



Martin Rauk Friend

December 31, 1950 - August 29, 2023

Martin “Rauk” Friend passed away at the age of 72 in Oklahoma City. Born in Vinita, OK, on December 31, 1950, Rauk was a vibrant soul who loved bright and beautiful colors. Those who knew him will forever remember his laughter and the bits of wisdom he imparted.

Raised on the 7L ranch in Vinita, Rauk's early years were filled with the joy of ranch life. Life took him to the Pacific Northwest during his high school years, where his father followed a calling to the ministry and they settled in Bellingham, WA. After high school, Rauk served in the Navy during the Vietnam War aboard the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, a period that filled him with immense pride. He later attended Oklahoma Baptist University, where he met and married Gayla, who later became Gayla Friend-Turner, now married to Preston. Together, they co-parented their sons, a responsibility also shared with Rauk's wife of 29 years, Anita.

In 1994, Rauk and Anita built a life in Oklahoma City, enriched by their shared love of collecting antiques, sailing, and travels across the United States. Rauk worked in various roles at OG&E, but his most cherished role was that of a husband, father, and grandfather.

In his later years, Rauk developed a deep connection to his Osage heritage. He taught these traditions to his children and grandchildren and found joy in participating in the In-Lohn-Schka dances.

Rauk is survived by his spouse Anita; sons Erik, Todd, and Ryan; and their families. Erik is married to Tara and they have four children: Jonathan,

William, Ava, and Jaxon. Todd is married to Stacy and has two children: Dax and Alice. Ryan, previously married, has four children: Adelaide, Aurora, Ion, and Emory. Rauk also leaves behind his sister Robin Friend and her husband Tom, his brother Joe Friend and his wife Karen, his cousin Carla Yocum and her husband Bill, along with many nephews, nieces, grand-nephews, grand-nieces and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Sam and Donna Friend, and his mother Coweesta Martin.

Those who knew Rauk will remember a man who was stern but always present, whose eyes conveyed genuine emotion. Whether driving hours one-way for a canceled soccer game, giving wonderful, yet unheeded advice, or standing up to speak at his father's memorial service, Rauk was a man of action and heart.

Viewing will be held 9AM-10:30AM Tuesday, September 5, 2023 before Rauk's celebration of life at 11AM at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home Chapel in Muskogee with Pastor David Day officiating. Committal prayers and interment will follow in Citizens Cemetery in Fort Gibson, OK with Jonathan Friend, William Friend, Dax Friend, Cory Wilson, Billy Whitehead and Mark Davis serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers are Ion Friend, Jaxon Friend, Emory Friend, Oscar Huerta, Dewayne Ashford and Vic Dogra. The family of Martin Rauk Friend has entrusted his care, services and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory, Muskogee, OK. 918-910-8883.

Online condolences may be left for the family at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Cemetery Details

Citizens Cemetery

Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 5. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory (Muskogee)
1020 West Okmulgee Ave
Muskogee, OK 74401
(918) 910-8883

Celebration of Life

SEP 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory (Muskogee)
1020 West Okmulgee Ave
Muskogee, OK 74401
(918) 910-8883

Tribute Wall

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“ Fly high with the Angels ole Friend,tell our good friend Donald Lorsbach”Hello” for me. I sure have great memories of you,Donald,Joy and Mark along with many other friends. RIP my friend,we will all see each other one day.
Turkey and Jeremy Harris

Sharon and Jeremy Harris - September 04, 2023 at 11:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Martin Rauk Friend.



September 01, 2023 at 03:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Martin Rauk Friend.



August 31, 2023 at 09:14 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martin Rauk Friend.



August 31, 2023 at 03:01 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Martin Rauk Friend.



August 31, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ Rest in peace Rauk, Corky and me are deeply saddened . we know that you are loved so very much. your little brother Joe and wife Karen (our daughter and son in law) have kept us up to date on your illness. Thank you Rauk Friend for your service to our country Tonight at 7pm we will play TAPS from our deck in your honor. Oceans of Love, Wayne & Corky

Wayne & Corky Hamodey - August 31, 2023 at 12:49 PM



“ Aziz and Michelle Elia purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Martin Rauk Friend.



Aziz and Michelle Elia - August 31, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ Aziz and Michelle Elia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martin Rauk Friend.

Aziz and Michelle Elia - August 31, 2023 at 11:22 AM