



Richard DeLong

February 28, 1963 - May 13, 2020

Richard L. DeLong

February 28, 1963 – May 13, 2020

Richard DeLong passed away at his resident on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Mr. DeLong was a retired educator who loved history and taught hundreds of students thought out the years at Central High School in Carrollton, Georgia. He was a 1981 graduate of Central High school and earned three degrees from the University of West Georgia.

In addition to his love of history he dedicated his life to shape note (Sacred Harp) music a traditional form of congregational and social singing dating back to 18th century England. Mr. DeLong taught singing schools across the nation and internationally to promote the tradition of the art form. In 2004, he sang with a group featured on the soundtrack of Cold Mountain and performed at the Oscars later that year. He also performed his craft in the 2012 production of Lawless.

Mr. DeLong was primitive Baptist by faith and a member of the Carrollton Lodge F@M #69.

He is preceded in death by his father Harold DeLong , his paternal grandparents Albert and Dollie DeLong, maternal grandparents Lucille Thomas and Alfred Thackston. He is survived by his mother, Janette DeLong and bother Larry Joe (Shannon Cox) DeLong. Aunt and Uncles: Faye Gaydon

and Jerry Fields; Peggy and Verl Walter; Billy and Becky Thackston; Randy and Robin Thackston. Cousins: Tina and Stacey Cantrell; Thomas Gaydon; Howard and Drena Gaydon; Connie Nash and Joe Walter and other extended family members.

A graveside service will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at Holly Springs Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Bremen GA with Elder Jesse Roberts officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, C/O Janice Paulk, 626 Stinson St., Centre, AL 35960.

Cemetery Details

Holly Springs Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery

Bremen, GA

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 17. 3:00 PM (ET)

Holly Springs Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery
Bremen, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard DeLong*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Wall*



Laura Akerman - June 24, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss, with love may God surround you and hold you tight. Your memories will be everlasting for a wonderful son. Lots of Love and encouragement to get your through these times. With Love, Diane and LuAnn*

Diane Whitaker - May 25, 2020 at 05:26 AM



“ *I loved Richard for as long as I can remember. He taught me how to sing Sacred Harp when I was a little girl. You could here his voice carry through the singing in a way that only he will be remembered. He embodied what it meant to be a shape note singer. I always considered it a privilege if I was able to sit next to him and sing at a convention. My love and prayers are with all of his family whom I love so much.*



Hannah Pruitt - May 22, 2020 at 06:07 AM



“ *My daughter had him in high school so that's how I knew him. I'm so sorry.*



Kay Driver - May 18, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ *I went to school with Richard but had not seen him in years. My memories are of cutting up and laughing together. He was kind, sweet, and good-hearted with a great sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are with all his loved ones. RIP Richard.*



Duana Williford - May 18, 2020 at 12:21 AM



“ *I last saw Richard at the Shoal Creek Singing last Labor Day. Since he and I both taught history, we had a delightful conversation over dinner-on-the-grounds about our twin passions for history and Sacred Harp. He was a delightful person, easy to get to know, but also a deeply passionate person; no one who was ever present for one of his memorial lessons will ever forget the raw emotion pouring out of him as he remembered his forebears and what they meant to him and the tradition. He was a great ambassador for Sacred Harp, and was beloved by singers throughout the world. His memory will be blessed.*

David L Carlton - May 17, 2020 at 03:01 PM

MR

“ Richard taught me so much. I will forever be grateful for the guidance and encouragement he showed me during my days as a student teacher. I was so very lucky to learn from the best. I will always cherish the lessons he taught me on how to become a great educator.

Matt Rountree - May 17, 2020 at 11:45 AM

JH

“ Great man. Great teacher. Great humor. I remember the stories about growing up in Whitesburg. Sharing memories. He will be missed.



Jamie Hill - May 17, 2020 at 02:19 AM

TJ

“ Richard I send you a yellow rock & a Yankee dime. He & my family use to square dance together & we clogged a little his favorite dance was " The Salty Dog Rag". He was an awesome teacher & he loved his students, I loved to substitute teach for him at Central High School of Carrollton, GA.
Family you all will be in our prayers.
Love you Richard rest in peace, my sweet friend.

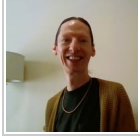


Tippett Hancock Jackson - May 16, 2020 at 09:50 PM

JS

“ I feel proud to have met Richard and to have learnt from him. Jacqui Selby UK.

Jacqueline Selby-MacLeod - May 16, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ Rick and I are first cousins, but I consider him family in more ways than one. I'm sad we couldn't share more experiences together than we did and thankful for the experiences we did share together. I can still find reason to smile when I think of Rick. I like to think our differences make us stronger and that Rick has moved on to a better world. I send my love to all my family who are all in my thoughts at this time.

Joe Walter - May 16, 2020 at 05:46 PM

RT

An interview Rick gave on June 28, 2010. about three or four minutes long offers a glimpse into his passion and the historical background for Sacred Harp Music on Utube, recorded at the Alpharetta June Singing. Another wonderful publication I recommend is "Awake My Soul: the story of the Sacred Harp". At four years old, Rick lead "Sweet Rivers" at a singing with his family, unbelievable talent and the guidance of his loving grandmother. He will be missed by so many from all walks of life, by his family, and members of the Sacred Harp community across the globe. I can't think of a better way to give that will continue for generations because of passionate people like Rick DeLong. Loved by our family, admired and respected by many others.

Robin and Randy Thackston - May 21, 2020 at 10:55 PM

WK

“ Richard holds a very special place in my heart. He truly sang with the spirit and with the understanding also. I learned so many things about Sacred Harp singing from him it would take too many words to describe them all but I can say that when he led, you always knew exactly what he wanted, and when he keyed, the pitch was always just right. It's difficult to deal with the fact that I will no longer see his smiling face and hear his resounding voice the next time I head to west Georgia, but I'm comforted to know that he has joined his friends and loved ones who have crossed the river Jordan before him. Just imagine the sound coming from that heavenly hollow square! Richard truly made a joyful noise unto the Lord and I'm so blessed to have known and loved him. I know that all of us who loved him, especially his dear family, feel a gulf of emptiness today but his memory will remain with us forever. I truly believe Richard is enjoying the peace (and joy) that surpasseth all understanding and hope that I'll be blessed to sing and rejoice with him in that land of pure delight.

Wade Kotter, South Ogden, UT

Wade Kotter - May 16, 2020 at 04:05 PM

DA

“Richard was unfailingly generous with his time, talents, and knowledge of Sacred Harp. It is impossible to know the thousands of singers whose lives were touched by Richard and the tens of thousands of miles he traveled to support singings. He could always be counted on to teach a singing school, key a song, or encourage new singers by sharing the love for this music that he held deep in his heart and soul. He was a true Singing Master whose influence will be felt for generations.

When my daughter was born, he gave her a copy of the Sacred Harp with this inscription: "From this book, may you discover the joy singing can bring you when you're happy -- and the comfort it can shelter you with when you're sad. May you be richly blessed with talent. Love, Richard DeLong."

Indeed, Richard was richly blessed with talent, and the singing community is richly blessed for his having shared it. Thank you, dear Richard.

Doug Allison - May 16, 2020 at 04:00 PM

PB

“Richard was one of my favorite people when I taught at Central. He was a competent teacher, a kind soul, and just an all-round nice person. The world is not a better place without Richard. RIP, Richard. I'll miss you.
Penny Bradley

Penny Bradley - May 16, 2020 at 03:21 PM

JR

“ I sang with Richard for 53 years. I remember when he was called "Rick," The first song I saw him lead was when he was about 4 years old; it was "Sweet Rivers." My favorite time ever watching him lead was his perfect rendering of "Sermon on The Mount" a few years ago.

He was the younger brother that I always wanted, the pride of Sister Dolly Hudgins and his great-uncle Jack Corley, and the apprentice of Hazel Cagle.

He taught the first singing school my spouse and three daughters attended; he also taught a singing school my oldest grandson attended. Three generations of my family were touched by him. I look forward to rejoining him at God's appointed time and singing with him for all eternity.

Jesse M. Roberts, Jr.

Jesse Roberts - May 16, 2020 at 02:02 PM

JF

“ Richard was one of the Southern singers who came to our first Illinois Sacred Harp Convention and showed us what the tradition was all about. He continued to be instrumental in our learning and came to St. Louis to teach a singing school. We had so much to learn and he was so willing to teach! He was a presence in the Sacred Harp world and will be missed immensely.

-Janet Fraembs; Charleston, Illinois

Janet Fraembs - May 16, 2020 at 12:16 PM

CC

“ *Mr. DeLong was a favorite teacher of both of my children. He treated his students with respect and as the soon to be adults they were. He was a bright light that the world sorely needs now and will surely miss.*



Cynthia Cox - May 16, 2020 at 11:24 AM

JR

“ *Richard was a heavy lifter and his shoes will be hard to fill.*
John Redman
Grafton, NH

John Redman - May 16, 2020 at 08:38 AM

NC

“ *Rich was my 11th grade history teacher. More importantly, he provided me with the foundation of how to be a mentor. He was like a father figure to me. He has helped me through so many problems that I could have never repay him fully for the advice and guidance he voluntarily gave me. I owe my success to him and will never forget the best teacher I ever had, best mentor I ever had, best guider I ever had... I will deeply miss him.*

Nick Carnes

Nick Carnes - May 16, 2020 at 05:57 AM

Bill
Lewis

A beautiful tribute Nick

Bill Lewis - May 16, 2020 at 08:16 AM

RO

“ I am a Sacred Harp singer living in England and the historian of the Mount Zion Memorial Singing, which takes place in Mountt Zion, Carroll County, Georgia. Richard was Chairman of this singing from July 2017 to the date of his death. He served as Vice Chairman for a number of years during the 1980s and 1990s and was often a member of the Memorial Committee. Richard helped me so very much with answers to my many questions about Mount Zion singers of the past as well as my requests for advice about how to sing and lead various songs. I am grateful to have known him and to have had the chance to sing with him. He is now surely singing in heaven with his grandparents, Hugh McGraw, Charlene Wallace, Buford McGraw, Earlis McGraw and all those singers who he knew and sang with who passed on before. With love and prayers to his family and friends from Rebecca Over.

Rebecca Over - May 16, 2020 at 05:35 AM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album Richard



Andy Morse - May 15, 2020 at 11:20 PM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Andy Morse - May 15, 2020 at 11:15 PM

SC

“ I dearly loved Richard. He and I was dear friends. And yes he loved Sacred Harp and the sacred harp singers will dearly miss him. He was loved by everyone he came into contact with. Prayers and thoughts.

Syd Caldwell - May 15, 2020 at 09:33 PM

PC

“ I thought the world of Richard, such a sweet man. My heart goes out to the family and pray that God gives them the strength to get through this. RIP Richard, you will not be forgotten!

Priscilla Carnes

Priscilla Carnes - May 15, 2020 at 09:21 PM

NM

“ I taught with Richard at Central High School, and enjoyed being colleagues; his love for Sacred Harp music was often the topic of our conversations, since my family has roots in that as well. His passing is such a loss to his community. May God surround his precious mother and extended family during this difficult time.

Nancy Chapman Monroe - May 15, 2020 at 08:43 PM

KA

“ I am a Sacred Harp singer who has known Richard for 40 years. He was a talented singer, a gifted teacher, and a wonderful friend. I will always remember the good times with Richard, his sense of humor, his love of Sacred Harp and of teaching. My sense of loss at his death is indescribable. I pray he is at peace at long last.

KathyWilliams - May 15, 2020 at 07:27 PM

VD

I have been a friend and sang sacred harp with Richard for 45 years. He was special . loved him so much. Rest in peace at long last.

Virginia Dyer - May 15, 2020 at 09:19 PM

GH

“ *I'm a Central High class of 1990 graduate. I was one of Mr. DeLong's class clowns. I'm 47 now but I remember how much I loved his class even if I did stay in trouble all year. He was a well respected teacher and I was lucky to have been taught by him. My prayers go out to your family!*
Gwynne (Little) Horsley

Gwynne Horsley - May 15, 2020 at 07:00 PM

RM

Was fortunate to get to know Richard when I began singing Sacred Harp music in my 30's. Members of my family had sung it and my Aunt Ruth Denson Edwards loved to go sing at the Chattahoochee Convention. So I told her I would drive her from Cullman, Al to Georgia. Met Richard there, as well as, Hugh McGraw & Charlene Wallace. Richard could key music and was an excellent leader. He'll be missed, but the singing in heaven will be better. : 1: ❤️😊

Richard Mauldin - May 15, 2020 at 09:48 PM

DW

“ *Richard was one of my first friends when I began teaching at Central in 1984. He was a passionate history teacher and loved Sacred Harp music. Rest well, my friend.*



Denise Walker - May 15, 2020 at 05:38 PM