



## Richard J. "Rick" Worthen

August 22, 1950 - March 22, 2024

Richard J. "Rick" Worthen, 73, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, March 22, 2024 in Evanston, Illinois. He was born August 22, 1950 in Los Angeles, California to William L. and Marian Nadine Riley, the fifth of six children. He was raised in Glendale, California and was a 1968 graduate of Glendale High School. He loved Little League baseball, spending his summers with his Aunt Lil, and throwing explosives in the neighborhood with his friends. As a teen, his Dad advised him to work a variety of jobs to gain interesting experiences and life skills. He had a paper route which he didn't love, but enjoyed working at a grocery store butcher shop and as a gas station attendant. He spent so much of his free time flipping through tool catalogs and tinkering with cars that his parents once bribed him with money to actually take a girl on a date.

Rick attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. After his freshman year, he served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Northern States mission, which included the Chicagoland area. While on his mission, he met Martha "Anne" Mauck in Crystal Lake, Illinois. They kept in touch long distance and eventually Anne (his "Snowflake") became his very first and only girlfriend. After returning to Provo for school and work, he proposed to her at Pioneer Park and they were married on June 3, 1972 and later sealed in the Salt Lake Temple. In their early married years, Rick worked as a long-haul produce truck driver before joining the Technology Department at Brigham Young University. He became a licensed electrician

and taught night school courses in house wiring at BYU. While working there, he made lifelong friends with Karen and Lester Long. Les was his adventure buddy and they took numerous camping and four wheeling trips together. Later, they would add other friends, children, and grandchildren to their outdoor excursions to west desert locations like Nine Mile Canyon and the Paris Ice Caves. Rick and Anne enjoyed several years in Provo, Utah where their first five children were born. While in a bishopric in Provo, Rick had the honor of serving alongside Leon Stubbs, whose love and mentorship formed the backbone of his future church service. Their family took special care of Rick and Anne through the loss of their first two sons.

In 1980, the family moved to Lake Bluff, Illinois after Rick accepted employment with Kaufman Machinery, a Die Cast Machinery sales company out of Highland Park, Illinois. He later became a partner of Kaufman-Worthen Machinery followed by several years as a solo business owner of Kaufman-Worthen LLC, doing work as a large machinery appraiser. He traveled all over the United States, finding every imaginable restaurant, greasy spoon, and hole in the wall food joint along the way. If you introduced yourself to him, he was always able to name a great place to eat within miles of your hometown. He was a member of American Society of Appraisers, Association of Machinery and Equipment Appraisers, and the Machinery Dealers National Association. He excelled at his profession, had extraordinary work ethic and no plans to retire.

He loved collecting Milwaukee and Snap-On brand tools, which he also loved giving away as presents. For a time, he took amateur photography courses and enjoyed practicing his new skills in the living room with light stands and studio backdrops. There was no end to his supply of batteries, Phillips screwdrivers, and Maglite flashlights. His enthusiasm with a label maker was unmatched. He loved his associations with close work colleagues, whom he also believed were the best in the industry, and loved doing a business deal

over cheap Italian beef sandwiches. He served the local community by donating his time and equipment to shovel driveways, tow cars, fix water leaks, and even used a crane to install a bridge across the ravine in Lake Bluff.

Rick was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served faithfully in a wide variety of church assignments. Most notably, he was a physical facilities coordinator in the Wilmette Illinois Stake, a member of the Chicago Temple Committee, a member of the Wilmette and Buffalo Grove Stake High Councils, a Branch President at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, and the Bishop of the Buffalo Grove 2nd Ward. He loved serving in the church and was especially proud of assisting with the establishment of the Buffalo Grove Stake Center and the Chicago Temple. In these physical spaces, he gave powerful and memorable talks and sermons, provided assistance to families in need, and led youth on trips to church history sites. After his release as Bishop, he began serving as an ordinance worker and later as a sealer in the Chicago Illinois Temple. Anne eventually joined him in weekly temple assignments and they served together for fourteen years. He found lasting peace, inspiration, and joy in this sacred work which occupied so much of his later life.

Rick excelled at engaging storytelling, possessed a razor sharp wit, teased people mercilessly, and sometimes growled at small children in the hallway at church. He loved giving nicknames and acronyms to things. He was masterful with a grill and a smoker, particular about how many and which kind of straws belonged in his 64 oz. Diet Coke refill, and would drive across state lines to purchase the cheapest gas for his vehicles. He leaves behind a treasure trove of emails to his family, usually addressed to the "Litter of his Loins," containing precious family history stories, sage advice in times of challenge, and pure comic gold, all signed by Dad, Padre, or his favorite nickname--Ol' Man.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 52 years, Anne Worthen; nine children, Cherilyn Renee Worthen, Holly Michelle Gedye, Leanne Elizabeth (Scott) Witney, Marian Nicole (Kevin) Young, Rochelle Elyse (Benjamin) Mathews, Riley McKay (Amber) Worthen, Richard Kyle (Katelyn) Worthen, Reid William Kaufman Worthen, and Laurel Anne Worthen. He is also survived by a sister, Peggy (Ronald) Romney; a brother, Thomas (Marsha) Worthen, his brother-in-law, Louis Miles, and many grandchildren, step grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Rick was preceded in death by two children, Riley Kimball & Richard Lufkin; by his brothers, Bill and John Worthen, and by his sister Patricia Miles.

Funeral services will be held in Chicago, Illinois and Salt Lake City, Utah as indicated below:

Thursday, April 4:

Viewing from 5-7 pm at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home  
(120 W Park Ave, Libertyville, IL 60048)

Friday, April 5:

Viewing from 10:00-11:30 am with funeral service to follow at 12:00 pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
(3075 N. Buffalo Grove Rd., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.)

Tuesday, April 9:

Funeral service at 2:00 pm at the Memorial Murray Mortuary  
(5850 S 900 E, Murraby, UT 84121)

Burial to immediately follow at the Memorial Redwood Mortuary & Cemetery  
(6500 S Redwood Road, Salt Lake City, UT 84084)

Funeral services on April 5th, 2024 will also be broadcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81616763273> Meeting ID: 816 1676 3273

For information: (847) 362-3009 or please leave a condolence or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com)

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to assist the Worthen family with unplanned travel expenses.

Venmo @Riley-Worthen

# Cemetery Details

## Redwood Memorial Cemetery

West Jordan, UT

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home  
120 West Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
(847) 362-3009

## Visitation

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
3075 N. Buffalo Grove Road  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

## Funeral Service

APR 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
3075 N. Buffalo Grove Road  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089



# Tribute Wall

RS

“ We'd love to share a memory of Rick when he and Anne came to our home for lunch. It was Mark's first time meeting Rick, and they talked and talked. They talked about family, the Wyoming home, and business. There was never a lapse in the conversation. After they left, Mark said, "I really enjoyed getting to know Rick, and I hope we can get together soon." It was a lovely afternoon.

*Ronna and Mark Spiwak*

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**Ronna Spiwak** - April 09, 2024 at 09:34 AM

GM

“ Very sad to hear the news. Rick and I worked together for many years, twice per week at the temple. Although our personalities are quite different, we worked very well together and enjoyed our time together. Will miss him very much. George Manderino

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**george manderino** - April 05, 2024 at 11:40 AM

PG

“ I don't think the “old man” ever forgave me for not being as enthusiastic about his taste in music as he was. The crap he forced upon me on a trip to Nauvoo and Independence, pounding gallons of Diet Coke in that sweet 7.3L Excursion was almost unbearable. Having said that, this man helped bring me back to life. He told a congregation once that when he first saw me walk back into church one day, I “looked evil.” His fully immersive response to me and many subsequent hours spent sewing me back together changed the course of my life forever. God bless you, man. Hoorah for Israel!

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**Phillip Grundberg** - April 05, 2024 at 03:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.



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April 04, 2024 at 09:50 AM



“ Love, Todd and Bev Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.

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**Love, Todd and Bev Smith** - April 04, 2024 at 09:50 AM



“ Bruce Patti and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.

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**Bruce Patti and family** - April 02, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.



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April 02, 2024 at 01:58 PM

RH

“ Robert and Bernadette Hart planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.

Robert and Bernadette Hart - April 02, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.



April 02, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.



April 02, 2024 at 11:44 AM

FP

“ From Jerry & Susana Parkin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.

From Jerry & Susana Parkin - April 02, 2024 at 11:19 AM

FP

“ From Jerry & Susana Parkin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.



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**From Jerry & Susana Parkin** - April 02, 2024 at 11:19 AM

JF

“ Rick and Anne came into our lives when we were dating and getting ready to get married. Anne threw my bridal shower, provided our flower girl, and Rick taught us life lessons in temple prep class. It was there Jeff and I learned how to love children we'd never met, Richard and Riley. When Rick would speak of these sweet children our hearts and minds bounded in a way we could barely comprehend. That bonded us in a love that opened to us the reality of 'the other side of the veil', offering us insights and a new part of faith we had no real previous thought of much.

He was passionate in his teaching, and it was impossible not feel the spirit and know the Savior when Rick testified, he spoke with power and conviction. It was such a stark contrast of his typical personality where his tenderness wasn't the first thing most people associated with this man who could have cared less about social and cultural norms. We learned about the importance of tithing, paying a generous fast offering, and the temple fund. We were his remedial students because we needed to take the temple prep class twice to get to the temple. Our saddest moments then were closing prayer on Sunday nights in your living room because the class ended, we loved listening to him teach us about the gospel.

We have a thousand memories and truly believe that both Rick and Anne were sent to mentor us and help us learn how to adult both in life and in the church. We aren't so ignorant to think they were all about us, we know they were probably mentors for hundreds of people. We are just so grateful we were among their children. We love and admire them and each of you! Thank you for making an eternal impact in our lives and being the guardian angels, we needed on earth to help us navigate this journey.

Marcia and Jeff French— your most adoring mentees

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jeff french - April 01, 2024 at 06:45 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard J. "Rick" Worthen.*



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March 31, 2024 at 08:54 PM