



Rick Gordon Mitchell

September 9, 1951 - October 26, 2014

Ricky Gordon Mitchell, a friend, father, husband, and rabid Georgia Dawg, died on October 26th, 2014 with the body that lasted 63 years and a spirit that was perpetually young. He was born in Fort Benning, Georgia but spent most of his childhood and adolescence in Waycross, Georgia. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Victoria Mitchell; his four loving children, Maxwell Mitchell, Mason Mitchell, Merrick Mitchell and Elizabeth Chambers; and his dear sister, Kathy and her husband James Conoly and their sons Jake and Clint. But everyone who knew Rick knows his family was much larger. Every friend was loved like they were his children, played with like a sibling, and respected like a parent. With his contagious smile, infectious laugh, and quick wit, Rick made all those around him a part of his family forever.

Though he was a die hard Bulldog, his children would like to remind everyone that Rick graduated from Ware Country High School as a Gator before earning his B.A. in business from Valdosta State College. He worked much of his life for the State of Florida, most recently as an Information Technology Business Consultant Manager, SSRC Change Manager, and Secretary of Southwood Shared Resource Center Board of Trustees. His certifications include PMP CISSP, FCCN, and SEGIS.

He prided himself on sending funny emails, spending his lunch break working out and swimming laps at the local YMCA, and being involved in his

community.

Rick loved many things, but one thing above most was the annual World's Largest Cocktail Party in Jacksonville. He would yell "Go Dawgs", and "It's Great to-be a Gat-tor ha-ter!", until his voice gave out or until one of his two Gator sons threatened to throw his lucky hat out the window. No matter how many friends or family joined in on the shenanigans on a given year, Rick simply counted, held up that many fingers, and set off to scour the city for that many tickets (or one less) so that even if he couldn't, everyone else could enjoy the game.

Rick loved the water, and took any chance he got to haul his boat, his kids, and whoever else that couldn't escape his enthusiastic invitation to the nearest body of it. Whether that was to inner tube, ski, snorkel, or simply comb the beach searching for shells and shark teeth he was always ready if you were. And while you would undoubtedly spend the day smiling, laughing, and chanting for another go-around, Rick spent it simply enjoying your company, telling you how much he appreciated you, and showing you how much he loved you.

Rick read anything with a cover, from Ian Fleming to Stephen King, and even the graphic novel, *The Walking Dead*. Rick wrote his entire life, even spending a small part of his life studying the art of writing in Oxford, England. He wrote mostly poems. Poems about life or love, family and desires, religion and random thoughts. And while he may have never written the poems that our children and children's children will one day critique in school, Rick did complete his Masterpiece, or at least add a new chapter to it every year in crafting the most recent year's Christmas card. He crafted the family's annual Christmas cards, a small novel that recounted the accomplishments and embarrassments of the past year. Without a doubt, the entire family waited anxiously and excitedly to see what spin Rick had placed on the year's

notable and ignoble moments. Every story had a way of making you smile. Of reminding you what it was to be a family. Of what it meant to be a part of Rick's life, and his ever-growing family. And in the end, that's all that Rick ever wanted.

Rick's path in life was a winding journey. His journey had trials and tribulations, but in the end, he found what he was always looking for – a wife to love, a church to belong to, a family to believe in, and a friend in God to be faithful to. Through St. Peter's Anglican Church, Rick found a close relationship with the Lord. He led Alpha classes, volunteered with ECHO meals, and participated in Hands of Tallahassee.

Rick Mitchell may not have ever earned enough money to open a Swiss bank account, buy that fancy beach house or commission any art. But Rick died a rich man. He worked every day of his life to earn a wealth of friends and family, a wealth he gladly shared in life and a wealth he now graciously leaves behind for all those he brought together to enjoy forever.

Rick's life will be celebrated with a visitation on Wednesday, October 29, from 5-7 p.m. at Bevis Funeral Home (2710 N Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32303). The Service will be held on Thursday, October 30, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter's Anglican Church (4784 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL, 32309) with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to St. Peter's "Adult Education Program." Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com).

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ I just found out about Rick's death today. I enjoyed seeing him at our 45 high school reunion. He was one of my best friends in high school, reconnected when we both lived in the Chicago area, and then traded Christmas cards over the years. My wife and I always looked forward to seeing him at the reunions every five years. I will cherish my fond memories of Rick. I am so glad I got to see him and meet Victoria earlier in October. I have him captured singing on video "attempting" to be a Beach Boy. It is a keeper!

I pray that the family and all his friends find comfort in the memories that bring them joy.

David Johnson, Charlotte, NC

David Johnson - December 06, 2014 at 10:49 AM

HP

“ Watched the UF v UGA game yesterday. Didn't feel right... You raised wonderful kids, and behind you, many people's lives were made brighter by you just being in it.



Hannah Parks - November 02, 2014 at 06:47 PM

PK

“ Pamela Keller lit a candle in memory of Rick Gordon Mitchell



Pamela Keller - October 30, 2014 at 08:30 AM

CG

“ *My heartfelt love goes out to Rick's family. As a lifelong friend, he always had a winsome smile and a magnetic personality. Rick was the shining star in our "Ware County High Class of 69" and he will be always be remembered. May he rest in the peace that passes all understanding.*

I pray that God will bring comfort to Kathy, James, Diana, and the children.

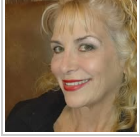
*Love,
Charlie Gibson*

Charlie Gibson - October 30, 2014 at 04:31 AM

 Patti
Harrison

“ *I'm soooooo very sorry Victoria for you and the children! I know you are all thankful for the time you were able to spend with him.*

Patti Harrison - October 29, 2014 at 07:40 PM



“ Rick and my family had a friendship out of our individual family tribulations. We both separated and ultimately divorced at the same time with two boys closely the same age. He moved in next door and the magic happened. We shared kickball, water skiing, camping, and paintball as well as many meals and celebrations over three years.

I do want one thing from Ricks estate. The sumo wrestling video. Max and Mason will know exactly what I mean! We both made it through a difficult period in our lives with a wonderful and lasting friendship. I will never forget Rick or his sweet boys. His love of those boys while trying to make their lives as normal as possible through a divorce, was so honorable and showed the strength of his character. I know he continued to expand that family with Diana, his daughter Ricky and the last love of his life, Victoria who he felt he had found his "soul mate". Rest in Peace Rick, if you can..... Get things ready for us up there so we can celebrate and play in a place where paintballs won't leave bruises all over my body. Miss you.....until then.

Pamela Keller - October 29, 2014 at 09:51 AM

PS

“ Rick was a dear friend and high school classmate. He was always smiling and had a kind word for everyone. After reading the write up about him, it brought a smile to my heart and I thought (did he write this) this sound just like what Rick would have written. It was so much like his Christmas letters that I so enjoyed receiving each year. He will be forever missed by me and many others. My prayers go out to his family for their lost of a wonderful brother, father, and husband.

Phil Sutherin - October 29, 2014 at 07:05 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rick Gordon Mitchell.*



October 28, 2014 at 08:36 PM



“ *Uncle Rick was a great man; and a relative that I know I could have talked to about anything. He was a great uncle, friend, but an even better brother to my mom. Their strong family bond is something that I hope my brother and I share one day. I love him and will never forget him.*

Clint Conoly - October 28, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Rick is one of my longest and dearest of friends. From bagging groceries in high school, rooming together at Valdosta State, to spending many hours together as adults including our annual adventure at the Georgia and Florida game, Rick was a precious and devoted friend whose memory will forever be cherished.*

Jeff Hall - October 28, 2014 at 03:59 PM



“ *Obviously Rick shared his writing talent with someone else in the family as the write-up was a wonderful tribute to a fantastic person. Rick will be greatly missed at work and we so enjoyed his always happy presence. As an Auburn grad I do regret not implementing my plans to cover his prominent Georgia picture in Orange & Blue. My thoughts and prayers to all his family and loved ones!*

Amy Price - October 28, 2014 at 03:32 PM

RC

“ *My condolences. I did not know Rick as well as I would have liked, but he was always pleasant to be around and always smiling.* ”

Ron Crolla - October 28, 2014 at 03:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rick Gordon Mitchell.* ”



October 28, 2014 at 02:16 PM