



Raymond Gene Rhoden

October 4, 1949 - May 20, 2023

Surrounded by family and lifted in prayer and love, Raymond Gene Rhoden, 73, went to be with our Lord on May 20, 2023. He was born on October 4, 1949, in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Raymond May Rhoden and Norma Jean (Totty) Rhoden. Raymond grew up in Muskogee, attending Longfellow Elementary, West Junior High, and then, graduating from Muskogee High in 1967.

Raymond had a love for motorcycles and classic cars. He gained the ability to fine tune motors at an early age with his first job working in maintenance for Ed Kuykendal's Marine Shop.

Because his parents worked differing hours at the Muskogee Veteran's Hospital, he was able to "experiment" with food in his home kitchen. Through many uneatable mistakes, he taught himself how to cook. Later in life, Raymond opened Charcoal Charlies on York Steet in Muskogee. It was a successful endeavor, but it proved too costly on family life. His greatest passion was to cook and share food with his co-workers, friends, and family. Sharing food equaled love to Raymond, and man, were we all so very loved! Music was always a significant part of Raymond's life. He grew up listening to his dad, "Pop", pick his guitar and sing country songs. Hank Williams was a favorite! Raymond and Patty were introduced to each other by a mutual friend (Mike Simpson) in the halls of Muskogee Central High Annex. On that day, Raymond went home and told his mother that he had met the girl that he was going to marry. From there, under the tutelage of Mr. Tom Yadon, they chose

chorus as their elective classes, studied music theory, sang in Choral Club, Community Choir, and Church Choirs together. Back in the day, Raymond greatly enjoyed singing bass in the men's gospel quartet and solos in special choral offerings at Muskogee's First Assembly of God church.

Raymond and Patty were married on July 25, 1968. Their wedding ceremony was the last to be officiated by the late Reverend Stanley Phillips at Muskogee's Memorial Christian Church. They were blessed with two beloved children, Jeramy Gene Rhoden (1970), Amy Luanne Rhoden Sizer (1973), and many, many adored fur babies.

Raymond was loved and admired by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was a 6'4" giant teddy bear. His calm manner and sweet disposition made him an excellent teacher and mentor. He was a gifted technology expert who could fix any computer issue. Raymond's career in IT began at Connecting Point Computers in Muskogee and culminated with him developing the IT department for WW Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His professional career at WWH spanned three decades until his retirement in 2015. His voice is still the one heard when a call is sent to voicemail after hours.

Besides his wife, Patty, of nearly 55 years, Raymond is survived by their son, Jeramy Gene Rhoden and wife Marsha, their daughter, Amy Luanne Sizer and husband Joel. He was known as "Poppa" to his grandchildren, Lindsay Wilkey and husband Matt, Aaron DuPriest and wife Kayla, Dalton Rhoden and wife Ally, Shane Sallee, Sydni Sallee, Lelan Sizer, and Austin Sizer, and his great-grandchildren, Jackson, Posey, Landri, and Ellisyn Wilkey, Keaton, Asher, and Holden DuPriest, and Stella Rhoden.

Also left to cherish his memory are his sister and brother-in-law, Mickey and Donnie Madewell, nephews, Nick Madewell and wife Amber, Austin Madewell and wife Alyson, niece, Lauren Moffett and husband Tommy, and 6 great nephews and nieces, Hudson, Madden, and Mabrey Madewell and Kyson, Lennox, and Lakyn Scott, stepsister Judy Milligan and her family, his Aunt Jo Benton of DeQueen, Arkansas, first son-in-law, Shannon Sallee and wife Jill,

several dear cousins, and many, many friends.

With Shannon Sallee presiding, a celebration of life service will be held at 2:30 PM on Friday, June 30, 2023, at Clifford D. Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory Chapel located at 1020 West Okmulgee in Muskogee, OK. If attending, casual attire is appropriate. Condolences can be made to the family at www.clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com.

In lieu of flowers, and because of Raymond's love for his fur babies, the family requests memorial donations be made to your local animal shelters. Or, in honor of their great-grandson, Jackson Wilkey:

The Little Light House

5120 E. 36th St.,

Tulsa, OK 74135

Or to:

TSC Alliance

8737 Coleville Rd., Suite 400

Silver Springs, MD 20910

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **30**. 2:30 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Crematory (Muskogee)

1020 West Okmulgee Ave

Muskogee, OK 74401

(918) 910-8883

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I remember Ray from one of our site manager classes in IHS and working with him on his RPMS system. Always very helpful and a great guy.

Mark Williams - June 23, 2023 at 08:57 AM

BM

“ Our software development group, Cimarron Medical Informatics, worked with Raymond for decades on the Indian Health Service electronic medical records system known as RPMS. To a person, our group thought that Raymond was a great guy and a highly valued colleague who made a great contribution to the operation and success of this information system that has been so critically important to the improvement of Indian healthcare.

*Bill Mason
Lori Butcher
Mark Williams
Diana Lopez*

bill mason - June 22, 2023 at 10:27 PM

LB

“ I have worked with the Indian Health Service since 1979, been in contact and worked with hundreds of IT/RPMS Staff over the past 44 years, I fondly remember Raymond as being so helpful, kind, personable, intelligent and so easy to work with. I will remember him with fondness and gratitude for the help he gave me throughout my time working with the WW Hastings hospital on various projects.

*Lori Butcher
Cimarron Medical Informatics*

lori butcher - June 22, 2023 at 10:02 PM

TG

“ I have worked with Raymond at WW Hastings, he was a very intelligent, kind, and very nice. Even if you called him hundred times a day ,telling him you cant get your computer to work haha. He was awesome friend/coworker...FLY HIGH

TONYA GANN - June 08, 2023 at 01:50 PM

LT

“ We met Raymond and Patty in 1982 when we moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma. We became best friends until we moved to Dallas in 1984.

He had such a big heart. We loved spending time with them. Patty, I'm so sorry. We are praying for you and your family during this time of loss. May God give you peace and comfort.

We love you,

Ricky & Linda Trotter

Linda Trotter - June 03, 2023 at 07:16 PM

RM

“ Raymond is my cousin. Our family was very close when our generation was growing up. He was always the gentle soul, and he remained that way always. He was also my friend. He had the capacity and curiosity to seek and confirm truth about the deep things in life that might confound others. When we would visit, it was obvious that he was blessed with an unshakable inner peace. I thank God for that, and will think of him often as a source of strength. God bless and keep his family and those who love him.

Richard Martin - June 02, 2023 at 05:34 PM

DR

“ Raymond was a member of the Central High School, Class of '67. I was very shy in high school, but Raymond always spoke to me & made me smile. When I saw him years later, he couldn't believe that I had become a teacher, and had come out of my shell. I know that God is watching 👁️👁️ over you today and everyday, as you think of your Raymond, your husband, a father, a brother & a friend. He was such a blessing 🙏 to you and those that knew him. I know that he will be greatly missed, too. 😞. May the Lord comfort you, his family & friends and keep yall wrapped in His arms..

Darla Page Ryan - May 26, 2023 at 09:42 PM

ES

“ I was heartbroken when I saw this obit! Patty I thought of you and Raymond very often. Raymond was a good friend whom I cherished. He was so intelligent plus being a great cook among his many qualities. May God give you comfort as you go through this difficult time.

Eddie Sevier - May 26, 2023 at 05:41 PM

CC

“ Raymond was a good friend....and a great cook!!! The highlight of the food table at my Christmas parties when I lived in Dallas was his Apple Goo. And his bruschetta was better than any I ever had in a restaurant.

I'm thinking about you Patty and grieving with you and for you.

Cheryl a.k.a Rats

Cheryl Cato - May 26, 2023 at 12:48 PM

MC

I met Raymond when he was my boss at the nursery many years ago. He was my boss two more times over the years. His calm voice and soul was a salve to my hyper energy. He was probably the best cook ever and we very much enjoyed being his employees because he spoiled us with food. To this day I still use pretzels instead of pecans underneath my deserts like he taught me. My heart was broken when I saw he was gone. The world needed his peaceful presence. I will miss you, my friend, we'll see you again some day.

Merry Carter - June 02, 2023 at 06:53 PM

RP

“ Raymond was such a sweet man. I rarely ever saw him but I will miss him. He was my first boyfriend. We had lots of great times and memories. Patty I'm so glad you had a happy life together. Sorry for your loss.

Rhonda Pritchett - May 25, 2023 at 05:59 PM

HC

Raymond was a great guy. When I got the information forwarded to me that he had passed, it really hit me hard. We were sporadic about staying in touch, but I guess that's how life goes. Patty, I'm so very sorry for your loss. I will be praying for you and your family. Raymond will be missed tremendously. I always enjoyed getting together with y'all when I was home!! My sincere and heartfelt condolences are with you.

Harlene Carter - May 26, 2023 at 02:50 PM

TP

I met Raymond Rhoden in the late 1990's when I began working at W.W. Hastings Hospital as a Medical Records Clerk. During that time, Health IT consisted of only 2 employees: Raymond Rhoden and Clyde Ballard. Raymond was the Site Manager at WWH. Back then, the Health IT Department was in the former hospital morgue; it had a server room and two desks and a thermostat set to artic-like temperatures. A little while following Y2K, Health IT began to experience some growth in the industry. Raymond gained some IT positions and hired me as an Information Technology Specialist. Under his direction, I learned how to tone out a phone line, add memory to a PC, run network cable in the ceiling, install software, generate reports and all the things a tech needed to know in the early 2000's. He gave me a beeper, full access to all doors, the roof, all passwords, EVERYTHING... AND I had my own toolbox. IT WAS A-mazing! Raymond knew the Health IT world was about to explode, as we were making big moves to implement the Indian Health Service-Electronic Health Record. While Raymond knew we needed more technical staff, he also knew we needed to be able to bridge the large gap between technology and clinical services. To help with that, Raymond hired the first Nurse to be part of the Health IT Team. So many innovations during his time! Raymond set the stage for where we are today in Health IT!

Throughout my career, I can say that Raymond was always the kindest, most compassionate person. Raymond was a mentor to me. He had a great speaking voice and he made the best chicken salad. He shared his summer tomatoes with all of us that he worked with. He was the first person I ever knew to buy a car over the internet! I knew that he loved his wife and family, because he spoke so highly of them. I am better for having had Raymond in my life. I will miss him!---
kindest regards, Toni Potts

Toni Potts - June 06, 2023 at 10:00 AM

DJ

Love and prayers to Patty and their family! May God be with you during this difficult time. Debbie CURTIS James

Debbie Curtis James - June 30, 2023 at 12:04 PM