest sympathy -- The many happy times shared as youngsters with Mike, David, Janet, & George are among our most cherished memories.

The Woods Family -- John, Joe, Vicki, & Jim

John Woods - March 31, 2016 at 12:59 PM

WH

“ *What a major loss we feel with Mike's passing. He was a great vet and took care of our animals for decades. He was kind, compassionate, and a gentle soul. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.*

Wayne and Terri Harvey - March 31, 2016 at 11:06 AM

VE

“ *Dr. Mike was a vet that not only cared about the animals he cared for but those that brought them in. He was a kind of vet that listened. He is going to be missed greatly. Your family are in my prayers.*



Vicki Easley - March 31, 2016 at 10:44 AM



“ *I never had the pleasure of meeting Dr Ritchey in person, only speaking to him over the phone when I worked at In Touch Communications and his vet clinic had an after hour emergency call; however the few times I spoke with him, he came across as a good and caring man who took his job seriously where animals were concerned! To Dr Ritchey's family, friends, staff, & partner; Dr Moore, my deepest condolences.*
Risa O'Donnell-Lippke-Benedict



Risa Benedict - March 31, 2016 at 10:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey.*



March 31, 2016 at 10:08 AM



“ *Prayers for your family.*

Richard & Deborah Sledge - March 31, 2016 at 08:55 AM



“ *Damon and I send our sincerest sympathies. Doc and Mrs. Mary were two of our very favorite people and the best neighbors you could ask for. The love they shared was so special and their kindness for people and animals alike was tremendous. Doc was always there when you needed him; whether it was his help or just a good laugh. He really was larger than life. He will be missed, but I know he is happily reunited with Mary. Prayers and love, Damon and Amanda Burris and family.*



Amanda Burris - March 31, 2016 at 08:25 AM



“ *Mellicent Wiley lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey*



Mellicent Wiley - March 31, 2016 at 12:55 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

Mellicent Sikes Wiley & Family:

Bob Wiley II

Heather Wiley Christian & husband Jason & twins Taylor & Tyler

Heath Wiley

Justin Wiley & wife Joanna Fowler Wiley & daughters Tess & Tori

Mellicent Wiley - March 30, 2016 at 11:05 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey.*



March 30, 2016 at 10:50 PM



“ *Bridgette Neeley Clay lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Michael "Mike" Ritchey*



Bridgette Neeley Clay - March 30, 2016 at 10:44 PM

PK

“ I did not have the pleasure of meeting this man; however, I got to know his daughter, Shannon, very well. Shannon is such a wonderful example of her dad's love and faith in God. Knowing Shannon makes it easy to understand what a wonderful man he must have been! My prayers are with you all!!

Peggy Kidwiler

Peggy Kidwiler - March 30, 2016 at 09:45 PM

MC

“ So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He and Mary were such dear friends. We had lunch with him about a month ago and will treasure that memory. His smile and personality were something few people have. Thinking of and praying for the family.

Lewis & Marilyn Chumbley

Marilyn Chumbley - March 30, 2016 at 08:58 PM

PC

Mike Ritchey was truly a loving and caring friend. He called us daily for 19 months when we were at MDA and lost Coon. They were calls of love and cheer. We will never forget his commitment. Our love and prayers for all of the family.

Peggy, Kathy and David Cole

Peggy Cole - March 30, 2016 at 09:43 PM

TG

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for the family. May you rest in peace.

Tom and Debbie Grisham - March 30, 2016 at 08:54 PM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear this. He was truly a man with a big heart. He loved the people and animals in the community and was always ready to help. He helped my family with fair animals, Emus and horse. Heaven has gained a gem.

Lorraine Belinowski - March 30, 2016 at 06:51 PM

SG

“ What a special person! His love for ...and devotion to Mary was so precious to her friends and family! God bless his big heart!

Sharon Gilkerson - March 30, 2016 at 06:44 PM

 Glenna Goodrum

“ So sad to hear this. He always left such a lasting impression when you were around him. Such a sweet picture of him. I raised that pup of his and gave to him many years ago. Prayers for your family!!!
RIP Dr Ritchie

Glenna Goodrum - March 30, 2016 at 06:31 PM

 Glenna Goodrum

^ Dr Ritchey....RIP

Glenna Goodrum - March 31, 2016 at 03:21 AM

RT

“ Everyone needs to have a friend like Mike Ritchey. If he was involved, he was "all in" involved. He had one speed - full speed ahead. He put everyone else first and himself last. We were privileged and honored to call him friend!

Roger & Patty Tedford
Kerrville, Texas

Roger Tedford - March 30, 2016 at 05:38 PM

EA

“ *We have lost a GREAT Man and Dr. What a pleasure to be around. Thoughts and prayers for his family.* ”

Edd & Terry Artherholt - March 30, 2016 at 04:53 PM