



Charles Elmer (C.E.) Riggs Jr.

JAN 20, 1946 - FEB 14, 2021



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Charles Elmer (C.E.) Riggs Jr.

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Charles Elmer (C.E.) Riggs, Jr. passed into the arms of Jesus on February 14, 2021, following a lengthy illness. He was born January 20, 1946, in Orange, Texas, to Nora McDonald and Charles E. Riggs. He graduated from Stark High School in Orange in 1964, having earned accolades as an All-District, All-State, and All-American defensive guard on the Tiger football team. He was recruited to play for the Texas Longhorns by Darrell Royal, and remained an ardent fan long after his playing days were over.

In 1968 he married Susan Timm, whom he met at UT. They were married for over 52 years despite all of their parents' disbelief that the marriage would succeed. In 1969 he graduated with a B.S. in Physical Education and began teaching and coaching at Stark High. Deciding that coaching wasn't really his calling, he entered the Texas A&M Physical Education graduate program and received his M.S. and Ph.D., earning awards for excellence. Daughter Stephanie was born in 1975. Following a year of post-doctoral work at the University of California-Santa Barbara, the family moved to Tallahassee, where he began his collegiate career as an Assistant Professor at The Florida State University. Son Brendon was born shortly thereafter. After 6 years, with tenure and promotion accomplished, He accepted a position as the Director of the Human Performance Lab in the new HPER Building at the University of Arkansas. For the next 27 years he amassed an impressive resume, including awards for teaching, research, service, and his work with undergraduate research and Honors students. His research areas were based on medical and biological models, unusual for Exercise Physiology at the time. He made presentations and published his research widely and was in leadership positions in professional organizations. He was a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine as well. He collaborated in research with faculty members in departments across the UA campus and with faculty at other universities. He had leadership roles in the UA as a whole, serving as President of the Faculty Senate and the Chair of the Campus Faculty. His ability to lead efficient meetings was well known. His most cherished career endeavor was his sabbatical at the Mayo Foundation in Rochester, MN, in 1998, as a Visiting Scientist. Here he learned to clone his own tissue for use in research of fatty acid oxidation disorders, so that others would not have to undergo procedures to harvest it. His own research



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began to revolve around this topic in collaboration with other faculty and undergraduate and graduate students. His students considered him tough with high expectations. He was meticulous in his laboratory methodologies and expected the same from them. He enjoyed encouraging and mentoring them, as long as things were done his way. Many went on after graduation to become successful doctors, professors, physical therapists, business people, and more. Many have credited him with giving them the courage and knowledge to go forward with their career choices. While his career could be all-consuming, his first love was his family. He would not accept invitations to go anywhere on Sundays unless the children were included. He coached soccer and football, attended every recital and game, put up with his wife's social events, and always loved returning to Orange for reunions with his large and colorful extended family.

He was sweet, silly, smart, charming, and, when he wanted to be, pretty intimidating. He was known to break into dance in random public places to the delight of his children and the consternation of his wife. He loved Maui and had a wardrobe of Hawaiian shirts and an affinity for growing tropical plants.

He was a lifelong Methodist and was active at Sequoyah United Methodist Church, leading and attending classes, and serving on committees and in leadership roles.

He retired in 2011 as Professor Emeritus, and he and Susan traveled extensively to see friends and family in Texas, to attend Longhorn football games, and to their shared areas of origin Scotland, Ireland, and England. He enjoyed his grandchildren immensely, volunteering in schools, taking them on hikes and trips, and just being the "Papa" that they both adored. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Tanga Crews. He is survived by his wife Susan; children and their spouses, Stephanie and Michael Stephens and Brendon and Meredith Riggs; grandchildren Chloe and Christopher Krumwiede; 3 nieces; 2 great-nephews, 4 great-nieces, 1 great- great-nephew; brother-in-law Jimmy Crews; and a host of loving and boisterous cousins. A memorial service will be held July 21 at 1:30 p.m. at Sequoyah United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. Casual clothing is encouraged. The service will be live-streamed at sequmc.org on the You Tube channel. The family wishes to thank the medical facilities that have cared for and compassionately treated Charles in the past year: Butterfield Trail Village Health Care, Encompass, Washington Regional, and the Willard Walker Hospice House. They also extend a special thanks to Dr. James Norys, his longtime physician.



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In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Sequoyah United Methodist Church, 1910 N. Old Wire Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703, or to St. Jude's, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.




Events


Charles Elmer (C.E.) Riggs Jr.

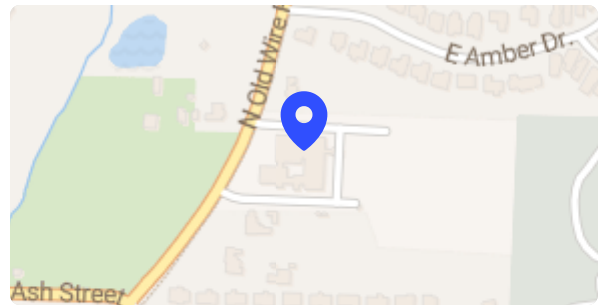
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Memorial Service

 **Wednesday**, July 21, 2021

 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CT

 **Sequoyah United Methodist Church**
1910 N. Old Wire Road, Fayetteville AR





Tribute Wall

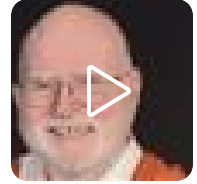
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Berna Funeral Homes shared a **Video**.

July 13 at 11:20 AM



Bob McMurray shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

CE and I worked together at the Institute of Environmental Stress way back in the 70's. I always enjoyed working with him and his dry sense of humor. His family always hosted our post-doc gatherings for which I have fond memories. I know he will be missed by family and friends. He was a really good person.



March 24 at 5:24 AM



Susan Riggs August 20 at 3:16 PM

Thanks, Bob! Wonderful memories from those Santa Barbara days!



Don White posted:

Just received word of Charlie's passing. I never saw. Him without that infectious smile; he was a good man with an uplifting countenance.

February 23 at 3:58 AM



Andrew Pitts posted:

My heart goes out to Brendon and the family for your loss. I got to live up the road from your family for many years. I remember the gentle giant I always thought your Dad was after or "sandlot" football game talks he gave us and during our basketball games in your driveway. He was so accepting to have me in his home playing all those hours of Techno bowl. I thought he was larger than life at that age. As years went on I always got a friendly smile and hello how are you when I saw him out in the yard. I have missed him on our street he will be missed. Andrew Pitts

February 21 at 4:19 AM



Laura Avant Dyess posted:

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of C.E. my prayers are with you. I long for the days, of Christmas parties at Aunt Lula's, when they were all with us. Laura Avant Dyess

February 19 at 10:49 AM



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BB

Bo Bittle posted:

Mr. Riggs was always so kind to me as a child. I have so many fond memories. My condolences to Brendon and all of the Riggs family.

February 19 at 9:50 AM

DP

Dianne Doster Pasquali posted:

It was a magical coincidence that C.E., a friend from high school, met his soul mate Susan, a fellow "Littlefield Lady" during our time together at UT. My heart goes out to all your family, but having known both of you, I am confident that you have both a treasure trove of memories of your time together and a store of treasures in Heaven. Wishing that your enduring love brings you comfort and your abiding faith brings you peace. Dianne Doster Pasquali

February 19 at 9:02 AM

JV

Janet Varvel posted:

In another lifetime ago I remember you dating CE at UT and later, your lovely Arabella. Wonderful life companion. Wonderful life. So sorry for your loss. So glad you have children. God is good. Janet Varvel

February 18 at 6:51 AM



Anonymous sent a Healing Tears - All White to the Riggs family.



February 17 at 10:32 AM

PG

Priscilla Griffith posted:

I wish I had known CE better during the short time I lived in Fayetteville. I'll never forget a joke he made about my hood at a UArk graduation— wishing he had one since it was from UT. He was an outstanding scholar and such a good person. Priscilla Griffith

February 17 at 6:41 AM



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KA

Kathy posted:

May you take comfort in the fact that Charles was a wonderful husband, father, friend and mentor to so many students,. Mike and I were so glad to call him friend. He seized each day and took care of so many. Kathy Malstrom and Mike Wavering

February 17 at 5:26 AM

NB

Nan Smith-Bkair posted:

To my friend and mentor know that I will always remember our time doing what we loved- research together. Our work with the honors students will live in through them as they adopted your knowledge, drive and expectation of rigor in all they do. I will miss you but know you are looking down with that smile and "hook 'm horns" sign and driving that sports car forever! To Susan and family know he will be missed by many he touched in his journey. Nan Smith-Blair

February 17 at 5:00 AM

TC

Theresa Cronan posted:

What more can we say about this beloved man? We were fortunate to call him friend! Susan, Stephanie & Mike, Brendon & Meredith, Chloe, Christopher, we hold you in our hearts and prayers as we celebrate the life of Charles. Peace, God bless!~ Theresa & Paul Cronan

February 17 at 4:41 AM



Media

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Memories only last if you share them

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



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