



Melvin Ray Richter

December 11, 1937 - November 29, 2017

“The world lost a beautiful soul today, but Heaven gained a great one.” ~
Rhiannon Wilson

Friends and family gather to mourn the loss of a quietly extraordinary man, Melvin Ray Richter (Ray), computing pioneer, businessman, entrepreneur, and man of faith and family.

Born on December 11, 1937, in Thorndale, Texas to first generation German-American immigrants Eddie C. and Alwine Dora Richter, Ray was the youngest of two brothers. Raised by his devout Lutheran family in that small, tight-knit farming community, where he attended St. Paul’s Lutheran Church school, Ray’s childhood years were instilled with the values that would become the hallmark of the rest of his life: faith, family, integrity, dedication, and excellence. “Always do your very best no matter what you do,” he was fond of saying. “It doesn’t matter if you’re a ditch digger, so long as you dig the very best ditches you can.”

At Thrall High School, he maintained academic excellence while participating in every sports team the school sponsored including basketball, football, track, and baseball. And when he was told he was “too short and too slow” to join the varsity football or basketball teams at the University of Texas, Austin, which he attended after Wharton Jr. College, he joined the tennis team

instead. At UT, he met and married Lynda Kay Kemble on October 22, 1960. He was drafted in to the US Army and spent two years stationed at Fort Ord in California until his honorable discharge in 1962. Ray promptly returned to UT, Austin, and graduated in 1963 with a BS in Mathematics, minor in Physics. After college, Ray joined IBM. His first project was to program the mainframe computers for the Gemini and Apollo missions at Mission Control in Houston, Texas.

Ray spent 16 years with IBM before leaving in 1977 to start his own business, Computer Communications Specialists, Inc. (CCS), which initially specialized in providing custom programming for IBM Series/1 minicomputers for the Fortune 1000 and went on to provide Order Entry, Electronic Meter Reading, and Interactive Voice Response Systems sold throughout North America and around the world. Directing his company with the same values he applied to all aspects of his life, Ray grew his business from a one man company with a computer in the bonus room of his house to a multi-national business that employed 130 at its largest. Thanks to Ray's leadership, innovation, and dedication to excellence, CCS was one of the fastest growing privately held companies in America (Inc 500) for three consecutive years, and was recognized as one of Atlanta's premier high tech companies (Fast Tech 50) for numerous years. In 1997, Ray and Lynda sold CCS and retired to RV around North America and spend time with their children, grandchildren, friends and family.

In 2010, Ray was diagnosed with Alzheimers and after fighting the disease for numerous years passed away on November 29 at 2pm, surrounded by loving family.

Ray was a member of Simpsonwood United Methodist church. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law Edwin and Jeanette Richter, Ray's beloved wife of 57 years, Lynda, daughters, Carole Ann Richter, Cheryl Lyn Wilson

(and husband Kevin Wilson), and Lisa Diane Richter, son Scott Alan Richter (and spouse Nabil Mousa), five grandchildren (Kayla Alexandra Dickens, Samantha Robbins, I Leah Nicole Wilson, Rhiannon Danielle Wilson, and Aidan Michael Wilson), and two great grandchildren, Sterling Elizabeth and Sabin Todd Dickens.

Services will be held in El Campo, Texas at Christ Lutheran Church, 1401 Avenue I, El Campo, TX 77437 on Saturday, December 9, at 2:30pm, officiated by Pastor Wayne Clement, with burial immediately following at the Garden of Memories Cemetery in El Campo.

Pallbearers will be Larry Janik, Jason Janik, Jason Conrad, Seth Kelley, Cameron Conrad, and Hunter Janik, all of El Campo.

For those who prefer to honor Ray's memory with a donation in lieu of flowers, the family asks that Donations be made in Ray's honor to:

Cure Alzheimer's Fund
34 Washington Street
Suite 200
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
tel: (781) 237-3800
fax: (781) 658-2399
EIN: 52-2396428

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

Cemetery Details

Garden of Memories

US Business 59 and CR 358
El Campo, TX 77437

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 2:30 PM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church
1401 Ave I
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall



“ *Just ran across this obituary. I was saddened to read this. Best wishes from Warren W Davis. We moved from Atlanta to Houston when son started career at MD Anderson hospital.*

Warren Davis - March 09, 2019 at 02:12 PM