



Rupert Yen

JUL 2, 1959 - APR 14, 2015



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Rupert TsungTak Yen, 55, of Memphis, Tennessee passed away on April 14, 2015, after a sudden illness. He leaves behind the loves of his life – his wife Debbie and his two beautiful and talented daughters, Morgan Yen Pattison and her husband Brendan, and Madison Yen Goodwin and her husband Daniel, all of Memphis. He also leaves his loving parents, William and Frankie Yen of West Memphis, sisters Adrienne Yen Croket of Canton, Michigan and Amanda Yen Rickard of Las Vegas, Nevada, brother, Edward Sie of Vancouver BC, as well as three nieces, two nephews and a large contingent of loving family and friends who will miss him terribly. For more than 30 years, Rupert owned and operated the successful commercial photography business Yen Studios. He relished the role of photographer, bearing witness to life's most joyous moments and capturing the true essence and beauty of his subjects in every photo he took. Rupert was the consummate observer, and his work reflected his innate ability to turn something as mundane as an elevator panel into a work of art. It took a lot of courage and caused some discomfort for him to turn over his photography duties long enough to play the role of father of the bride at the weddings of his two daughters, but he did manage to make it through the vows before pulling out his Nikon and snapping random, casual, and in true Rupert style, stunningly beautiful shots of family and friends. All who knew him will miss his enormous sense of humor, his big warm smile, and – quite simply – his goofiness, that childlike quality that was such a huge part of his personality, that filled any room he inhabited for more than a few minutes, that never failed to make everyone laugh, and that endeared him to everyone he met. When Rupert wasn't taking pictures or planning his next shoot, he could be found on the tennis courts playing with his teammates or at his favorite restaurants with the "Buffet Boys" (aka usually Jerry, Alberto, Todd, and Larry). His love for crabby legs and Gus' Fried Chicken was just a couple of his many quirks. A conversation about Gus' would bring a tear to his eye.



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And he once claimed that he ate so many crab legs in one sitting, it made his thumbs hurt. He sincerely believed that his red backpack made him look younger and he loved putting random furniture on a set of wheels because he thought it was more convenient. He even put a bike rack on his Subaru Outback because such an outdoors type of vehicle needed a matching bike carrier...which, without question, led to two new bikes for the Subaru-matching bike carrier. He always signed his name with a period at the end. We teased him about being a noun and a verb all in one name. From Richard Avedon to cheesecake made from scratch to surgical tool kits, he was so passionate about so many things. He loved cars and camera equipment, and he was a walking compendium of technical information about both. Rupert did not speak English until the age of nine, and he used that as a convenient excuse for a miscommunication with a photo project, not being able to tell a joke without ruining the punch line and completely butchering our southern sayings. For example, Rupert often said that 'once in a gray moon' he was 'robbing Peter to pay Mary.' It is said that the true measure of a man is how he lived his life. Few lived it with such a voracious appetite for family, friends, and fun as Rupert Yen. His legacy is rich, from his daughters, who inherited his positive energy, creative spirit, and general sense of wonderment about the world around him, to his wife, who will undoubtedly always feel his presence lovingly wrapped around her. Rupert Yen. His name says it all. Visitation will be Saturday, April 18th 2015, from 1:30-2:30 PM at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Poplar Avenue in Memphis. Memorial service will immediately follow, beginning at 2:30 PM.



Tribute Wall

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ER

Emily Rygg posted:

I am so sad I will never get to work with such this talented artist again. His work was mesmerizing and his smile contagious. I was always happy and relieved when I saw my client had hired Rupert. I shall deeply miss him. Most Fondly, Emily Rygg – Bonne Terre

July 1 at 2:31 PM

SW

Stephanie Ivy Wilder posted:

Debbie, Morgan, Madison, Bill, Frankie, Betsey, and Mandy ~ My deepest and sincerest sympathy to you. I have such fond memories of Rupert and I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. My love and prayers to you all. Stephanie Ivy Wilder

June 16 at 4:33 PM

AM

Anthony M posted:

I did not know Rupert well, but the few conversations we had in our building were always pleasant and heartfelt. I could feel a genuine spirit there. Anthony M The Lofts

April 18 at 6:16 AM

KR

Kristina posted:

With deepest sympathy. Rupert always talked about his family. He was always smiling. His gift was his photography. -Rob & Kristina Harris

April 17 at 5:19 PM

MP

Memorial Park posted:

Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 17 at 3:08 PM

KR

Kristina posted:

Rupert was always very friendly and happy. He always talked about his family. We are so sorry for loss. Rob & Kristina Harris

April 17 at 2:10 PM



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MP

Memorial Park posted:

Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 17 at 12:04 PM

MP

Memorial Park posted:

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 17 at 10:59 AM

MP

Memorial Park posted:

Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 17 at 7:29 AM

KK

Karen Kestner posted:

Debbie, Morgan & Madison: We are so very sorry to hear of Rupert's passing. He will not only be remembered for his professional skills and willingness to experiment with new technology, but, his generosity. Through the years we were able to see many aspects of his personality- from girls soft ball coach to a gracious host and father. He will be missed.

April 17 at 4:32 AM

SD

Shari Disalvo posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time Shari Disalvo

April 16 at 4:27 PM

CC

Clay Connor posted:

Debbie, There is nothing that I can say that has not been said a thousand times over. Rupert was an amazing, kind, dedicated and loving person who cherished the ground you and the kids walked on. Always a solution, always a smile, always a dream, always a plan, always true to his friends and will always be remembered as one of the finest. In our thoughts and prayers. Clay Connor

April 16 at 9:57 AM



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MP

Memorial Park posted:

– the treehouse gang purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 16 at 8:16 AM

DT

Don Threm posted:

Debbie, So sorry for your loss. I haven't seen you guys in quite some time, but when I think of Rupert, I think of a nice guy with a quick and easy smile. I still run across some of the photography work he did for the college, and he had a great knack for capturing images that looked natural, even when they were staged. Twilla and I will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Don & Twilla Threm

April 16 at 4:01 AM

DT

Diane Tebbetts posted:

Debbie—I was shocked to hear from Callie Dunavin that Rupert had died. So very, very sorry for his untimely death. I will pray for peace for you and your girls. Diane Tebbetts

April 16 at 3:57 AM

MP

Memorial Park posted:

Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 15 at 2:41 PM

LP

Lisa & Morgan Prewett posted:

We met Rupert about 4 years ago at Morgans first runway show. Rupert has always been so nice and he was so funny. Loved to laugh. He told me one day he forgets how old Morgan is when he's talking to her because she seems so grown up. He will truly be missed by many friends and acquaintances . We love you Rupert . I'm so sorry to the family for your loss and if there's anything we can do please let us know.

April 15 at 1:58 PM



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MP

Memorial Park posted:

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 15 at 1:22 PM

FT

Fran Taylor posted:

Rupert Yen, you have gone way too soon... When we worked at Smith & Nephew, I always found your calm and gentle demeanor so comforting. And I loved your smile, which was so genuinely full of warmth and respect for your co-workers. Rest now, knowing that you remain in so many, many hearts. My sincere condolences to the Yen family, Fran Taylor, Writer & Editor

April 15 at 11:18 AM

TH

Terry Hunkapiller posted:

Debbie, So very, very sorry for your loss! My thoughts and prayers have been with you and your girls since I learned the news. You two always looked so very happy together! He was a wonderful man, and I know how much you love one another. God Bless and Love in Our Bond, Terry Hunkapiller

April 15 at 10:17 AM

BM

Betsy McKay posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. Rupert was such a genuine person who I enjoyed working with on various wedding projects. I will certainly miss his kind spirit. May it help to know that friends are praying for your family and thinking of you during this most difficult time. Betsy McKay

April 15 at 8:16 AM

MP

Memorial Park posted:

Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 15 at 7:32 AM



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RM

Razvan Marinescu posted:

Rupert and I met playing tennis on the same team and we have remained friends meeting occasionally on the courts. He will be so missed. My deepest condolences to his family. Razvan Marinescu

April 15 at 7:10 AM

PS

Peter J. Schoenster posted:

Rupert will be missed by many. He met my kids at the recent tennis league and he was their favorite person. Rupert could talk to anyone and bring smiles to all. He was one of a kind.

April 15 at 6:54 AM

LF

Louis A. Franceschini, Iii posted:

Louis A. Franceschini, III purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rupert Yen.

April 15 at 5:57 AM

MH

Morgan Hill posted:

Sending all my love.

April 15 at 5:54 AM

KW

Karyn Waxman posted:

Dear Frankie and Bill, I was so sad to hear of Rupert's passing yesterday. Please know that you and your family are in thoughts and prayers. Karyn and Jerry Waxman

April 15 at 5:17 AM



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SA

Sandra posted:

Full of energy, full of life, and a smile like no other...Rupert the world already misses you. He is an original one of kind that made work seem easy followed by laughter throughout any project. My heart goes out to the amazing family that is here with us. His spirit lives on in Madison, & Morgan. And the love of his life, Debbie, you made him so happy. After all of these years, he still lit up like a Christmas tree when he spoke of you. Our prayers for comfort and peace are for you. Love, Sandra & Chris Niederer

April 15 at 4:11 AM

MS

Martha Stafford posted:

Debbie and girls ,I'm so very sorry to learn about the death of Rupert. I didn't know him personally but I sure knowing a wonderful person by everything comment on FB about him. My prayers and thoughts are with you LIOB. Martha Stafford

April 15 at 4:04 AM

DA

Dana posted:

Rupert and Debbie have been our life long friends long before their marriage. The four of us shared Lamaze classes. We named our children Morgan, which made our bond stronger. Although, we did not get to spend the time we did in years past, when we did; it was a friendship as fresh as the first day. We love all of you very much, and our Rupert will be missed so very much. He brought laughter and love wherever he was and whoever his was spending his time. Much love our dear Rupert, Debbie, Morgan, and Madison!

April 14 at 1:26 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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