



## Ricki "Rick" Keith Atha

March 12, 1956 - September 18, 2025

Ricki Keith "Rick" Atha, age 69, passed away on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Baptist Easley Hospital.

Born on March 12, 1956, in Gwinnett County, Georgia, Rick was the cherished son of the late Nathan Jack Atha and Hattie Mae Bennett Atha. He grew up in Sugar Hill, where he developed a love for sports, playing baseball, basketball, and football throughout high school. A proud graduate of North Gwinnett High School, Class of 1974, Rick went on to earn his associate's degree from Gainesville College.

Rick's career reflected his deep passion for music and sound. He served as a sound engineer for the bands Riff Raff, Topper, and many others, later working as a recording engineer at Digitrax Studio. With his own company, Atha Design, he specialized in audio design and installation, leaving his mark on countless projects through his expertise and creativity.

Beyond his professional life, Rick had a lifelong love for dogs. Over the years, his faithful companions brought him great joy, none more so than his beloved Dachshund, Longmire, who will continue to be cared for by Rick's dear friend, Lee.

Survivors include his sister, Rhonda A. Powell, and brother, Rusty "Boo" Atha.

Rick was predeceased by his parents, Nathan Jack Atha and Hattie Mae Bennett Atha.

The family will host a memorial service celebrating Rick's life on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 4:00 PM in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home, 4400 S. Lee St, Buford, GA 30518. Friends and loved ones are invited to gather for visitation one hour prior to the service, beginning at 3:00 PM.

Mountain View Funeral Home is serving the Atha family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 11. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home  
4400 South Lee Street  
Buford, GA 30518

## Memorial Service

OCT 11. 4:00 PM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ My deepest condolences to all of Ricki's friends & family. I've only just found out about his passing and it has been a big shock. I met him years ago when he came to Britain to meet me after we had been penpals for a few years. (I reached out because I was researching my family tree and found his name online, never realising there were so many Athas in the US.) He was such a beautiful big friendly bear and a great friend. You must all have been devastated. He will leave a big hole in the lives of everyone who knew him.  
RIP my lovely friend.  
With love, Jeannie

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**Jeannie Atha** - March 19 at 09:14 AM

MU

“ So darn sorry...Sorry I was too early Saturday...❤️...Murph

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**Murph** - October 13, 2025 at 11:02 AM

BT

“ So very sorry to find this out. Rick was always there for me at Buford Church of God whenever we had a problem with our audio system. Praying for his family!

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**Bob Tabor** - October 10, 2025 at 01:51 PM

PA

“ Rhonda and Rusty, I wish to extend my sincerest condolences for the loss of your dear brother, Rick. As I am reminded of our school days, fond memories fill my heart and mind. We shared many years with so much fun and laughter during grammar school and attending NGHS. We loved the pep rallies and the Friday night football games. Rick played a big part of our winning Bulldogs. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of deepest sorrow. May GOD bless you today, tomorrow and always. Rest in Peace dearest Rick.



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**Phyllis Duncan Alayyah** - October 03, 2025 at 07:32 PM

DE

“ Prayers for the family

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**Debbie Everett** - October 03, 2025 at 04:23 PM



“ Rick Atha was one of my all time greatest, lifelong friends and brothers. He was the production manager of my band, Topper during our “glory years” as well, producing and engineering some of our finest recording projects!! Rick was one of the premier sound engineers and production designers in the business. He was and will always be my mentor in that department; A true genius! I know the many artists who have worked with Rick over the years will agree!

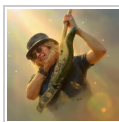
Our friendship goes back 50 years and continued until his passing. I'll miss all of the good times we, had touring the country with Topper and the fun we've had together through the years. So many memories!

I'll really miss his unique sense of humor and all of the laughter!! I can't put the sadness and loss I'm feeling into words and haven't even processed it yet. I don't know if I ever will. Love, Prayers and sympathy to Rick's family, who I consider my own and his many friends.



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**David Rode** - October 03, 2025 at 04:10 PM



One of the greatest! 😭❤️

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**David Rode** - October 05, 2025 at 11:59 AM

RV

“ *Went to school with Ricky. Prayers for family and friends.*

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**Robert Venable** - October 03, 2025 at 11:40 AM