Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Ricky Donald Rice

April 20, 1953 - April 19, 2026

Ricky Donald Rice, 72, of Morganton, NC passed away Sunday, April 19, 2026.

Born in Springfield, OH on April 20, 1953, he was the son of the late Walter Donald Rice and Phoebe Elizabeth Goff Rice.

Ricky was a member of Drexel First Church of God and he loved to make people laugh. He met his wife, Sarah, in 1971, after which they began a singing ministry. They were married in 1973.

Those left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife, Sarah Jane Zeigler Rice; children, Eric Rice (Megan), Michael Rice (Kelly), Julie Gilbert (Clay), and Lori Rice; grandchildren, Seth, Ericca, Garrett, Levi, Emma, Ryland, Izzy, Allie Jane, and Andrew; sister, Dru Bostic; brother-in-law, Bill Dillow; sisters-in-law, Cindy Rice and Carolyn Rice; other in-laws, Roger Zeigler, Jana and Tim Champ, Ross and Mary Yocom; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Ricky was preceded in death by three siblings, Larry Rice, Gloria Dillow, and Mark Rice.

A celebration of Ricky's life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026 in

the gym of Drexel First Church of God. Additionally, there will be a celebration of life in Ohio on July 11, 2026. Information on this second service will be added as it becomes available.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



—Joy Kirkland Becker



Bro Rick Rice and his family are precious people. So sorry for y'all's loss.

—Brent Pearson

I'm so sorry to hear this Aunt Janie. I'm just finding out today of his passing. Many prayers going to you and the kids.

—Brenda Nance

To Rick's family, I'm so sorry to hear this about Rick, I joked around with him and called him Ricardo. I wish, so wish I could have seen and talked with him more but it just wasn't possible. I met Rick over 38 yrs ago when all you children were really young and we were tight really tight, almost like David and Jonathan in the Bible. I'll miss him I mean I will really miss him!

—Bro David Laywell

Rick was such a wonderful brother~always there for me thru the good and the rough times. I have so many precious and fun memories to cherish. He brought much love and joy to my life, and to many other's lives as well. He and Janie



have always been hospitable, and shared many meals, laughter, serious discussions and showed God's love to others. I will miss him dearly, but am so thankful he's run his race and is forever rejoicing with our Lord. Keeping Janie, their children and grandchildren covered in prayer. Rick was a beloved and blessed man.

–Dru Bostic

We're so sorry to hear of Rick's passing. He will certainly be missed. now he's in heaven singing with the saints who have gone on before.

–Allen & Debbie Ropp

I'm so sorry, but glad he isn't suffering anymore!!

–Virginia K. Bostic

–Kim Costner Milligan

So very sorry to the entire family for your Loss. Rick and Sara were wonderful to my Sister Terrie when they took over as her AFL. Rick will be greatly missed :(-
Ric, Regina, Annie & Ashley Odom

–Richard Odom



Prayers and blessings to the entire Rice family on his passing.



—Peg DeMarco

Rick was a wonderful neighbor of ours for many Years. A kind man, faithful

husband, and loving father. He led by example. I don't think I ever saw him that he was not smiling.

—Kimberly Doughty

He was one of our favorite patients in Cardio-Pulmonary Rehab. I'm very sorry to hear of his passing……..

—Kay Lewis

My sincere sympathy to each of you. He isn't suffering now. I remember you from Drexel church of God and the many times you sang for us. Rick is probably singing in heaven right now and is at peace. Love.

—Reba P Reece

Dear Janie and family, I am so sorry for your loss and the difficult time you have been through. Rick was a delight to be around and I am thankful to have met him and you Janie. May God give you the comfort and strength that He can only give at this time. Hugs to all. Ellen

—Ellen (Douglas) Burton

How can Rick be singing in Heaven without Jane? This cannot be happening—I was planing to have him sing at my funeral. I send great sympathy and lots of prayers to the family. Blessings to you all during this sad, sad time. May God keep you all wrapped in His big arms. Janealla

—Janealla Killebrew



—Lori

Sara and family I am so sorry for the loss of my brother in Christ. I loved this man and enjoyed singing and playing our instruments. We all will meet again. Sara, I and Elainr will be praying for you all. May God comfort you in the loss of your husband

—Wayne Kean

Jane, I'm so sorry to hear of Rick's passing. As difficult as death is sometimes, I'm sure you can find some comfort in knowing where is is now and that you'll be together again with your Heavenly Father for eternity. Until that time, if there's anything I can do for you or your family don't hesitate to contact me. With much love Burton

—Burton Berry

Dearest Lori & Family, Your dad brought joy to so many. The visits by your parents to our mom while she was in the nursing home were cherished. She loved hearing the hymns they sang. It brought her such joy. We are so deeply sorry for the loss of your dad. He fought hard. Courageous and loving you each always. Our thoughts and prayers are with you , your mom , Julie and entire family. We love you.

—James & Gwen Hood



—Cindy. Rice



—Carolyn Rice

So sorry to hear this. My mom sure loved him. Praying for you and family

—Teresa Parker



We've loved your sense of humor, have been inspired by your faithfulness to God, and enjoyed your musical talents. You have been a never-ending blessing to our family from near and far. May you rest high on that heavenly mountain with Jesus.

—Jana & Tim Champ and Roger Zeigler