



Brian Harper Rice

March 22, 1972 - January 17, 2019

Brian Harper Rice

Brian Harper Rice, 46, of Bartlesville, passed away Thursday, January 17, 2019, peacefully in his home in Bartlesville.

Childhood

Brian was born the son of Dianne (Harper) Shackleton and Mike Rice on March 22, 1972, in Bartlesville. He was raised alongside Michael who was just two years older than him. Growing up, Brian spent countless hours hunting and fishing with his grandfather Bob (“Dad”) and Michael who became a brother to him. He started shooting at such a young age that often the kick of the shotgun knocked him off of his feet. Their many adventures instilled his lifelong passion for hunting, fishing, and bird dogs. Brian was a protective older brother to his sister, Kerrie. Even though they fought like siblings do, he went out of his way to make sure she was taken care of in every way. Brian and Michael often harassed Kerrie when she wanted to play with them; from rubber band guns to bb guns she was often encouraged to leave them to themselves. He was kind hearted and mischievous all in one.

Work life

Brian always had an impeccable work ethic. He cut grass with a push mower in a neighborhood that was hills before he was able to obtain a “real” job. Brian’s first job was working at a pizza place in Lilburn, Georgia. He rode his

bicycle to work until he earned enough to buy a Dodge Coronet that didn't have reverse. He worked on that car in every spare moment. Brian graduated from Bartlesville High School in 1990. After high school, he had a few odd jobs here and there and then he found his place in the oil and gas industry. This position allowed him to travel all over the United States. He started at the bottom and through hard work and dedication he became district manager at Team Industrial Services. He spent most of his career in this position.

Family Life

Brian always put others first, from protecting his little sister to helping his step grandmother, Wilma, build an outdoor shower at her beach house. Always taking charge and willing to help, he was assisting his mom with backing up the beast of station wagon she drove and she ran over his leg, twice. Even though he was injured by helping he never stopped. He was a hard worker at heart and when he wasn't working at his job he was working at home or for family. He was a caregiver and protecting of all that he cared for and that carried over when he acquired his own family.

In 2001 Brian met the love of his life, Mariam. As the story goes, by chance Brian and Mariam bumped carts in the biscuit aisle of a grocery store and a lifelong romance was sparked. Brian knew that marrying Mariam meant accepting the challenge of loving and raising her children as his own.

In 2002 Brian asked Mariam to marry him, and she said yes. Brian then moved Mariam and her four children into the home his Grandfather L.G. Rice built in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Soon after, their fifth child, Brooke Marie Rice, entered the picture, and their family was complete. Brian and Mariam enjoyed hunting and fishing together and remodeling their home. Mariam preceded him in death on October 20, 2012, after just nine short years of loving marriage.

He was a loving father and passed his work ethic and love for the outdoors onto his children.

Passions

Brian's passions in life included family, followed closely by hunting, fishing and bird dogs - most notably LeRoy his favorite hunting dog. Brian loved to take his family to the lake. Many hot summer days were spent on the lake in a boat tubing. Brian was also very generous. Brian loved to feed others. He often would invite family over for a meal of delicious grilled steak, chicken, and shrimp. Brian freely gave his time and resources to others and was always willing to share his talents with anyone who needed help. He was mechanically inclined and was often the first person to call if you were having trouble with your car. Brian enjoyed playing with his grandchildren and even included them on his hunting and fishing trips.

Brian passing leaves a massive hole in the hearts of those who knew him, and he will be dearly missed.

Brian is survived by his five children, Brooke Rice of Bartlesville , Ziva Cooper and Clay of Dewey, Jessica King of Tulsa, Zachary Kennedy of Tulsa, and Megan Kennedy of Dewey, and; father Mike Rice of Bartlesville; mother Dianne Shackleton and David of Lawrenceville, GA; sister Kerrie Rice of Atlanta, GA; maternal grandfather Bob Harper of Bartlesville; Brother Michael Harper and Robin of Ochelata; as well as five grandchildren, Sophia, Clifton, Daneyl, Micha and Daisy; and a host of other family and friends. He is preceded in death by his wife, paternal grandparents L.G. and Dorothy Rice, and maternal grandmother Norma Yvonne Harper.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 10-8 at the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel, 4201 Nowata Road in Bartlesville.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, at the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel, with Pastor Dan Denison officiating. Interment will be at the Memorial Park Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery Bartlesville

4200 Nowata Road
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Brian Harper Rice*



Davis Family Funeral Home - January 22, 2019 at 12:10 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian Harper Rice.*



January 22, 2019 at 09:27 PM



“ *Art and Julee Nicklaus purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Brian Harper Rice.*



Art and Julee Nicklaus - January 21, 2019 at 01:43 PM

AN

“ Man, I am going to miss Brian. I actually have been missing Brian since I retired over 8 years ago and haven't made it back to Oklahoma from Seattle to see him. I will just use the excuse that Seattle to Bartlesville is not an easy trip! Brian and I would text and talk on the phone semi-regularly over the years though. When I became the VP/GM of Team TCM West back in 2001, Brian inherited this west-coaster as his boss. He was at first pretty defensive, private, and careful around me, but we pretty quickly grew close. I loved Brian, loved his passion, loved the way he loved his family, loved his fierce loyalty to family and friends. Brian had a very tough job as branch manager in Tulsa for Team. He felt a strong loyalty and duty to his employees, his customers, and his employer. It is not easy trying to balance all that and still be a good family man. But Brian did his very best, and I admired him greatly. He was a caring and compassionate young man just doing the best he could. Brian and I shared deep stuff with one another, work and family stuff, but also spiritual stuff. Brian had a deep and confident trust and faith in God despite all the challenges and issues he experienced throughout his life, and I admired him for that as well. I could write more, but I will just close by saying “Brian, you were a true-blue friend, and those are rare. Your passing is a great loss for me, and I am sure for many others. But I look forward to a grand reunion one day in glory, by the grace and mercy of God.”

Art Nicklaus - January 21, 2019 at 01:40 PM

LJ

I am Brian's aunt, thank you so much for this wonderful testimony of Brian's life. He was indeed a special man with a great heart for family and for people who needed help. Thank you so much, Linda Jones

Linda Jones - January 22, 2019 at 11:41 AM



Kimberly
Henshall

“ *Were very sorry for your loss.* ”



Kimberly Henshall - January 19, 2019 at 06:33 PM