



Christopher Joseph Richards

JUN 13, 2018



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Christopher Joseph Richards

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Christopher Joseph Richards passed away at his home on June 13, 2018 at the age of 63. He was born and raised in New Orleans and graduated from Holy Cross High School. He then attended LSU graduating with a degree in geology. During his college years, he met his beloved wife, Nancy E. Simmons. They later settled in north Florida on a small farm in Gadsden County. He worked for Northwest Florida Water Management District for 26 years and retired in 2012. Early in their marriage they hiked hundreds of miles of the Appalachian Trail and during the more recent years enjoyed camping adventures in North Carolina, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. Chris will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 43 years, Nancy S. Richards and his daughter, India C. Richards, M.D. (Chancy Kennedy). He is also survived by his father, Robert Edwin Richards and 4 siblings: Joan R. Schayot (Bill), Aline Noel Chaplain (late Lester), Robert J. Richards, M.D. (Helen), and Daniel J. Richards. He was preceded in death by his mother, Aline G. Richards; his sister, Gail R. Murphy (late Joseph); and three siblings lost in infancy. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

A celebration of his life will be held at 3:00PM Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the home of Noel Chaplain, 5812 Boutall St. Metairie, LA 70003. Private burial to be held at Greenwood Cemetery in New Orleans, LA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Chris can be made to North Florida Springs Alliance Research Projects at <http://northfloridaspringsalliance.org/donate.html>.



Tribute Wall

Christopher Joseph Richards

HR

Honesto Roaza posted:

I just recently learned of Chris' death from a dear friend. Chris was a brother and my colleague in the groundwater resource group in the 1990s with Tom Pratt. We were like the 3 musketeers who broke a lot technical grounds with a brand new technology called GIS and modeling back then - and we published a number of papers. The greatest complement came from our exec director who mentioned that all the other water management districts were surprised that we accomplished so much with so little resources. And Chris was a genius!!! The man was one pedantic (in a good way) tinkerer! Who would have ever thought to by-pass our GIS protocols and run AMLs overnite to get modeling results the following day. That my friends (who understand my gibberish) is pure genius. But at that time, it was exactly what we needed to complete our many never-ending projects. The singular moment when I bonded with Chris was when we were driving back from a WMD conference in south Florida and I was telling him an episode of the (then) brand new series called the X-files. We were both so spooked when we got back to the WMD parking lot very late that evening and an alarm was sounding off in Spanish that we were trespassing. Very surreal and funny. But that was the moment, we really looked at each other and "well...life's very interesting" moment passed between us. Hopefully, I'll see you again Chris in another world and another time. I'm blessed to have known you. - Ernie Roaza

September 24 at 8:06 AM

BC

Barbara Curry posted:

I met and came to love Chris and Nancy in the 70's. They both taught me to love the outdoors and gardening. Chris was so kind and caring, he had such a gentle nature about him that you felt at ease in his company. He will not be soon forgotten. Nancy and India, you have my deepest sympathy and heartfelt compassion. Nancy, can't wait until I can see you and wrap you in my arms for I know that only time will help you to heal the loss of your precious husband Chris. Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died even though he knew he would heal and bring him back to life because death is such an enemy. I can't wait to see Chris again on a beautiful cleansed earth. May the resurrection hope ease the pain of your loss. I loved Chris and love you to pieces Nancy!!

July 2 at 10:54 AM

NW

Nick Wooten posted:

I had the pleasure of working with Chris for 26 years and our friendship continued after our careers. We paralleled each other in our professional advancement and had many conversations about work, life and the world. He was easy to talk with, had a quick wit, and a warm compassionate outlook. I will miss you my friend and cherish the good memories. I'm sorry for your loss Nancy and India, I know you will hold him in your hearts always. Nick Wooten

June 20 at 12:02 PM



Tribute Wall

Christopher Joseph Richards

RP

Ron Potts posted:

Elsa and I are saddened by the loss of our good friend and neighbor Chris, and mourn his passing. Chris and I met as colleagues at work but quickly became friends as we discovered our many common interests in both our professional and personal lives. He was always willing to help with experienced advice and assistance when needed. Our deepest and most sincere sympathies go out to you, Nancy and India. We will miss him, but are grateful for having had the time we did to get to know him for the great guy he was! - Ron Potts

June 18 at 9:07 AM

LU

Leslie Urban posted:

Nancy and India we love you guys and want you to know we are thinking of you. The Urban Family

June 18 at 8:07 AM

GN

Glenda Norvell posted:

Nancy, you and India have our deepest condolences. May the cocoon of love from family and friends surround you and cushion you. Glenda and Charlie

June 17 at 11:13 AM



Tribute Wall

Christopher Joseph Richards

CS

Clint Simmons posted:

I first met Chris when I went to visit my sister Nancy in Baton Rouge. They were both attending LSU. I was about 15 or 16 years old and I remember thinking Nancy's new boyfriend was nice. I didn't really get to know Chris until after I graduated from college and started work in the West Texas oilfields. Chris and Nancy were living in San Angelo. Chris was working as a logging engineer for Dresser and I was working as a mudlogger. Both jobs required extensive travel and extended stays at well sites. Chris and Nancy were so nice to let me stay with them at their house in San Angelo in between jobs rather than driving all the way back to Austin where I lived. I got to know Chris and how exceptional he was as a human being. Very intelligent, skilled at fixing things with his hands, a great husband to my sister and truly a nice person. Over the years, Nancy and Chris would pop in for a quick visit while on the way to their latest, greatest camping trip. It was always good to see them both and hear about their adventures. After India moved to Austin, we have been able to meet up for dinners when they came visiting. My last memory of Chris is my most cherished. Chris was in between chemo sessions and feeling pretty good when my brother Larry and I went for a visit at the end of September. We went hiking at a state park, had a nice meal at a restaurant and enjoyed good dinner and conversation on Chris' and Nancy's front porch. I feel thankful for that last, final good memory of Chris and I am sorry he is gone. I will miss him. I am so sad that Nancy has lost her life-long partner and soulmate and India has lost her dad. It's a lonely feeling to lose someone so close. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help. With Love, Clint

June 16 at 1:22 PM

BK

Bev Kirk posted:

My most recent memorable time with Chris was when a few of us took a wonderful hike to the back of the farm several months ago. Depending on the time of year, it's either a swamp or a pond. When we were there, it looked like a scene from the pleistocene era with dead wood shapes coming to life and I'm pretty sure I saw a few pterodactyls flying around back there that day. My #2 fave would be the 3 of us watching that crazy WV movie Chris knew I would like, on strip-mining in that very small community that those two offbeat women seemed to run. He was a wonderful partner Nancy, and you didn't have him long enough. Feeling so sad for you and India right now. Please be gentle with yourselves. Love you both, Bev Kirk

June 15 at 9:40 PM

SJ

Suzie Johnson posted:

I am so sorry to read this news. My deepest sympathy to Nancy, India, and the extended family.
Suzie Johnson

June 15 at 4:42 PM



Tribute Wall

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Angela Chelette posted:

Chris was my friend and mentor for so long, in so many ways, and he and Nancy continued to teach me things to the very end of his life. It has been my very great privilege to have Chris and Nancy in my life and Chris will be sorely missed. I love you Nancy. All our thoughts and sympathy are with you and your family.

June 15 at 7:38 AM



Terri Peterson June 17 at 10:34 AM

Nancy and India, I am so sorry to hear this sad news. Chris will be missed, he was a very special person, warm and caring. The two of you were his life, he loved you deeply and was so proud of India's accomplishments. Cherish the memories, may they sustain you during this time of grief. God Bless.



Sheila Rayborn June 15 at 6:55 PM

My thoughts and prayers are with you Nancy. Hold tight to your memories. Love you my friend. -Sheila Rayborn



Ruth-Ann And Jim Womble June 15 at 10:12 AM

Chris was always so kind and caring with such incredible wit and keen intelligence. It was truly an honor to know Chris as a dear respected friend. Nancy, wishing you and your family strength, love, and peace during this very difficult time...



Elaine Mckinnon June 15 at 9:56 AM

Nancy & India— I am so sorry to hear of Chris' passing. I was privileged to work with him for 20 plus years. He was so proud of you two and we shared many conversations about our kids at Munroe & UF! He was always so generous with his delicious blueberries too! Keeping you & your family in my prayers. God Bless —Elaine McKinnon



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Christopher by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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