



## Richard J Spears

December 20, 1974 - May 13, 2020

Richard J. Spears, 45, of Broken Arrow, died Wednesday in Tulsa.

Richard was born the son of Jon and Judy Ann (Benefiel) Spears on December 20, 1974, in Tulsa. He was raised in Broken Arrow and attended Union Schools. An opportunity to attend the broadcasting certificate program at Rogers State University (RSU) led him to a lifelong career in television production. First with RSU Public TV before landing a job at KOTV Channel 6 in Tulsa. Richard became friends with Roy D. Mercer, a well-known Tulsa radio personality, and was offered a second job as a disc jockey or DJ which he enjoyed.

As a storm chaser under the direction of Jim Giles, Richard covered the infamous 1999 Stroud tornado that destroyed the factory outlet mall. In fact, he was in Stroud just minutes before that tornado hit. After 15 years with Channel 6 Richard took to the road as a satellite truck operator, traveling wherever the news broke and covering major NASCAR races. During this time Richard became friends with many of the race teams and drivers he covered. After a health setback, Richard decided to work locally again when his meteorologist friend James Aydelott encouraged him to join Fox 23 in Tulsa. For the past five years Richard worked at Oral Roberts University Broadcast Ministry, a position he dearly loved.

Richard's passions in life outside of working, broadcasting and storm chasing were trains, model trains, and real trains. So much so, this railfan was currently building a garden railroad in his own backyard. On one special occasion during a family trip to the Royal Gorge railway in Colorado, Richard was able to join the engineer and actually take the controls for a short, thrilling while. It was a memorable experience any hardcore rail enthusiast would cherish.

Richard loved the Lord and was eager to help out friends and many churches with their AV and tech needs. Oftentimes he just listened to their needs and got them headed in the right direction. He loved the many friends he made over the years and they loved him back – while his train has now departed this earth, his tracks remain and Richard will be dearly missed.

Richard is survived by his loving parents Jon and Judy Ann (Benefiel) Spears, sister Stephanie Perla and Jourdan, niece Violet Isabella Perla, Aunt Cleo Stanberry, uncles Leo Benefiel, Charlie Marshall, Spears aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from noon-5 p.m. at Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel, 918-333-7665, 4201 Nowata Rd, Bartlesville, OK.

Graveside services will be held at 2 pm Monday in the Memorial Park Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 17. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

KO

“ So very sorry to hear of Richard's passing. He reached out to me when he was in high school and we shared his appreciation of RCA TK-76 cameras. He was a delight to talk to and always had great conversations. Richard always made a positive impression and had a very uplifting personality. He will be missed. -Kenneth Ostmo

Kenneth Ostmo - May 18, 2020 at 01:32 PM

DY

“ From Oklahoma to Florida, every single day was an adventure with you Rich. Countless great memories, your warm smile, kindness, and awe moments will always be in my heart. You were one in a million with a pure heart and great personality. I'm thankful for having had you, miss you so much! Miss our chats dearly... You were already an angel Rich, gone too soon!



Dilek Yilmaz - May 18, 2020 at 05:50 AM

KV

“ I'll never forget all the early morning runs to Sonic... all the storm chasing adventures... all the times you were sweating in the Live Truck just because I was cold... Your heart was pure gold and I am a better person now because I knew you.

Katie (Green) Vossler - May 16, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard J Spears.*



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May 16, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard J Spears.*



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May 16, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard J Spears.*



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May 15, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ *Richie I already miss you, you left A big hole in my heart take care in heaven. Love you buddy*

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**steve parker** - May 14, 2020 at 11:39 PM