Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
5th Generation Family Owned & Operated Since 1949.



Ricky Howard "Yoyo" Roper

Aug. 30, 1958 - April 19, 2025

Ricky Howard "Yoyo" Roper, 66, of Morganton, NC passed away Saturday, April 19, 2025.

Born in Burke County, NC on August 30, 1958, he was the son of the late Ralph Howard Roper and Lillie Virginia Norville.

Ricky served in the North Carolina National Guard from 1975 until 1984 and then dedicated over three decades to working at Western Youth Institution (Highrise), from 1980 to 2011. Outside of work, Ricky enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities including hunting and fishing, and he was a member of the Western Archery Association.

Ricky was passionate about billiards. He started his own business, Billiards Extension Depot LLC, where he crafted and sold innovative pool cue extensions. Among his proudest achievements was the design and patent of a unique palm bridge, a testament to his creativity and love for billiards.

Ricky is survived by his wife of 45 years, Darlene Tallent Roper; son, Steve Roper (Jessica); grandchildren, Steven and Abigail Roper; and a brother, Randy Lane Roper.

In addition to his parents, Ricky was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Wesley

Roper; and a sister, Elizabeth Libby Waters.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2025 at Abee's Grove Baptist Church in Valdese with Pastor Rudy Hayes

officiating. Honors will be provided by the NC Department of Corrections Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Abee's Grove Baptist Church, 654 Abee's Grove Church Road SE, Valdese, NC 28690.

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

Tribute Wall



Darlene, truly sorry and so sad to hear about the passing of Ricky. Praying much for your strength.

–Doris Bristol

No words can replace a Dear Friend , God has a place for all Belivers . A true friend that will always be remembered for his kindness.

–Chris A Bell

Darlene and family. I am very sorry for your loss. Please know you all are in my thoughts and prayers. May God's guidance ease your grief

–NANCY FLEMING



You will be missed. Prayers to the family! Onto the big pool table in the sky our friend!

–Bill & Shirley Hendricks

Mr roper was one of the nicest people I know and very very respectful. He was also one of many loyal customers at Allison's family restaurant that i had the

pleasure to serve and get to know. Thank you Mr Roper. And I will continue to pray for this family during this difficult time. Sending my love as well. Heavens even better. Patti Gallion

—patti gallion

Please accept my sincere condolences. I am so sorry for your loss and will be thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

—James E. Beasley

A friend and brother in Christ Will be greatly missed at Abee's Grove and by his pastor Love to all his family and friends

—Pastor Rudy Hayes

Yoyo was such a precious friend. He was a blessing to talk with about anything. We enjoyed playing pool and going to tournaments with him and his wife .Prayers for all of the family. May God give you comfort. Love, Jimmy and Patsy (Rockingham,N.C.)

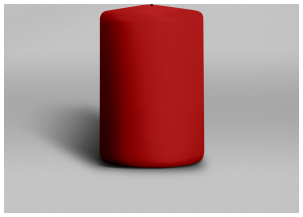
—Patsy and Jimmy Tarlton

Rick was a great friend of mine and in the short time we knew each other we really got close. We played a lot of pool together winning several tournaments together. It seemed we had a bond like brothers. I talked with him several times a week and we shared a lot of things about life. He was truly a one of a kind friend. I'm sorry I won't be able to make the trip for the funeral. I've been praying for the family throughout these hard times and will continue to. I just miss my friend!! Love you bud.

—Doug Carter



So very sorry about the passing of Ricky you are in our



thoughts and prayers love and hugs

—Eddy and Brenda huffman



—Amanda Schnur



Thank you for your friendship. I always enjoyed our long conversations. I will always be thankful of the beautiful extensions you made for my pool cues. I am gonna miss you buddy. Prayers for your family. Rest easy my friend and God speed. Your friend, Lewis Croom

—Lewis Croom



Darlene I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your husband. I've known you and Rick for many years and you both are the sweetest people. You and your family are in my thoughts and in my prayers. Love you friend.

—Vickie Dobson Icard

So sorry for your loss. Rick was unique and so engaging. He loved to share his skill and knowledge. Loved to watch him clear a table of balls. Soon we will stroll over heaven together. Oh precious memories that we have. May God hold you all close and lead you and guide your steps. Charles

—Charles Bobo



Praying for peace and God to comfort all. Rick will be missed.

—Shena

Prayers for the family. Wonderful man great friend. Worked with Rick at the High Rise

—Eddie Rogers

Prayers and thoughts are with your loving family during this difficult time.

—Shannon, Lynn and Titus Dodd



Rick you will be dearly missed. A loving husband to Darlene.., caring dad to Steve and precious pawpaw to Abigail and Steven. A great neighbor and friend to our family. Prayers for all the family.

—Rhonda Ramsey Robinson

Fly high my friend. RIP until we meet again.

—Kirk Overcash

Darlene, I am so very sorry to hear of Rick's passing. My prayers and condolences go to you and your family.

—Shirley Dale

I love you big brother and we'll see each other again someday tell

I love you big brother and we'll see each other again someday tell mom,dad,Ralph and Libby I love them too you all are going to be greatly missed.

—Randy Roper

While I am grateful that his suffering is over, my heart aches for your loss.

Praying for peace, comfort, sweet memories, and joy in knowing you will be reunited! Our love to all!

—Glenda and Dane Truax