



Richard Watson

June 2, 1938 - October 23, 2019

Richard Watson, age 81, was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas on June 2, 1938, and passed away on October 23, 2019 following a stroke. Richard was a lifelong resident of Fayetteville and a 1956 graduate of Fayetteville High School. Watson served the citizens of Fayetteville from 1966-2002 and more specifically as the Chief of Police from 1986-2002. He was the longest tenured Police Chief in the history of the Fayetteville Police Department.

While considered a hard man by many, Richard was fair, pragmatic, and passionately loyal to his profession and the men and women who worked alongside him. He remained proud of and grateful to the city of Fayetteville in which he lived, loved and served. Richard was well known for his tenacious dedication to solving crime and protecting the citizens of Fayetteville. His service and vision can still be seen today, 17 years after his retirement. Chief Watson was co-founder of Bikes, Blues and BBQ, the world's largest charity motorcycle rally that benefits women, children, and the underserved members of the Northwest Arkansas community. Richard experienced more in his lifetime than most people could ever imagine. His passions and hobbies were numerous, but he especially enjoyed competitive shooting and won various awards for target, bench and trapshooting. Chief Watson owned Watson's 45 Shop, making scrimshaw and knives under tutelage of A.G. Russell and was a gifted woodworker making beautiful pieces for those he loved. Most notably to his family and friends, Richard was known for his wonderful storytelling and "dad" jokes.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Mefford and Eva (Bradshaw) Watson. Richard is survived by his wife and partner of 27-years, Vicky Bloss-Watson of Springdale, daughter Susan Watson Breese (husband Dale) of Springdale, first wife Sue Mounce of Fayetteville, stepsons Clint Hanshew (wife Jana) of Springdale, Deen Hanshew (wife Lisa) of Little Rock, and Mike Hanshew. Richard was also Papaw Richard to his grandchildren Wendy, Ashley, Lindsey, Jani, Sydney, Jake, Alyssa, Miller, Devyn, Peyton and his great-grandchildren Marley, Jade, Jonas, Sawyer, Noah, Taylor, Tallulah, Greyson and Vincent. The family will receive friends at Nelson Berna Funeral Home, Fayetteville, AR, on Sunday October 27, 2019 from 3:00 – 5:00pm. A celebration of life and memorial service for Richard will be held at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville, Arkansas on

Monday, October 28, 2019, at 10am. Burial with Full Police Honors will follow at Fairview Memorial Gardens, Fayetteville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Humane Society.

To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.nelsonberna.com.

Cemetery

Events

Fairview Memorial Gardens
1728 East Mission
Fayetteville, AR, 72703

OCT 27 **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory
4520 N. Crossover Rd., Fayetteville, AR, US, 72703

OCT 28 **Celebration of Life** 10:00AM

Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory
4520 N. Crossover Rd., Fayetteville, AR, US, 72703

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Nelson Berna Funeral Home - October 26 at 06:42 PM



“ My condolences to Richard's family. I enjoyed the many weekends in which I was honored to share his company at trapshoots around northeast Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas. Richard was the real deal; and, he was genuinely one of the good guys.

Jerry McFarland

Jerry McFarland - October 29 at 04:50 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to all of Richard's family. He was a wonderful man, and a very sweet friend to so many of us in the 80's. I know he will be so missed.



Letisha Finch - October 28 at 12:31 PM



“ Chief Watson took a leap of faith with a young officer and assigned me to be a detective at the department. A few years down the road, he saw fit to promote me to sergeant. I am forever thankful for both acts on his part, as they shaped my 33 year career at the department. He was always a straight shooter with me...

Rob Turberville

Robert Turberville - October 27 at 11:30 PM



“ God gained a heck of a bench rest shot. An outstanding Cop, and a wonderful person.

Don & Arlene McGee - October 27 at 01:28 AM



“ Dad is also survived by grand daughter, Wendy Breese Hughes, (Ryan), great grand children, Jonas and Noah Alexander and Tallulah Hughes.
Brothers Darrell and Mike Watson and sister Sharon Barnett of California, Lynn Ford of Texas and Carole Howard of Oklahoma.

Susan Watson Breese - October 27 at 12:07 AM



“ I'm so glad you were able to add mom and his other siblings on Susan. He was such a strong man and definitely made an impact on all he knew. Prayers to you all my sweet cousin.

Becky Barnett - October 28 at 01:10 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Oliver Cox - October 26 at 05:42 PM



“ Vicky and Family

I have so many Memories of Richard. All the trips we took on our Harleys. The good times at the old LJ,s and all of those Sunday evenings visiting with you guys at Jose,s Richard was one of those rare people that just commanded respect. I will miss his humor and his friendship so much. He truly went through life doing things his way and I admired and respected him very much.

Dennis and Dollie Donahou - October 26 at 11:35 PM



“ A great man, a great Police Chief for the City of Fayetteville. He will not be forgotten.

Oliver Cox
Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan

Oliver Cox - October 26 at 04:34 AM



“ We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Our deepest sympathy to all Richard's family. So sorry we will be unable to attend the service but you will be in our thoughts and prayers.



Randy & Linda Bradley - October 25 at 04:10 PM