



Ricky W Purdy

January 1, 1951 - April 25, 2012

Ricky William Purdy, age 61, of Greenfield, MO died on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, as a result of an auto accident near La Russell, MO. Mr. Purdy was born in Lockwood, MO on Monday, January 01, 1951. He was the son of Robert and Fern (Farmer) Purdy. He had worked in funeral homes in Oklahoma.

Surviving are the following: his sister, Linda Dunn of Willard, MO; and two brothers, Floyd Purdy of Willard, MO and Lonnie Purdy of Knob Noster, MO.

Burial will be at a later date. Mr. Purdy was cremated at his request.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ricky W Purdy*

October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *To the family: You were so blessed to have Rick in your life. While Rick was in Miami, we shared many friends and events all of which will not be forgotten. Rest in Peace Good Friend. Sincerely, Dee & Ed Dudgeon*

Delores and Ed Dudgeon - May 06, 2012 at 06:30 PM



“ *Rick Purdy became a dear friend of ours as we shared Antique Shopping, Miami Little Theatre and All Saints Episcopal Church. While he was employed at a local funeral home, I would stop by for a visit and a cup of coffee as we sat on the front porch and shared the news of the community. I must share the most fun memory I have of Rick. I borrowed his Tuxedo, we all knew Rick could dress in style, to wear to a Secretary Banquet being held in Miami to honor Secretaries with many prizes!! Well, I won 1st prize which amounted to \$100.00 !! Rest in Peace good friend, it has been an honor to have you in our lives. Sincerely, Dee & Ed Dudgeon*

Delores and Ed Dudgeon - May 06, 2012 at 06:16 PM

GS

“ Rick Purdy taught me how to tie a necktie.

It was the early 1980's and Rick was selling menswear at a small clothing store. I was an awkward teenage boy, still struggling to find my place in the world, and he was unlike any man I'd ever met in our backward, little, country town. He had style. He was sophisticated. I would come to the store every week, sometimes more often, on the pretense of looking for a new shirt or socks, but I really just wanted to see Rick. We would talk about music and theatre and fashion and old movies, all the things I loved but, until Rick, had nobody with whom to discuss them, certainly not an adult. I was afraid my artistic temperament would be an object of ridicule among my peers, but here he was, a grown man, totally unashamed to be his flamboyant self every day.

When I needed a tie for some event, I can't remember what, he picked out a beautiful, bright orange silk one, with a purple, paisley print. (It was the 80's after all.) As he looped it around my neck and showed me how to knot it, I protested. Wouldn't the other guys poke fun at me for wearing such a thing?

"Nonsense," he said. "Don't you think it's beautiful?"

"Of course."

"Then nothing else matters. Just because others can't see how fabulous it is, doesn't make it any less so."

I bought the tie.

In the years that followed, Rick and I became good friends. I was less and less the insecure boy who hung around the clothing store and more confident and secure in being totally myself. We both performed in the community theatre. He was my biggest fan and I was his. Once I moved away to college, we didn't see much of one another and, eventually, lost touch altogether, but I've never forgotten the influence he had on my life.

Rick didn't just teach me how to tie a tie. He taught me how to wear one - fearlessly, with style and pride. It didn't matter if anyone else thought it was beautiful. As long as I loved it, and loved myself in it, that's the only thing that mattered.

Greg Swartz - May 01, 2012 at 05:31 PM

ND

“ To Rick Purdy's family: I knew Rick in Miami, Oklahoma, both through the funeral home business as well as through All Saints' Episcopal Church. Rick joined the church while I was Rector there. He has been gone from Miami for many years, but he was still in our hearts. God bless all of you.

The Rev. Noel J. Doherty, retired priest

Noel J. Doherty - April 30, 2012 at 09:31 PM

MW

“ *Mary Susan Whaley lit a candle in memory of Ricky W Purdy*



Mary Susan Whaley - April 28, 2012 at 12:31 PM

MW

“ *We have very fond memories of Rick. Our experiences with Ricky in Miami Little Theatre created such good times for casts, crews, and audiences. We wish you peace, Dear Friend.*

Ron and Mary Susan

Mary Susan Whaley - April 28, 2012 at 12:29 PM

BF

“ *Rest in peace, friend.*

Bill Flannery - April 28, 2012 at 12:14 PM

MS

“ *My husband and I attended the same school as Rick years (many) ago. We shared an interest in music and skills needed to cope with growing up in an area not known for open-mindedness and tolerance. He was a young man of intellect and quiet dignity. We lost touch with each other when he moved away. When he moved back to this area, Rick met and became friends with our daughter, Jennifer. They exchanged books, favorite wines, and "war stories" about dealing with doctors, medications, and the evils of chronic illness. I think they helped each other deal with the pain and loneliness of always being not well. I would see him occasionally and had a wonderful time dredging up memories of the old gang and how life "used to be". Rick was a kind, loving man -- a good man. I'm glad he was a friend and part of our lives. We will miss him very much.*
Pat (Carter) Schrader

Mary Pat (Carter) Schrader - April 27, 2012 at 02:03 PM