



Richard Bodman "Dick" Giles

January 15, 1939 - July 23, 2021

Richard Bodman (Dick) Giles, 82, of Sunset Hills, MO, passed away Friday, July 23, 2021 at his home. He was born January 15, 1939 in Benton, IL, to the late Richard H. and Margaret (Bain) Giles.

Dick grew up in Cape Girardeau, MO, and graduated from College High School, where he enjoyed playing on the school basketball team. He then went on to attend Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), where he worked his way through college playing violin in the college orchestra and selling clothing at Buckner-Ragsdale. During his early college years he was a member of the Benton Society. He was a charter member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity on SEMO's campus, the result of the Benton Society's petition and ongoing efforts to become a new chapter. That new Sigma Chi chapter was officially inducted on April 10th, 1960 as the Epsilon Phi chapter of Sigma Chi and is still thriving to this day. Dick also had the unique honor to initiate of his son into the Epsilon Phi chapter on January 24th, 1987. He stayed active with Sigma Chi as both President of SEMO's alumni association and as a member of the alumni committee for many years to follow. He was instrumental in the planning of Epsilon Phi's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2010.

Dick graduated in May of 1961 with a degree in Speech Therapy. Dick married Gail Ann Anderson on August 12, 1961 and the two of them moved to St. Louis later that month. Both were employed by the Lindbergh School District. In 1966 they moved to Sikeston, where Dick started a job as a speech therapist with Sikeston Public Schools. After completing his Masters in

Education, he was named Principal at Lee Hunter Elementary School. While living in Sikeston, he was an active Rotarian and was a key leader in Sikeston's Rotary foreign exchange program. As a member of the First United Methodist Church he enjoyed being a Sunday school teacher. He also took time to sing in a barbershop quartet and play church league softball with friends.

In May of 1991 Dick and Gail moved to Cape Girardeau where he had accepted a job as Principal of Clippard Elementary School. They joined Centenary United Methodist Church where he again taught Sunday school and sang with the University Choir, where he had the honor and privilege to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Dick retired in 1996 and bought a parcel of land that they enjoyed visiting on the weekends to fish, take walks, barbeque, and spend time with their children and grandchildren. In October of 2019 they moved to St. Louis to be closer to their children.

Dick was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Gail, his parents, his sister Virginia (James) Lakemeyer, and his grandson Luke Masters. His loving survivors include his brothers Thomas (Mary) and David (Joetta) of Cape Girardeau, many nieces and nephews, his daughter Cynthia (T.J.) and son Christopher (Michelle) both of St. Louis, and four grandchildren: Andrew Heinlein, Claire Heinlein, Grant Giles, and Hope Giles. He lived his life as a gentle man, always quick to smile and laugh or lend a hand, and was a fierce protector of children - especially his students that faced difficult challenges in their lives.

A Celebration of Life for both Dick and Gail will be held in September. Entombment will be private. Memorial contributions may be given to the Alzheimers Association.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum

2315 Highway 61 N
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

DG

“ My husband and I met Dick and Gail while visiting my mother -in-law at the Lutheran Home. We enjoyed talking to them every week and would also see them out and about. They were both awesome people. Your family will be in our prayers.

Danny and Lynette Glueck

Danny and Lynette Glueck - August 01, 2021 at 06:26 AM

RW

“ Very sorry to hear about the passing of Dick. Had the pleasure of working with Dick for 5 years(1991-1996) at Clippard. Hard to believe 25 years have gone by. Prayers for David and all the Giles family. God Bless. 🙏🙏🙏🙏



Roger Williams - July 30, 2021 at 11:37 PM

KT

“ Mr. Giles was my principle at Clippard elementary k-6th grade he was the best. We were all his kids. He had such a big heart and made school fun with singing and so many family events. My prayers and condolences to his family and friends. -Kopper Thatch, Charlotte,NC

Kopper Thatch - July 30, 2021 at 09:00 PM

TD

“ Not only was I on Mr. Giles’s staff at Lee Hunter for 10 years, but we also attended church with them for 40 years—10 in Sikeston and 30 in Cape. He was such an important mentor and friend. He helped me many times in my career. Lots of wonderful memories of him and Gail too. Miss them so much. Toni Dement

Toni Dement - July 29, 2021 at 09:27 PM

LM

“ So sad to hear of Dick's passing. I was a student at Lee Hunter when he was a speech teacher, he helped me with my "TH's" - such fond memories. I also remember the great times when he, Ken, Earl, & my dad, Carl, sang in their barbershop quartet. Those guys had such great fun together - singing, laughing, and "hamming" it up to the crowds. It was always a delight to see them perform. He will be greatly missed, thoughts and prayers for the family

Lynda Muench

Lynda Muench - July 29, 2021 at 07:55 PM

KC

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. My deepest sympathy to all of the family.

Kathy Caldwell - July 29, 2021 at 07:43 PM

KW

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Dick’s passing. Dick and Gail were my neighbors. They always had smiles on their faces and always helpful. Really great neighbors. Prayers for family and friends.

Karen Wilde - July 29, 2021 at 03:48 PM

RW

“ Thomas and Mary, may your Christian faith comfort you. God's peace,
Rita Heimbaugh Weber

Rita Weber - July 29, 2021 at 11:25 AM

TD

“ Like so many other children in Sikeston, Mr Giles was like a second father to me. He will be missed by many! Sending love and prayers to Cindy, Christopher and family! ❤️🙏

Tory (Byrd) Dickey - July 29, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ Mr. Giles was my speech teacher at Lee Hunter. I always enjoyed going to visit him in his office for my 30 minutes of time. I remember him telling me that I needed to learn to sound out and pronounce S and Z since my name was Ziegenhorn. He said I had a lazy tongue. Never quite understood what he meant until he recorded it on his little cassette machine and then I understood. He was so patient and always smiling. I still have my little book of exercises he drew for me. Great man and educator. My thoughts and prayers are with his children and family.

Patricia Ziegenhorn - July 29, 2021 at 09:41 AM

EH

“ Mr. Giles was my principal during my short time at Lee Hunter Elementary. He is one of the Teaching Staff that I remember vividly. He always smiled and was so approachable. So sorry to hear about this loss of this great man. My heart and prayers go out to the family. Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain".

Elizabeth Hooker - July 29, 2021 at 08:22 AM

BF

Mr. Giles was my principal at Lee Hunter school. Sending my heartfelt condolences to all of his family.

Betsy Sikes Fox - July 29, 2021 at 12:00 PM

NB

Sorry to learn of your father passing, he and your mother were find Christians and such good people. I know they are glad to be reunited.

Nancy Byrd - July 29, 2021 at 01:59 PM

SH

Mr. Giles was my speech teacher, then later my principal. He was always very kind, patient and helpful. He made learning fun - which is one of the greatest contributions you can give to this world. My condolences to your family.

Stephanie A Huff - July 29, 2021 at 07:11 PM

SS

My sincere condolences to David and family. I worked at Clippard during Dick's early years as principal. Such a delightful man and dedicated to children. My brother Robert Montgomery became friends with Dick at Centenary Church in more recent years. He so enjoyed Dick and others who attended the men's coffee group. Dick will be missed by all who knew him. The photo on this page is as I remember him. Always a smile.

SUSAN MONTGOMERY SMITH - September 07, 2021 at 09:12 PM