



Richard Olen Hudgins

February 15, 1953 - September 28, 2019

Richard Olen Hudgins

Richard Olen Hudgins, age 66, resident of Salem, SC, passed away on September 28, 2019. Services will be held at Pickens Presbyterian Church on Saturday, 10/12/19 at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Pickens Presbyterian Church Child Development Center, Pickens, SC, Keowee Fire Department, Salem, SC, or the American Cancer Society. Richard was born on February 15, 1953 in Macon, GA to Rosamond Etheredge Hudgins and Robert Richard Hudgins. A 1971 graduate of Lanier High School, Richard was active in ROTC. He graduated with the rank of Cadet Captain and was the Commander of the Silver Rifles drill team his senior year. He earned his BA degree in Religion in 1975 from Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC where he was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity. After graduation, Richard returned to Macon for a short time where he met Lesley Prinz and quickly fell in love. Richard and Lesley married at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA on November 1, 1980. They moved to Albany and Richard began working with first aid medical supply companies. Over the next 17 years he traveled and supplied many large companies with all their inhouse first aid supplies, making friends everywhere he went. After moving to Atlanta in 1982, Richard and Lesley rejoiced in the birth of Christopher John on November 4,

1987. Richard was the Dad who was always there – as baseball coach and supporter, boy scout parent and leader with church youth activities. After leaving medical sales he worked for several years in customer service with NCR and Lab Corp. In 2006, they moved to South Carolina by Lake Keowee and Richard spent the next 13 years with School District of Oconee County doing work he loved – supporting youth who were struggling in school and life. He was well loved by many students who often acknowledged his fierce care and concern for much more than just their schoolwork.

He is survived by his wife Lesley, son Chris, soon-to-be daughter-in-law Chelsea and granddaughter Chloe, brother Michael David Hudgins, sister Rebekah Hudgins (Greg Brough), nephews, Walker and Reuben, and sister-in-law Laurel Prinz Matthews (Terry), nephews Ryan and Sean. He was preceded in death by his parents and his dear sister-in-law Jamie Lynn Horn Hudgins.

Richard devoted his life to his family, his church and his work with youth. He was the first youth representative to the Presbyterian General Assembly in 1971 from the Augusta Macon Presbytery. He served as a Deacon at First Presbyterian Church, Albany, GA, as an Ordained Elder at Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Atlanta, GA and as Clerk of Session at Seneca Presbyterian, Seneca, SC. Richard had a tender, loving heart and was always available for a conversation and words of encouragement with his little sister, big brother and extended family. He was the Hudgins family historian and genealogy researcher. Richard enjoyed time on the lake in his boat, spending a quiet day in his favorite chair with a good book often reading about the civil war, watching Atlanta Braves baseball or Clemson football, and enjoying good food and music. The world is a better place because of his presence and his kind and caring spirit. He will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Lesley and Chris, I am so sorry to learn of Richard's death. He was such a kind, positive, caring person who loved you both dearly. I'll never forget all those beautiful flowers he sent on special occasions. I know you must be devastated by this loss. I pray you are surrounded by family and friends who will help you grieve well. Cherish the good memories and hope in God. love, Carol Strickland

Carol Strickland - October 29, 2019 at 02:56 PM



“ He was such a inspiration to both my kids especially my son. He talked about him all the time he will be greatly missed you all are in my prayers



Renee Couch - October 12, 2019 at 10:24 AM

LC

“ I am so sorry to hear this. I always enjoyed chatting with him anytime he was at James M Brown Elem. It was evident that he was there doing God's work. He will be missed. Lori Chappellelear

Lori Chappellelear - October 10, 2019 at 09:13 PM

JS

“ Sincere condolences to the family of Richard O. Hudgins. I first met Richard when we were in junior high school. This was the in the late 1960's, which was a turbulent time for race relations in the south. For the first time, the door had been opened to allow black students to attend white schools in Macon, Georgia and I began attending Lanier Junior High where I first met Richard. There were only a handful of black students attending this school at that time and each and every day presented challenges for us. Richard was the first white student to reach out and befriend me. We met in Spanish class and, whereas few others would even speak to me, he immediately broke the ice with his sense of humor and we became friends throughout the rest of our school years. Richard was loved and respected by all who knew him and his actions towards me led to other students following his lead and befriend me also. The one regret I have is that I never took the time to thank him for helping to make my years at Lanier/Central High School more joyous and less stressful. Thank you and God bless you Richard. Looking forward to seeing you in Heaven.



JL Stewart - October 10, 2019 at 01:20 PM

SM

“ Sending our deepest sympathy from James M. Brown Elementary School
Sherry Moore



Sherry Moore - October 10, 2019 at 11:30 AM

SN

“ We only met Richard and Lesley on one occasion - a birthday party for Chloe. He was very genuinely friendly and pleasant. From reading his obituary, it would seem he has left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. Our prayers are with Lesley, Chris, Chelsea and Chloe, and the rest of the extended family. Harold and Sally Nichols

Sally Nichols - October 07, 2019 at 03:41 PM

MB

I am so saddened to hear about the passing of my dear friend. I feel so blessed to have known him. He kept me laughing on many days when I wanted to cry. Continuing to keep the family in my thoughts and prayers.

Michelle Black - November 04, 2019 at 09:30 PM

LH

“ Richard was always so delightful and positive. His love of children was evident. The Pickens Presbyterian Church Child Development Board was blessed to have him. He will be missed. I will always remember how kind he was to everyone. Leslie, you and Chris and your soon to be daughter-in-law continue to remain in my prayers. I am a better person for meeting Richard and am blessed to call you my friends.

Liza Holder - October 07, 2019 at 10:52 AM

RF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robert Forrest - October 03, 2019 at 11:31 PM

RF

“ *My oldest and dearest friend. How sad it was to hear of your passing. A true friend throughout the years, confidant, and at times counselor and rock solid source of strength and wisdom to me. A fine Southern Gentleman, a family man who endeavored to be the best son, father, husband, brother; uncle and grandpa he could be. Always down to earth and genuine to all who knew you.*

Friend, counselor and mentor to the many who were blessed to have known you. Especially your students whom you so dearly, and deeply cared about and went well above and beyond in many cases to advocate for them, and truly make a positive difference in their young lives. You touched many lives. Including mine.

Yours was a life well lived alongside your beloved Lesley and Chris. I wish you could have been around a few more years, but the Good Lord called you home. Heaven has a new angel and the night skies have a new star. You touched many lives. You will be missed greatly but you will live on in all our hearts. I pray the Lord will shed his love and grace on all your family during this difficult time. Don't know when, but I will see you again. Hasta la vista brother.

Robert

Robert Forrest

Robert Forrest - October 03, 2019 at 11:29 PM



“ *I went to elementary and high school with Richard. He was a very wonderful person. Prayers for his family. RIP Richard.*

Deborah Merna - October 03, 2019 at 03:38 PM

LH

“ Richard was such a good mentor for the young people whose lives he touched. Will be greatly missed.

Louis Holleman

Louis Holleman - October 03, 2019 at 10:22 AM

SH

“ He will definitely be missed! He was a wonderful mentor, teacher, & friend!



Stephanie Hagood - October 02, 2019 at 11:22 PM

KT

“ Mr. Hudgins always had a way with our students. He always showed a genuine care for their well being and had a way to “meet them where they were .” No matter what, I never saw his feathers get ruffled. He always had the look in his eyes that he knew something we didn’t. I will miss him. He always made me feel at home every time he subbed in my room. A friend to all, even those who are difficult to befriend. Prayers for his family for your great loss

Katherine Turner - October 02, 2019 at 09:52 PM

TF

“ Our condolences to the family. Mr. Richard was a wonderful and caring man. He truly loved his job and his students. Our family thought the world of him. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The Lusk Family - October 02, 2019 at 09:43 PM

JL

“ James And Pamela Lusk lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins



James and Pamela Lusk - October 02, 2019 at 09:40 PM

TL

“ Taylor Lusk lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins



Taylor Lusk - October 02, 2019 at 09:39 PM

Katie Hawkesworth Santulli

“ Katie Hawkesworth Santulli lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins



Katie Hawkesworth Santulli - October 02, 2019 at 09:06 PM

VH

“ Richard was a true friend, gentle soul, mentor to all, and a true Southern Gentleman. His time on this earth may be over but he lives in the hearts of everyone he touched. I know he continues to live in mine.

Virgil Highsmith - October 02, 2019 at 09:03 PM

NG

“ *Mr. Hudgins will be missed terribly. He had a great way with kids and always enjoyed talking baseball. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was so supportive of the students of the schools he worked. Thoughts and prayers to his family.*

Nick Groomes - October 02, 2019 at 02:47 PM

BO

“ *Going to miss him and his positive attitude. Did wonderful work with troubled young people. His work showed others what it means to be Christ Like as he cared for all*

Brian Odom

Brian Odom - October 02, 2019 at 01:50 PM

KM

“ *Mr. Hudgins was so amazing and patient with our special needs students at WOMS. He was the best and kindest of men. He made a difference in many young lives and will be missed by all of us. Praying for his family and friends at this time.*

Kimberly Moss - October 02, 2019 at 01:22 PM

RO

“ *Rhonda Owens lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins*



Rhonda Owens - October 02, 2019 at 01:15 PM

DC

“ My condolences on your loss. Richard and I had many conversations regarding history and the military when he substituted at Oconee Academy. He always enjoyed mentoring the youth and he will be missed.



David Cooper - October 02, 2019 at 12:52 PM

AN

“ Ashlee Nix lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins



Ashlee Nix - October 02, 2019 at 12:23 PM

TL

“ Tracey Long lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins



Tracey Long - October 02, 2019 at 12:23 PM

SH

“ Steve Hanvey lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins



Steve Hanvey - October 02, 2019 at 12:11 PM

PE

“ *Pamela Grant, Duke Energy lit a candle in memory of Richard Olen Hudgins*



Pamela Grant, Duke Energy - October 01, 2019 at 03:52 PM