



Jeff Ray Ryker

May 5, 1947 - August 23, 2013

Jeff Ray Ryker, 66, of Rockport, Texas passed away Friday, August 23, 2013 in Houston, Texas. He was born May 5, 1947 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Millard Jewel Ryker and Christine Lilly Lunsford Ryker. Jeff graduated from Muskogee Central High School in 1965. Jeff later graduated from Oklahoma State University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He proudly served his country by joining the United States Army from which he later received an Honorable Discharge. Jeff received the National Defense Service Medal; Air Medal; Purple Heart; Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device. Jeff was the Director of the Veterans Administration Office in Jackson, MS. from 1975-1989.

Jeff was a free spirit. He enjoyed art and painting. After retiring in 1989, he has been a traveler and said, "I want to live in places other people vacation." He and his wife Dena have lived in Mazatlan, Mexico, Tucson, AZ., Alaska, and the past few years on the Gulf of Mexico in Rockport, TX., where he enjoyed fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Millard and Christine Ryker; his brother, Millard Jewel Ryker, Jr.

The family requests memorials be made to Water For Life - Life Outreach International, PO Box 98200, Fort Worth, TX., 76182-8000.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Dena Ryker; his son, Michael Jay Ryker of Jackson, MS., daughters, Jennifer Littleton of Santa Maria, CA., Kristi Walker of Muskogee, Lindsay Ryker of Dallas, TX., Jessica Ryker of Muskogee;

stepson, Jesse Wade Tindall of Muskogee; six grandchildren; 2 step grandchildren; brother-in-law, Carl Kelley and wife, Carrie of Fort Gibson; other family members and friends.

Funeral services for Jeff will be 12:00 p.m., Friday, August 30, 2013 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Mr. Bill Pearson officiating. Interment will follow with Dan Myers, Charles Colbert, Bill Fillman, Duke Boyd, David Gill, and Donnie Sawyer serving as pallbearers.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Previous Events

Service

AUG 30. 12:00 PM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery
1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Jeff Ray Ryker*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *I have lots of memories of Jeff and Dena too.. Also photos mostly Mexico ...RIP..MIS AMIGOS.*

Robert Patterson - September 01, 2017 at 08:43 PM



“ *I was the roommate of Jeff at oma. I have very fond memories of him and his family. BILL SCHOLL Paris texas*

Bill Scholl - December 31, 2013 at 08:57 AM



“ *Sam Frazier lit a candle in memory of Jeff Ray Ryker*



Sam Frazier - August 30, 2013 at 05:16 AM



“ *Sorry to learn of the passing of a good friend. A lot of good memories of Jeff.*

Richard Merritt - August 29, 2013 at 08:27 PM

CM

“ I met Jeff in my early years with VA at the Muskogee Regional Office. I recently retired this year after four years as the Director at the Jackson Regional Office. He is still remembered fondly by the older employees there. He served his country proudly in War and later in the VA helping his fellow veteran. He will be missed.

Craig A Moore

Craig A Moore - August 29, 2013 at 02:53 PM

JS

“ I first met Jeff at Alice Robertson where we became good friends. We attended CHS and graduated in the the Class of '65. Like so many of our classmates we shared the common experience of serving our country that tightened the bonds of friendship. The last time I saw Jeff was on a fishing and bike riding outing in Arkansas about three years past. Duke Boyd and Jeff fished while Terry Flick, Aaron Peters and myself took rides in the beautiful Arkansas hills. It was a great few days full of good eats from the stream, enjoyable evenings on a back porch overlooking a river and lots of rememberences. Our friendship lasted a lifetime and I greatly regret his passing. He shall be missed by many.


Jim Sike

Jim Sikes - August 29, 2013 at 10:12 AM

LB

“ I graduated with Jeff in the class of '65. I was shopping at Walmart in Rockport winter before last and saw a man at the other end of the isle and thought wow that looks like Jeff Ryker. As I got closer I realized it was Jeff. We talked for a while and laughed about meeting in Rockport Walmart after all these years. Every time I'm at Walmart during our winter stay in Rockport I would always wonder if I would run into him again. So sorry to hear of his passing.

Lila Skinner Bell - August 28, 2013 at 10:23 PM

 Kristi Walker

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kristi Walker - August 28, 2013 at 08:24 PM

KW

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Kristi Walker - August 28, 2013 at 08:19 PM

RP

I spend many seasons with Jeff and later Dena in Mexico. A good friend. First met him about 1990. He drove into a Rv Park in Mazatlan in his Alegro motor home. We were best of friends. He loved to cook..fish..paint..drink. I also knew Suzanne a previous wife. I am on Face. Robert Patterson..Teacapan, Mexico.

Robert Patterson - June 10, 2018 at 11:01 PM

GI

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ginger - August 28, 2013 at 04:55 PM

GM

“ *Dena, you are in our thoughts & prayers. We want to let you know that we are here for you if you need anything. My deepest condolences to you & Jeff's children.*
Ginger & Rusty



Ginger McCall - August 28, 2013 at 04:26 PM

TF

“ *Jeff and I knew each other at Muskogee Central graduating in 1965. We became close friends after getting out of the service from Viet Nam. Jeff was a door gunner in a Huey Helicopter and was shot down two or three times sustaining some severe injuries that he was able to overcome to a degree. Jeff loved to hunt and fish and we had many many good times together doing that very thing. He was a great friend and I'm very sorry to hear he's gone. One good guy!*
Terry Flick

Terry Flick - August 28, 2013 at 12:46 PM