



James Richard "Rick" Jones, III

June 28, 1949 - August 27, 2023

James Richard "Rick" Jones, III, 74, of Indianapolis, passed away August 27, 2023. He was born June 28, 1949 in Augusta, Georgia to James Richard and Allie McGreg (Singletary) Jones, Jr. Rick graduated from Boone High School in Orlando, Florida, received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Mexico, and his PhD from Indiana University.

Rick was Indiana's second State Archaeologist. He retired from the DNR's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA) at the end of August 2014. He had been with the DHPA, Indiana's State Historic Preservation Office since 1987 and was appointed State Archaeologist in 1991, making him our longest serving State Archaeologist to date.

On his last day of work before retirement, he was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by then Governor Mike Pence. The DNR director and State Historic Preservation Officer at the time stated that the award honored "his many decades of dedicated service to the archaeological resources of our state, the discipline of Midwest archaeology, and the people of Indiana."

When Rick was not doing his arche mentoring, educating, regulating or friendship building, he could be found reading some of his 1,000+++ collection of books; attending Portfolio Club meetings; or playing lead guitar in the band Graal, Late Shift Disorder, or Bandage.

His wife introduced him to northern Michigan culture that included seeing the Northern Lights, sampling pasties and Lake Whitefish dinners; snow covered

tents in October; arboreal tunnels and thimble berry jam.

Throughout his married life of 33 years less two weeks, Rick and Tina were the forever homes for more than a dozen rescued cats and dogs. They have assured me that they will be ready with sloppy tongues, wiggling butts, and joyful barking when he crosses the bridge.

Rick is survived by his loving wife, Christina Petlichkoff Jones; sisters, Allie Myers (John), and Sue Jones (Roger Hunt); nephews, David Roe (Tara), Zachary Hunt, Elliot Hunt, Jasper Hunt, Brennan Jones (Corissa), and Taylor Jones (Kelsey). He was preceded in death by his brother, William McGreg Jones.

Visitation will be Friday, September 8, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and the service will be Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel, 5377 East Washington Street. One hour of calling will precede the service. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed and available by clicking the following link:<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/574671279>

Rick will join his Mother and Father in the family cemetery plot at Glen Haven Memorial Park in Winter Park, Florida the following week. Graveside arrangements are pending.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Archeology Preservation Fund (<https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/about-us/what-we-do/>) or The Archeological Conservancy (<https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/>).

Cemetery Details

Glen Haven Memorial Park

2300 Temple Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel
5377 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 357-1181
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Visitation

SEP 9. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel
5377 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 357-1181
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Funeral Service

SEP 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel
5377 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 357-1181
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Tribute Wall

PM

“ So sad to hear about Rick's passing. I met Rick in 1976 when we were roommates in graduate school at Florida State University. He was very friendly to his new 'Yankee' roommate from NY State and we had lots of fun together that year we shared in Rogers Hall. I still remember him regularly sitting on his bed playing his folk guitar and humming songs. He was talented.

In spring of 1977 Rick was doing a dig in St. Augustine for a few weeks and he invited me to come visit him. I did and he showed me his dig, the fort and sites and bars in St. Augustine. We had a great weekend, though I am pretty sure the house he was living in was condemned ... he forgot to tell me that when he invited me. I had a great time, and we were young, so no problem. In 1994 Rick was so kind to host my family in Indy as we were driving from NY State to Denver to visit my brother. Tina and Rick were so kind to us and let us stay there overnight. It was so great to see Rick again. Sadly I did not see Rick again after that visit, although we kept in touch with Christmas cards each year.

What wonderful accomplishments he had in his Archaeology career and his love of music. He will be greatly missed.

Pat McCabe

Pat McCabe - February 05, 2024 at 05:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.



September 11, 2023 at 10:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.

September 11, 2023 at 10:43 PM



“ DONNA K CALVERT lit a candle in memory of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III



DONNA K CALVERT - September 09, 2023 at 03:37 PM

“ I wish I had amusing anecdotes or incredible stories of Dr. Rick Jones but what I have are memories that are feelings, little one-picture memories of him. I met Rick in 1988 when I worked for DHPA on the Office of Surface Mining Grant. I do have one short little story, I guess you would call it, from after I interviewed for the grant position and had a message on my answering machine. It was Rick; he left a message. I wish I could remember it word for word but I don't. After hearing it, I said “well I think I have the job but I'm not sure.” Later, when I mentioned this to Rick he said “than I succeeded!” Gary who was the head of the archeology section at that time had told Rick to tell me I got the job without telling me I got the job because it had not yet been approved by human resources.

Rick was my coworker, and then my boss, but most importantly, he was an archaeological mentor and the most wonderful friend. He believed in me and in my archaeological skills when I questioned myself and as I said before my memories are more of feelings. Feelings of support, feelings of encouragement, feelings of respect and caring, feelings that he would be there for me no matter what. It's hard to find someone like that in this world. I am very blessed to have known him and to have called him friend and I will miss him everyday.

But to wrap this up on a happier note here are a few of the little things that remind me of Rick -
parmesan goldfish,

mystery books,

a pair sunglasses that I bought while waiting with Rick for 3 hours for the state motor pool to bring us a new car after ours had broken down on the way to a job in southern Indiana,

the time Amy and I set up an archaeological dig unit on his desk for his birthday,

the Indiana limestone clock that sits on a shelf in my dining room that Rick and Tina gave us for our wedding,

and of course, him and I arguing over which is better Purdue University or Indiana University.

I'm so sorry that I couldn't be there to tell you these memories in person. Thank you Amy for reading this.

Thank you Tina for sharing Rick with us and know that he will live on in the hearts and memories of the many people whose lives he enriched with his presence.

Rick would scowl at me for saying this but... rest in peace Indiana Jones

DONNA K CALVERT - September 09, 2023 at 03:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - September 08, 2023 at 02:53 PM

MB

“ To Tina and the Jones family: I worked with Rick at the DHPA for almost 10 years and fondly remember his quiet and diligent way of approaching his love of archaeology. He was always so kind and available to anyone that needed help. My deepest condolences to all of you.

Miriam Burkett - September 08, 2023 at 01:42 PM

CA

“ For many years I only had a professional relationship with Rick. However, over the last three to four years I had the privilege of getting to know Rick more on a personal level. I will miss his smile, his wry humor, and most certainly his intellect. He elevated everything with which I was involved with him. His knowledge and our conversations will always remain with me. Rick will be missed.

Craig Arnold - September 08, 2023 at 09:47 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.



September 07, 2023 at 11:20 AM

FO

“ Frank and Patte Owings purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.



Frank and Patte Owings - September 07, 2023 at 08:56 AM

FO

“ Frank and Patte Owings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.

Frank and Patte Owings - September 07, 2023 at 08:56 AM

PD

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Paul Diebold - September 06, 2023 at 04:14 PM

KP

“ Tina and the Jones family, please accept my deepest condolences. I worked with Rick at DHPA for several years. Almost every memory I have of him is of us laughing. He was genuinely a kind soul and I'm grateful I had the chance to work with him. May he Rest in Peace.

Kim Padgett - September 06, 2023 at 03:16 PM

KP

“ Kim Padgett lit a candle in memory of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III



Kim Padgett - September 06, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ To Christina(Tina), Allie, and Sue and the Jones family; my thoughts are with you. The loss of Rick will be with us all. Rick and I were friends for over 65 years. Started with our days at elementary school through Boone High School. He was my other brother. We enjoyed many experiences, surfing and skim boarding at the beaches. Trips with his family to the mountains of Georgia. Singing to his guitar playing and just hanging out. I am proud to say I knew a real archaeologist. To Rick I was a pirate; I metal detected but we enjoyed discussing all our finds. Rick, your pain here is ended but a new life is ahead. Tommy

Tommy Tomlinson - September 05, 2023 at 02:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.



September 05, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.

September 05, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ Toni Giffin lit a candle in memory of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III



Toni Giffin - September 03, 2023 at 05:10 PM

MP

“ Sister Tina and the Jones family - There aren't enough words to express the sadness of Rick's untimely passing. He was such a good and caring person. Even in his darkest hours, he continually expressed his concern for taking care of Tina. He was passionate in his own humble way for his archaeological interests as well as his books, wines and beer, his sports and blues - whether playing in his band or just listening. I remember on one of our trips to Indy, Rick let us experience digging at one of his archaeological sites (hope it was OK..???). He was so proud to share the experience with us - one we'll never forget. There are so many other fond memories that we'll cherish. He was a true Southern gentleman...Farewell Uncle Rick...sending much love, Maria Olga and Sam

Mimi petlichkoff - September 03, 2023 at 02:20 PM

AM

“ Rick was my older brother. I grew up being a part of little league baseball, Boy Scouts, Order of the Demolay, surfing, and garage bands. After meeting some of his friends and colleagues, I realized that he had become so much more. Rick, I am so impressed and proud of what you became. We will never forget you, Dear Brother.

Allie Myers - September 02, 2023 at 05:34 PM

SJ

Rick was not only my older brother, he was a dear friend. He was an amazing man. We would talk for hours on the phone, discussing literature, music, and philosophy. I will miss him forever.

Sue Jones - September 02, 2023 at 07:09 PM

AJ

“ *Amy Johnson lit a candle in memory of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III*



Amy Johnson - September 01, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.*



September 01, 2023 at 03:39 PM

AJ

“*Dr. Jones was a coworker of mine at the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology from 1990 until 2014 when he retired. Over those many years, he was my boss, our State Archaeologist, an important archaeology mentor of mine, a respected colleague and leader, and most importantly, a friend. After he retired, I was later appointed State Archaeologist, and I would not be the archaeologist I am today without his guidance, mentorship, steadfast support, and friendship. I learned what it means to be a State Archaeologist from him, and how to be successful in that role. I count myself so very lucky to have had the honor to know and work with Rick for several decades.*

He will be missed by so many. I personally will always have so many fond memories- our fun times in the field on archaeological accidental discovery cases; laughter; writing publications together; discussing the history of Indiana archaeology; sharing archaeology with the public, and so much more.

I send my sincerest condolences to Tina and all of Rick's family in this very difficult time.

As archaeologists we take journeys to the past through our work, and now Rick has embarked on his next journey. May he rest in peace.

Amy L. Johnson



Amy Johnson - September 01, 2023 at 12:59 PM

CD

“ Rick has influenced so many of us in our lives and careers. He is a major reason I am part of the DNR family and am successful and love what I do. I know he is still looking over us and wants us to be happy and keep going.

Cathy Draeger-Williams - September 01, 2023 at 12:47 PM

CD

“ Cathy Draeger-Williams purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.



Cathy Draeger-Williams - September 01, 2023 at 12:43 PM

CD

“ Cathy Draeger-Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Richard "Rick" Jones, III.

Cathy Draeger-Williams - September 01, 2023 at 12:43 PM