



Rickey Gene Franks Sr.

July 9, 1955 - February 14, 2026

Rickey Gene Franks Sr., age 70, of Muscle Shoals, AL, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at NAMC in Florence, AL. Funeral services will be held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville, AL on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, with a viewing from 12:00PM to 2:00PM, funeral at 2:00PM, followed by a private graveside service at Tharptown Cemetery.

Rickey was born on July 9, 1955, in Franklin County, AL to Gene and Jaunita Franks. He was a member of the 1973 graduating class of Russellville High School. On July 21, 1973, he married the love of his life, Karen Murray Franks, and together, they built a family that he was most proud of.

Rickey, known as "Dad" to the IP family, retired from International Paper in 2019, after a 31 year career, where his industrial maintenance and machinist skills were utilized to support the plant in many different ways, but what he treasured the most about his career was the opportunities he had to invest in the future of his coworkers through his teaching role in the industrial maintenance training program. After retiring from International Paper, Rickey worked five additional years in the machine shop at Constellium.

Throughout his life, Rickey built a legacy that will be remembered and shared for generations. He was a proud member and bass singer for the Tharptown

Quartet for several years. Rickey was a true family man, as he never chose a hobby or interest that didn't involve his family. He loved fishing, boating, traveling, singing, riding motorcycles, time on the beach, and watching Alabama sports. One could say that Rickey was a man of many hats, as he has been known as coach, friend, teacher, partner, pit crew, supporter, protector, hype man, peace maker, comedian, mechanic, and the list goes on. Although Rickey filled so many roles throughout his life, the ones that he filled the best, loved the most, and took the most pride in were Christian, Husband, Dad, Pawpaw or Poppa, Son, and Brother.

Rickey had a unique gift of making everyone feel welcome. He could always tell when someone needed a word of encouragement, a joke, or even just a hug, and he was always prepared to provide just that. He had a contagious laugh that would fill any room. He will truly be missed but he will never be forgotten.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 52 years, Karen Franks, children Rickey Franks, Jr.(Heather), Andrew Franks(Chasity) and Olivia Franks; grandchildren Elana Blackburn, Katlyn Little, Sarah Franks, MaeBeth Franks, Olivia Bonenfant, Abryanna Franks, Walker Franks and Remington Cochran; great-grandchildren, Gavin Craig, and Xyla Swafford; parents, Gene and Juanita Franks, sisters, Sheilah Henson, Karen Poss(Tim) and LaJeanna Ray (Tom), brother-in-law, Gerald Murray, and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kristi Franks Blackburn, in-laws, Hubert and Christine Murray, nephew, Blake Prince.

The visitation will be 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Spry Memorial Chapel, Russellville. The service will follow at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel with Bro. Chip Martin officiating at the service. The burial will be at Tharptown Cemetery. The pallbearers will be Tom Ray, Brayden Ray, Shawn Hines, Elvis Tidwell, Justin Wyatt, Jamie Fuller and Scott Robison.

Cemetery Details

Tharptown Cemetery

Hwy 48
Russellville, AL 35653
sprymemorialchapel@yahoo.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Spry Memorial Chapel/ Funeral Home
907 Jackson Ave S
Russellville, AL 35653-2625
(256) 332-1122

Service

FEB 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Spry Memorial Chapel/ Funeral Home
907 Jackson Ave S
Russellville, AL 35653-2625
(256) 332-1122

Tribute Wall



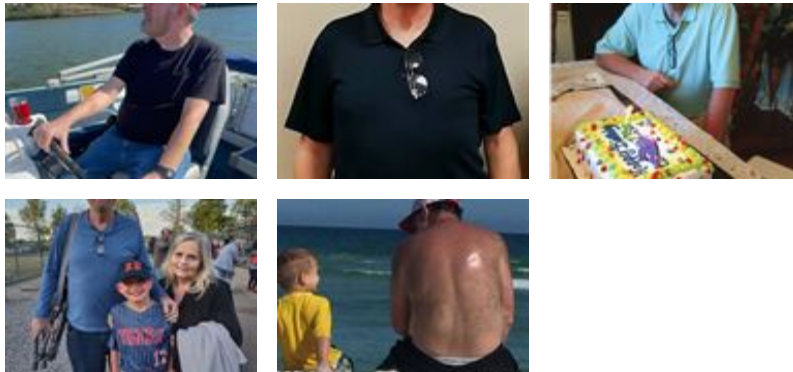
“ *Spry Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Rickey Gene Franks Sr.*



Spry Memorial Chapel - February 19 at 10:28 AM



“ *129 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Spry Memorial Chapel - February 18 at 10:33 AM

CF

“ *Praying for you Karen, Gene and Juanita and all the family of Rickey as you grieve his passing. I rejoice that because of what Jesus did for all of us on the cross, Rickey is with Jesus whom he trusted and served through his years here in this life. God's peace and comfort be with all of you. Charles Frederick*

CHARLES E FREDERICK - February 18 at 02:03 AM

JJ

“ *Condolences to the Franks family. I enjoyed reconnecting with Rickey at our highschool reunion and more recently at a lunch with our classmates. Everyone who knew him will miss him.*

JJ - February 18 at 12:31 AM

PF

“ *So sorry to hear about Ricky prayers for his family*



Patricia franks - February 17 at 06:23 PM

DB

“ *My heart is broken. I will be praying for the family. He was a man that will never be forgotten.*

Devin Britnell - February 17 at 04:26 PM

DK

“ *Donna King lit a candle in memory of Rickey Gene Franks Sr.*



Donna king - February 17 at 01:25 PM

YF

“ *Your Faith Church Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rickey Gene Franks Sr..*



Your Faith Church Family - February 17 at 11:54 AM

WA

“ *Wes & Pam Alford purchased the Divine Light for the family of Rickey Gene Franks Sr..*



Wes & Pam Alford - February 16 at 08:08 PM

WA

“ *Wes & Pam Alford planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rickey Gene Franks Sr..*

Wes & Pam Alford - February 16 at 08:08 PM