



Richard Dean Sexton

December 15, 2019

Richard Dean Sexton, 49, died on December 15, 2019 in Ohio. His family lived in Florida and he was a native of Alabama. He worked with the United States Postal Service and the Gas Company. He loved to fish, camp and hike State Parks; he was an avid outdoorsman. He also volunteered with Special Olympics and with the Fire Department.

Survivors include his mother Patricia Rader, brother Darin Ezell and wife Alison, sister Amanda Rader, daughter Gretchen Myers, 3 grandchildren Matthew, Gabriel & McKenzie, many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends.

A Celebration of his Life will be Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm in Harvey Young Chapel at Family Funeral Home 3106 Crawfordville Hwy. The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 pm.

Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services at Harvey Young Chapel is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends

JAN 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Family Funeral Home-Harvey Young Chapel
3106 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
paula@familyfhc.com

Celebration of Life

JAN 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Family Funeral Home-Harvey Young Chapel
3106 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
paula@familyfhc.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Young Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Dean Sexton*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - January 16, 2020 at 12:13 PM

LP

What a beautiful tribute! Darla, I am so sorry. I never had the pleasure of meeting him but I know he must have been a good man. May he Soar with the Angels!


*Lynn & Paul Pulaski
Pine Level, NC*

Lynn Pulaski - January 17, 2020 at 02:54 PM

DW

I so wish I could be at his service on Saturday. My heart is truly broken that you are gone Richard Sexton...you were one of the good guys with a heart of gold and a loving soul. Rest easy buddy...you have deserved it.

Deborah Willis - January 17, 2020 at 08:00 PM

 Darla
Ostrum


“ It has been a month since your 2024 Spirit Day, my Sweet Southern Soulman. I didn't forget that but didn't have time to visit your memory site. So here I am today, loving you everyday.

TODAY

*The frosty, sugar coated blades of grass
Shimmer like diamonds in the morning sun.
The bird songs fill the air with cheery greetings
And the songsters flit and dart from limb to limb.
If you listen closely, you might hear a rooster
Or a dog declaring they are up and ready to go
Or the lowing of a cow reminding her calf not to stray.
Sounds of cars and trucks and buses interrupt the morning reverie,
too,
As they hurry back and forth, from place to place,
Intent on getting to where they are supposed to be.
Wish you were here to listen to the early morning sounds
And see the early morning sights with me.
But you aren't, so I'll continue on in this day alone
And experience whatever the day chooses to bring,
Thinking of you, missing you, loving you always.*

Darla Ostrum

Darla Ostrum - May 11, 2024 at 11:53 AM

 Darla
Ostrum

“ You have been gone four years today. I dreaded the coming of this day as I have every year since you left, my Sweet Southern Soulman. I miss you. I love you.

ANOTHER GOODBYE GONE

*Another goodbye
Another time remembered
Another whispered wish*

*I never wanted goodbyes for us.
Although I knew nothing is forever
I still hoped that we could be.*

*The short time we had together
Made memories that we'd never had before
And remembering them keeps you close.*

*I had wished our lives would continue
In learning about each other and
Coming to love our shared time.*

*But the wishes fell on deafened ears
Before we made it through another December
And I had no more goodbyes from you*

*RDS
12/12/2023*

Darla Ostrum, 12/15/2023

Darla Ostrum - December 15, 2023 at 12:13 AM

DS

“ Happy Fourth Spirit Day, Richard. It was a sunny, warm, breezy day today. There was a fire ban so you wouldn't have been able to have a bonfire, but you would have enjoyed the day anyway. We would have enjoyed it more if you had been with us. we love you, Sweet Southern Soulman.

STANDING TALL

*He's still standing taller than all the others,
Watching, guarding, taking the brunt
Of the winds that buffet him,
Of the snow when it beats down relentlessly,
Of the rains that come in buckets
While he waits for whatever lightening strikes might be lurking.*

*He protects the smaller ones,
The young ones and the elders.
He provides shelter to the fearful,
The lost, the throwaways, the babies.
He wraps everyone in his warmth and shade
But does not know the good he's done*

*Darla Ostrum
04/11/2023*

Darla strum - April 11, 2023 at 11:42 PM

DO

“ In a few minutes, it will have been 3 years since you went to sleep for the last time on 12/15/2019. This year your Aunt Sue (Nancy Davis) died unexpectedly. And, just this morning, your little goat friend, Tulip died unexpectedly, and is buried under the apple tree where you picked apples. Bella, Red, Zoey and I are still here missing you, loving you, our Sweet Southern Soulman.

YOU WERE

*You used to curse the too early
Songs of the birds,
Then lay a moment longer in my arms
To listen to their music.*

*Some days I think you were just a dream;
Someone who I found in my heart
Where no one else could see;
Where only you could touch.*

*Yet there you were, in the kitchen, by the stove
Making tea for me,
Waiting with a good morning kiss
And a "glad I found you" hug.*

*Some days all the pain you left me
Is all the feeling I can find.
Some days the loneliness can't be erased
By the sweetness of your smiling face.*

*But, I know you were here.
I know you were real.
I know you wanted to be home.
I know I love you still.*

RDS

09/08/2022

*Darla Ostrum
12/15/2022*

Darla Ostrum - December 15, 2022 at 12:07 AM

DO

“ *It has been only two short years since your last breath but it has been 731 days of sadness and missing you. your Yankee Gal loved you then. I love you now. I always will, my Sweet Southern Soulman.*

BROKEN PIECES

*Did you enjoy the music of the chimes
And how gentle a breeze was needed to make them sing?
I know that you loved the sun
For the warmth it would bring.
Did you like the chatter of the squirrels
As they announced and scolded anything in their paths?
i know that on the hottest of days,
You sought the shade that the tall pines gave.
Did the songs of the birds and the flutter of their wings
Fill your solitude and bring you peace?
I know that the smile that came to your face
Was more than grimace or crease.
Did you know love is this thing that lives in the air
That now and again comes crashing down
Leaving unsuspecting hearts full or broken?
i know you did because i saw it in your eyes.
Heard it in your tears,
And, felt it in the pieces that you left mine in.*

*RDS
02/10/2021*

Darla Ostrum - December 15, 2021 at 08:45 AM

DO

“ Three hundred and sixty six days with you gone. A lifetime to try to live without you.

THE WINDS

*The winds howled
And rattled the panes,
Came to steal my memories
And carry you away.*

*The winds howled
And kept me sleepless
Trying to remember your smile
And the sound of your breathing.*

*The winds howled
And tore at the tree limbs
Just as your leaving
Tore at my heart.*

*The winds howled
Through the valley
Telling me that there would be
No more tomorrow with you.*

*The winds howled
And howled and howled
Carrying away with them
The sound of my breaking heart.*

*RDS
12/13/2020*

Darla Ostrum - December 15, 2020 at 12:35 PM

DO

“ I've tried to remember every little thing that i could in these last eleven months. I wish i didn't have just memories. I wish I still had you.

MEMORY BYTES

*The smile that gave you dimples.
The whisker scruff that tickled my cheeks
And other responsive places.
The brown of your eyes that held such secrets.
Your long fingers entwined in mine on the console
While touring down the highway or
Bumping over country roads,
Stopping to capture images too beautiful to miss.
Listening to the waters' songs
Blocking out all other sounds but our breathing.
Parking by The Rocks so you could smoke.
Grabbing iced tea and Dr.Pepper from
The drive through when we could and
Your favorite sausage egg biscuit with strawberry jam.
Sitting in the safety of your arms.
Lying in the warmth of your body
Resting from the pleasures that we shared.
Listening to the wind singing in the tree tops
Never reaching down to us,
Just moving the colors around in whorls.
Planning together, working together.
Dreaming each our own dreams.
Wasting precious moments that
Could have made more memories
Because we didn't know that
Our future memories were being stolen.*

RDS

10/21/2020

Darla Ostrum - November 15, 2020 at 10:36 PM

DO

“ My Sweet Southern Soulman, you would think that ten months would make it easier to be without you but they have not. I still miss you. I still love you.

THE TEARS

*I remember the tears
That overflowed your beautiful eyes
When an Undercover Boss
Rewarded deserving folks;
When you had to choose
Between a little boy
And a world your had come to love:
When you could not understand
Why life took the turns it did;
Why loving never seemed
To be enough to ease the pain;
When all you had worked so hard for
Was once again taken away;
When your hopes to be a better man
Were thrown in your face
And torn from your grasp;
When you tried to walk away
From the toxic murk of wrong choices
Knowing you would be sucked in again.
But, I didn't see your last tears fall,
Only read them in your words
Which made mine overflow
When yours no longer could.*

RDS

03/08/2020

Darla Ostrum - October 15, 2020 at 09:39 PM

DO

“ *Nine months is long enough to grow a human but too long to be without one who is grown but gone away. We love you, Richard Sexton just as we did all those months ago when you loved us too.*

HOWS AND WHYS

*How do you describe a man of so many contrasts?
How do you reconcile the beautiful little boy,
Who endured things no child should have to know,
With the loving man he was?*

*How can you not understand
The acts of a needy soul
Who hangs out with the crowd
Which leads him to places
Where he never should have been?*

*How do you fathom a boy/man,
Imprisoned for half his life,
Who still respects and honors
All first responders and military?*

*How can you watch a man explode
In unexpected anger only to see him
Berate himself for having done so,
And not know that this is a tortured soul?*

*Why wouldn't a man,
Who has freely given his heart
So many times to others,
Who have used him, then thrown him away,
Believe he cannot be loved?*

*Why would a man, who had so much
To offer the world,
Be stolen from it*

Without warning nor explanation?

*It is heart wrenching that
Such a gentle spirit
Should have to die alone.
It is unacceptable that
He is no longer here.*

*RDS
02/26/2020*

Darla Ostrum - September 15, 2020 at 10:13 PM

DO

“ August 15, 2020

GOOD MORNING, MY LOVE

*What a beautiful summer morning.
The temperature is cool enough
For one more cuddle.
The sun is just peaking over the hill.
The mist lifts softly from the dewy grass.*

But you aren't here to see it.

*The woodpecker is tapping out his tune
And the mourning dove's sad call is everywhere.
The squirrel is vigorously scolding someone.
Faint rooster crows, dog barks, and cow moos
Float in through the window.*

But you aren't here to listen.

*I can't share the wonders of morning with you anymore.
I don't need to make your pot of coffee anymore.
There's no cup of tea waiting for me.
Red's not rolling in the grass at your feet anymore
Nor Bella circling your legs with purrs.*

Because you aren't here with us.

*RDS
08/01/2020*

Darla Ostrum - August 15, 2020 at 12:27 AM

DO

“ July 15, 2020

Today is my little sister's birthday but it is also the seventh 15th of a month without you. I wish you were here to celebrate my sister, love your Yankee Gal again, and continue our life together. Darla Ostrum

FOR YOU AND ME

*You wondered at the greens
In so many hues and shades
On shadows, leaves, and blades
From stark grays to vivid reds and orange,
As did I.*

*You marveled at the strength and beauty,
Confidence, calm, and grace
Of the golden Belgians in their traces,
Pulling plows, wagons, and rakes,
As did I.*

*You were energized by the music
And power and infinity of tumbling waters
Over rocky streams and towering cliffs
Or sandy shores and piers,
As was I.*

*You were intrigued by places never seen before,
By creatures who have been long gone,
By objects wrought by the Original People who came before us
Leaving mystery and beauty behind,
As was I.*

*You relished the mud and thunder
Of bogs and boggers and trucks and tires.
You reveled in the skills needed to keep them all on course,
But, not me.*

*You treasured the young and helpless
And taught them skills that no one else could.
You forbore others because they bound you to them,
But, not me.*

*You made your social club from bars and booze by bonfires
Or weed and the peace it brought you
When it let you see more clearly.
But, not me.*

*You walked away from the love and home
That you had come to know and value
For a life more like the one you'd always known.
But, not me.*

*We shared too short a lime alone together
To cement a life of lasting oneness,
That could have been forever
For you and me.*

*RDS
05/21/2020*

Darla Ostrum - July 15, 2020 at 03:44 PM

DO

“ 06/06/2020

Four Years ago you left Florida for New York State. Six months ago you left this life. I loved you then. I love you now. I always will.

I REMEMBER

*Sitting in the shine of the moon,
Bright and cold and fleeting,
I am warmed by the thought
That you once held me in your arms,
Your smile just as bright
As the light that glowed around you.*

*I remember fingers interlaced
And fingertips tracing cheekbones
To the corner of the lips
That kissed away the day
With the promise of a night
To be filled with loving touches.*

*I remember the sunshine,
Sneaking through the upturned
Slats of the window shades,
Over our rumbled bed where
We had listened through the night
To the changing rhythms of our heartbeats.*

*I remember the good morning kiss
And watching the muscles
Of your back as you stretched
The nighttime out of them,
Then covered your tattoos
With clothes to start your day.*

I remember making your coffee

*So you could ease into the day
With reflections and plans
Swirling in your head,
Calmed now and under control
As you hug me to your heart.*

*But, I cannot remember your walk
Nor the many things that angered you
And stole your calm away.
Nor the "why" that made you decide
That you should go, leaving me behind
With only these few memories.*

*RDS
03/07/2020*

Darla Ostrum - June 15, 2020 at 09:49 PM

DO

“ May 15th, 2020. Four years ago this week you were settling into your new home. Five months ago, you died alone in a place far from this home. I wish you had come back.

SQUANDERED WISHES

I wish I had paid more attention.

I wish I had noticed if there were flecks of gold in your eyes.

I wish I knew the scent of your skin.

I wish I had held your hand more often.

I wish I knew which demon was your worst.

I wish I had seen me through your eyes.

I wish I had glimpsed more of your happy past.

I wish I knew which was your favorite game.

I wish we had washed each other's back.

I wish we had lingered longer in our morning embrace.

I wish I had a reason to brew a pot of coffee.

I wish I had known how to keep you.

I wish I had talked a few more minutes with you.

I wish I had insisted that you keep your promise.

I wish I had known that we would have no time left for wishes

Darla Ostrum

Darla Ostrum - May 15, 2020 at 04:17 PM

DO

“ April 15, 2020, four months without you. You are loved and missed by so many.

WITHOUT

*My tears will freeze
On my cold, ruby cheeks
As the snow falls softly
On another day without you.*

*The pretty flakes hide
The paths where we walked,
Hand in hand,
Daydream to daydream.*

*The streams, whose music
Filled our space,
Are icy rivulets
Trickling on without us.*


*The sky, now blue and bright,
Now gray and dark,
Can't decide which way
It should be without you watching.*

*The trees that shaded us
And sang sweet wind songs,
Now creak and groan
From the loss of our joy.*

*The world we shared
Is such a cold and lonely place,
Such a sad and dreary place
Without you in it with me.*

Darla Ostrum

Darla Ostrum - April 15, 2020 at 01:58 AM

 Darla
Ostrum

“ *Happy Birthday, my love. You were supposed to be the guest of honor for your 50th surprise birthday today but you couldn't make it.*



Darla Ostrum - April 11, 2020 at 01:02 AM

DO

“ Three months are gone and so are you.

AMAZING YOU

*You lingered under blue skies
And lit up the dark with bonfires.*

*You held dragonflies on your fingers
And beautiful fish in your strong hands.*

*You wished the dragonflies safe passage
And released the fish back to their watery homes.*

*You rescued baby snakes from brush piles
And wondered if their mother was worried about them.*

*You loved a little boy and taught him
To ride a bike and to excel where he had not before.*

*You bestowed a home and a name
On your precious Bella and Patch.*

*You gentled the fierceness of your devoted Red;
Calmed the zealous Zoey; and cherished your adoring Buddy.*

*You held Indian artifacts with reverence
And marveled at the majesty and beauty of flowing waters.*

*You floated on the Allegany; contemplated on the Genesee;
And walked the falls of Wiscoy Creek.*

*You learned with ease what you did not know before
And shared your knowledge with whoever needed it.*

*You took a lonely woman
And made her whole again.*

*Thank you, my Sweet Southern Soulman,
For being in our world for as long as you could.*

Darla Ostrum

Darla Ostrum - March 15, 2020 at 10:17 PM

“ You have been gone two months now, my love. It seems like an eternity and a blink of time.

DIAMONDS IN THE SNOW

*Did you know
Those would be
Your last words to me?
Were they your
Last words to anyone?*

*Did you realize that
You had drunk
Your last cup of
Not too hot morning coffee,
Sweetened just right?*

*Did you soak in the warmth
Of the first rays of morning sun
Or was it still wet and cold
Like the walk you'd made
On the day before?*

*Were you holding
Your fur babies on your lap?
Did they feel your love
Through that gentle touch
Until you were no more?*

*Did you think about
My kisses on your skin
Or my soothing fingers
On the sore spots
From the work of your day?*

Did you have any idea

*How lost I would be
Without you?
Or, that loving you
Was all of me?*

*Did you plan
To leave because it was
Too hard to stay?
Or, did it seem like
You had failed again?*

*Didn't you know
That I would wait
For you forever?
Did it matter that
I love you unconditionally?*

*Did you think
Being gone was easier
Than being here?
That the emptiness
Was all you were entitled to?*

*How could you have spent
So many years in sadness
Then leave the true love
Just to die?
Or, didn't you know?*

*Did it matter
That you would not
Be sharing the moon's shine
Beside me or that you would
Miss the diamonds in the snow?*

DO

“ *This page will be available forever for Richard's family and friends to return to visit and perhaps share a new memory from time to time. Thank you for not forgetting him.*

Darla Ostrum - January 22, 2020 at 05:19 PM

DO

“ UNCONDITIONAL

*To love somebody
Unconditionally,
You need to see the wonder
Of the first day, everyday.
You need to look beyond,
Between, beneath the prickly shield
To find the tender parts
That captured your heart.
You need to wait out the hurting times
Till the touch of forgiveness wins out.
Besting the rocky paths, the uphill climbs,
Will let you coast down the other side
When you let your patience win
Over your urge to react.
The extra breath you take
To keep you grounded and sane,
Will breathe life into the dream
You still want to believe.
If you can keep your hand outreached
to catch your falling star,
You will have shown the one
You chose to build your life around,
Your unconditional love.*

RDS

01/11/2020

*I loved you then. I love you now. I always will.
Your Darla*

Darla Ostrum - January 22, 2020 at 01:03 PM

CF

“ RIP Sweet Richard for you earthly journey is over you life ended way too soon, but just know how proud I am of you for taking what was dealt to you in life and turning it all into something so wonderful in life for yourself you have left wonderful memories for all who knew you, you'll truly be greatly miss
Love, Aunt Cathy

cathy Fleming - January 15, 2020 at 09:27 AM

DA

“ To my brother in heaven.I love you with all my heart.When you said you moving back to Florida we made plans to go fishing, drink beer by bonfires and have cookouts,and spending time together. But God had bigger plans for you.I know you are at peace now.No more pain or suffering.But it's hard to see you go when you left you took a part of my heart with you.I know that you are with God now and he is taking care of you.I will always love and miss you. Until we meet again
R.I.P My dear brother.



Darin - January 13, 2020 at 06:26 PM

HM

“ My dearest Richard words can not express how much you will be missed. From the first time I meet you in 1989 you had my heart. I am so thankful that you where in my life you gave me a beautiful daughter, and she is missing you dearly. You where a beautiful old soul. And no matter where you went people always wanted to be around you.. I hope you will rest easy and watch over Gretchen. My thoughts and prayers are with your Mom sister and brother at this time.

Hope myers - January 12, 2020 at 08:55 PM

HM

“ *Hope Myers lit a candle in memory of Richard Dean Sexton*



Hope myers - January 12, 2020 at 08:47 PM

LK

“ *LOUISE KRUEGER lit a candle in memory of Richard Dean Sexton*



LOUISE KRUEGER - January 10, 2020 at 09:32 PM

PW

“ The memory that comes to mind for me and my husband is when Richard was younger he grew up in Lake Worth Florida here where we are Richard and my brother-in-law Tim were locked up together in a juvenile detention center they were in masonry and constructed a wall of center block close to a fence and proceeded to climb the wall like a ladder and jump the fence They Escaped the place they I think they hit Kentucky fried chicken before they came to my house it was kind of a joke to them for they knew they would get caught they came right to the house to get them they knew right where to look but still the joke was on them for they allowed the inmates these young fellows to build the wall next to the fence the provided their way out we laughed and laughed and joke and joke about it all the time I'll never forget it So he did straighten up and flew right very happy for the man he became was a privilege to have known him my condolences to the family Darin his brother His His beautiful daughter Gretchen he will be Sorely missed my heart aches for you Rest In Peace My dear friend you are in good company until we meet again



Penny Griggs Wade - January 10, 2020 at 08:56 PM

PE

Also would like to mention his grandchildren niece and nefew his mom and sister and dear auntBigLove Penny and Larry Wade

PennyGriggsWade - January 11, 2020 at 12:52 AM

PE

Also Darins wonderful wifeEnid

PennyGriggsWade - January 11, 2020 at 12:57 AM

TO

“ *Richard, the last time I saw you we shared memories of our early adulthood. We laughed, reminisced and reminded each other of memories forgotten. One thing I'll never forget is how impressed I was with you the last time we interacted. You demonstrated you were level headed and objective about issues relevant to everyday life. I enjoyed my time with you as we did what cousins do. We had fun together and at other's expense. Memories we created due to our pursuit to enjoy life, yet slow down when we recognized we were taking things to far. You left us to soon cousin. You unknowingly impacted people you encountered, and had more to accomplish. But it's your little part in my life that defines a lot of my past. Now that you're no longer with us, I hope others realize the positive effects you continue to have on them. I love you cuz.*




Toby - January 10, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ *David Burgess lit a candle in memory of Richard Dean Sexton*



David Burgess - January 10, 2020 at 01:58 PM

 Darla
Ostrum

“ *My Sweet Southern Soulman, you came into my life unexpectedly such a few short years ago but you made those minutes the happiest I have ever known. You never hesitated to join me in places you never thought you would see. But you left before we could see all the places we planned. You enriched the lives of the people we met together and those you just happened upon. You managed to cram in volunteer time with so many groups and people. I was so proud to be the lady by your side. You could do almost everything from fixing and maintaining cars to carpentry to cooking to building bon fires to photographing people and creatures and places because you never forgot anything that you had learned along your journey and absorbed everything around you. I have a thousand memories but they are thousands too few. I would give anything if you could continue this journey of love with me. But if I cannot have my dreams and hopes with you, then I will share the ones I have with folks who did not know you. I'll start with this photo that you took of sunset over the Genesee River Gorge of Letchworth State Park from your favorite smoke break spot on Hogsback Overlook. I loved you then. I love you now. I always will.*
Your Yankee Gal, Darla Ostrum



Darla Ostrum - January 10, 2020 at 12:35 PM



Darla, You and Richard became one of my Team at Special Olympics New York. Always there and ready to do whatever was asked of you. He will surely be missed, and will always be remembered for his kindhearted spirit and willingness to help others.

God Bless

*David Burgess
Director of Volunteer Emergency Services
Special Olympics New York*

*"Let me win, but if I can not win; Let me be brave in the attempt"
Athletes Oath - Special Olympics International*

David Burgess - January 10, 2020 at 01:57 PM

DO

Thank you, David. Of all the things that we did together, I think he loved the emergency services team for SONY the best. He loved learning so many new skills and was blown away by the people he encountered. I'm so glad he had the chance for that experience

darla ostrum - January 10, 2020 at 02:23 PM

LK

MY dear friend, you will be missed by many your smile and love for life inspired many to keep the faith and not give up but be the best you could be. Your were real no phony baloney about you. and such a great friend I was so proud of all you accomplished after leaving Florida, as I once told you that you could accomplish what you set your mind to and with a good woman by your side it would not take you long to get it done. I am so happy Darla was in your life and wish you had made it back home to her. We will meet again my sweet friend.

LOUISE KRUEGER - January 10, 2020 at 09:31 PM

DO

He loved you ,respected you, and was so grateful for your friendship, Louise. I think leaving you behind was the hardest part of coming to NYS. It was in our unfinished plans to include you in a visit to Florida. I had looked forward to that. I'm sorry the circumstances of his visit there last summer didn't allow him the chance to see you. His time was not his own.

Darla Ostrum - January 10, 2020 at 10:38 PM