



# Richard Bryan Meek

JUN 8, 1946 - NOV 13, 2022



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## **Richard Bryan Meek**

JUN 8, 1946 - NOV 13, 2022

**R**ichard Meek, 76, of Memphis Tennessee, died November 13th, 2022 of injuries sustained after being struck by a car on his morning walk.

He was born in Calion Arkansas. He graduated from Hendrix College in Conway Arkansas, majoring in Biology and English. He was a teacher at heart. He taught high school biology in Forrest City Arkansas for several years before moving to Memphis Tennessee. In Memphis, he worked at the Memphis Zoo, first as a zookeeper, then as Curator of Education. After 5 years in California, he returned to Memphis and the Zoo. He spent another 25 years as a zookeeper, many of those caring for his beloved giraffes. Many Memphians have fond memories of his giraffe tours and Keeper Chats, and every person left knowing more about his favorite animals.

He was an avid reader, walker, political junkie, wordsmith, and animal lover. He often referred to himself as “an old hippie” and never let the world's expectations define or limit him. He touched many lives and will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Fay, and daughter, Collin McKenzie (Michael). Grandchildren, Ezekiel Ambort (Victoria), Caleb Ambort (Molly), Seth Ambort, A.J. Ambort, and Emmie Ambort., and two great grandchildren, Paisley and Otto. He also leaves many beloved pets, including his dogs, Tink and Simon, and his cat, Noir.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Council B. Meek and Wilma (Billye) Byrns Meek, his brother, Randy Meek, sister Robin Meek, and first wife, Debbie Meek.

Donations in his memory may be made to Doctors Without Borders, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The Memphis Zoo, or the charity of your choice.

There are no arrangements planned at this time.



## Tribute Wall

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DB

**Debi Williamson Bates** lit a candle in honor of Richard.

Debi Bates lit a candle in memory of Richard Meek

November 16 at 5:38 AM



MS

**Michelle Speck** posted:

I am so sorry to hear about Richard's death! I have wonderful memories of working with Richard at the Memphis Zoo & volunteering with him in Giraffes. I am heartbroken. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Kathy, and all Richard's family and friends.

November 16 at 3:34 AM

SY

**Sheila Parsley Young** posted:

Mr. Meek was a shining example of the love of science. May he rest in peace

November 15 at 11:18 AM

HT

**Henry Thompson** November 15 at 1:27 PM

Mr. Meek were my favorite teacher when I were at Forrest City Hi school . Mr. Meek took time with the students in the classroom and outside the classroom , I am very sorry to hear of his passing, my condolences to the family and friends, may GOD continue to BLESS and give you'll strength each day as time goes by !!!



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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