



Richard D. Rye

April 22, 1940 - July 14, 2025

Richard "Rich" Rye, age 85, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2025. He was born on April 22, 1940, in Tioga, North Dakota, to the late Sivert and Evangeline Rye. Raised alongside his beloved sister Sylvia, whom he loved dearly, and surrounded by many cherished cousins, especially Roger Rye, who was like a brother to him. Rich was immensely proud of his strong Norwegian heritage and remained close to his extended family throughout his life.

In 1959, Rich left North Dakota for Los Angeles, California, where he began a 43-year career with Western Airlines, which later became Delta Air Lines. His work in the airline industry took him around the world and gifted him with friendships and memories that lasted a lifetime.

A proud veteran of the United States Army, Rich remained committed to service, especially through his active involvement with American Legion Post 50. He was deeply dedicated to supporting fellow veterans and giving back to his community.

In 1975, Rich married Jennifer Harrod, and they made their home in Redondo Beach, California. Together, they raised two daughters, Kristy and Shelly, who were the absolute loves of his life. In the mid-1980s, the family relocated to Peachtree City, Georgia, where Rich continued his career with Delta Air Lines and became an active member of the Peachtree City Optimist Club where he was always ready to volunteer and lend a hand.

After retiring in 2002, Rich embraced a full and meaningful retirement. He

loved traveling to visit family in Louisiana, North Dakota, and California, always making treasured memories along the way. His servant's heart remained steadfast through his volunteer work, especially in his later years with Horses and Warriors, where he enjoyed fellowship among fellow veterans.

Rich was a devoted grandfather to Corey, Ryan, and Jillian. He was a constant source of love and support especially loved cheering Ryan on at baseball games. A loyal Atlanta Braves fan, Rich shared his love of the sport with his family and friends.

A faithful member of Newnan First United Methodist Church, Rich lived a life of generosity, humility, and devotion to others. He was a loyal friend, a loving father and grandfather, and someone who made everyone around him feel valued.

Rich is survived by his daughters, Kristin Rossey and her husband Matt of Newnan, GA, and Shelly Brooks and her husband Kyle of Newnan, GA; his grandchildren, Corey Brooks, Ryan Brooks, and Jillian Rossey, all of Newnan; his sister, Sylvia Mills of Baton Rouge, LA; niece, Jeralyn Ducote of Baton Rouge, LA; nephews, Rick Mills and his wife Jennifer of Lake Charles, LA, and Ron Mills and his wife Sheila of Harahan, LA; along with many beloved great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Sivert and Evangeline Rye and his brother-in-law Gerald "Jerry" Mills.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Newnan First United Methodist Church with Reverend JoAn Kinrade officiating. A reception will follow in the Annex Hall. Burial will take place at 2:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Cemetery with Reverend Charles Robinson officiating. The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Wesley Woods of Newnan for the loving care Rich received. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and remembered always for his kindness, loyalty, and generous spirit.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Newnan First United Methodist Church
33 Greenville Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



July 18, 2025 at 02:31 PM



“ *Melanie Salisbury sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard D. Rye*



Melanie Salisbury - July 18, 2025 at 03:10 AM



“ *To the best father, grandfather, brother, family man, and friend. He lights the way for you! You were the most warm and sweetest man. You are loved and will be missed!*



Melanie Salisbury - July 18, 2025 at 03:08 AM



“ *, Dean, Dixie, Darla and families purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



, Dean, Dixie, Darla and families - July 18, 2025 at 12:54 AM

DF

“ *David Davidson, Nikki & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



David Davidson, Nikki & Family - July 17, 2025 at 01:54 PM

LD

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all as you journey through this difficult time. I know your father was deeply loved and will be missed. Prayers, Pastor Lisa*



Lisa Dempsey - July 17, 2025 at 12:08 PM

UD

“ *Uncle Charlie & Drew purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



Uncle Charlie & Drew - July 17, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



July 17, 2025 at 11:12 AM

EL

“ Eryca, Garrett, Miya, Kylie, Luna&Mookie purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Richard D. Rye.



Eryca, Garrett, Miya, Kylie, Luna&Mookie - July 17, 2025 at 10:28 AM

EL

“ Eryca, Garrett, Miya, Kylie, Luna&Mookie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard D. Rye.

Eryca, Garrett, Miya, Kylie, Luna&Mookie - July 17, 2025 at 10:28 AM

MV

“ Mandy, Michael and Vicky purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard D. Rye.



Mandy, Michael and Vicky - July 17, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.



July 16, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



July 16, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard D. Rye.

July 16, 2025 at 12:50 PM



“ *Sending heartfelt sympathy to entire Rye family. Prayers that you have the comfort and strength needed in your loss. May your precious memories give you comfort.*
Judy Evans



Judy Evans - July 16, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.*



July 16, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard D. Rye.

July 16, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.



July 16, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard D. Rye.

July 16, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard D. Rye.



July 16, 2025 at 11:06 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard D. Rye.

July 16, 2025 at 11:06 AM

SM

“ *Sandra Massell lit a candle in memory of
Richard D. Rye*



Sandra Massell - July 16, 2025 at 10:03 AM