

## Rick Henderson

April 7, 1959 - March 4, 2017

Rick Henderson, age 57, of Sweetwater, passed away on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Park West Medical Center, in Knoxville. He was a member of the First United Church of Christ in Sweetwater. Rick was a graduate of Hazelwood West Senior High School in St. Louis, MO, he was also a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Served as the president of the board of directors of Team Lexi. He was a member of Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Rick was a recipient of the Award of Excellence from Sweetwater Hospital Association where he served in the anesthesia department for 19 years. Besides his family, Rick had a passion for single malt scotch, cigars and traveling. Rick mentored many children in the Monroe and surrounding counties. Preceded in death by his parents: Robert Henderson, and Elizabeth Mims, grandparents, and Lex. Survivors include his wife and companion of 12 years: Heather Henderson, 7 sons: Christopher and wife Anna, Jacob and wife Hope, Nathan, Jarren, Seth, Riley, and Caleb, 3 grandchildren: Caleb, Ellie Bree, and Kayden, brothers: Stephen and wife Marsha and niece: Gabrielle, David, sister: Jackie, father-in-law and mother-in-law: Gary and Colleen Bishop, brothers-in-law: Timothy Bishop, Jason Bishop and wife: Hannah. Rick's love for family and friends was evident through-out life by the love and concern he showed to others. He welcomed his nieces and nephew: Kayla, Danielle, and Brandon into his home and life and raised them like his own. A host of family and friends including all the staff family at Sweetwater Hospital Association, Physicians Surgery Center of Chattanooga,

and the Chattanooga Pain and Surgery Center. Special friends: Rob, Charlene, Kirsten, Lexie, and Sarah Christian-Crimm. The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 9, 2017, in family life center of the First United Methodist Church of Sweetwater, 501 Church St. Sweetwater, TN. 37874, from 5:00P.M until 8:00P.M. with a celebration of life service to follow at 8:00P.M with Rev. Vant Hardaway officiating. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Team Lexi, or the Athletic Department of Sweetwater High School. Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater, in charge of arrangements. [www.kykerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 9. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
501 Church St.  
Sweetwater, TN

## Celebration of Life

MAR 9. 8:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
501 Church St.  
Sweetwater, TN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kyker Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rick Henderson*



---

**Kyker Funeral Home** - March 09, 2017 at 09:18 AM

CE

“ *Heather, the boys & family,  
I just stumbled upon this news online. I am so shocked & saddened.  
I was in the class ahead of Rick at Washington University  
anesthesia. Rick was a great student & an amazing anesthetist!  
He used to call me for advice & I'd say "Dude you are so much  
better than I am, you need to give me advice!"  
We lost touch many years ago. One of my classmates ran into Rick  
& Heather on an anesthesia cruise years ago. She caught me up on  
the latest & we thought we should all do a conference together.  
Busy lives & time passes... now I'm heartbroken that we never got  
that done. I will pass this on to Claudia (CRNA on the cruise) &  
Nancy (another from my class that knew Rick).  
Prayers, hugs & love to the Henderson's!  
Cyndi (Roy) Epplin  
kencyn020902@gmail.com*

---

**Cynthia Epplin** - March 22, 2017 at 10:21 AM

WB

“ There are so many wonderful memories I could share about Rick that it is too hard to choose just one. So what I will say, I'll say to the family and it is something someone told me at a very difficult and sad time; grief is just a journey, not a destination. When we get to where we are going we will see our loved ones again. I have never forgotten that and I hope it will give you some peace. Rick was a gift from God and we were so lucky He saw fit to share him with us for the time we had him. Our true blessing comes from being able to always treasure loving and being loved by him. Until we meet again my friend. I shall miss you always.  
Love Wendy

Wendy Blair - March 09, 2017 at 12:11 PM

LW

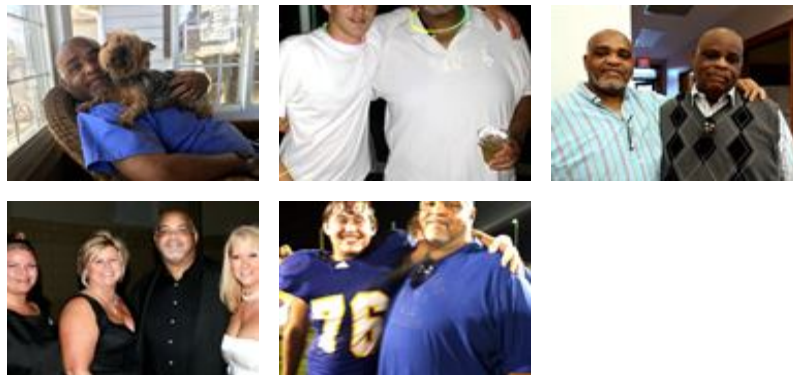
“ Love, Wendy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rick Henderson.



Love, Wendy - March 09, 2017 at 10:09 AM



“ 35 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kyker Funeral Home - March 09, 2017 at 09:14 AM

TS

*“ I remember him he put me under when I had too have my gallbladder surgery but I remember how he made me laugh and try too relax me that day I will always remember that he was such a sweet person I sure will miss him praying for the family so sorry for your all's loss*



---

**Tracy Schmitt** - March 08, 2017 at 10:17 PM

AH

*“ Rick was larger than life! Rick was a smart, kind, generous and humble man. If you every had the privilege of meeting Rick it changed you. We were better people because of him. He showed everyone kindness and compassion. He led his life to give and to inspire. I worked with Rick for over 20 years. He would make you laugh, console you and inspire you to be better. He instilled comfort and peace when you were with him in a difficult situation. He earned the trust and respect of those that work with him. He was far more than someone you worked with, he was a friend! He was one of the rare people that touch everyone that knew him. He made everyone feel at ease around.d him. He had this infectious smile that brought joy to your heart. He loved unconditionally! Heather and the boys gave him that same joy. Just the mention of them brought that smile to his face. Rick will be missed and it will never be the same without him. Heaven has gained an angel! I know he will be smiling down on us. I know that I could never give back to Rick all that he has done for me or my family but I want to honor him and his family. I pray for their peace and comfort. I will miss you my friend. Rest in peace, your journey left a legacy that inspired and humbled people.Love and prayers to the family and all that had the honor to call Rick their friend! Andrea, Greg, Tanner and Tyler Henry.*

---

**Andrea Henry** - March 08, 2017 at 09:10 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rick Henderson.*



---

March 08, 2017 at 04:17 AM



“ *When I think of Rick several things/words come to my mind. Precious, Rick was a precious man. An unusual word to use for a man by another man but it's the truth. A Mahatma, a great soul. Rick was a great soul. Selfless, Rick denied himself to serve others on so many occasions they cannot be recounted. Friend, Rick was the best of friends and loved at all times. Brother, Rick was a brother born for adversity. He helped everyone he could in their adversity. Loving family man. Rick loved his family above all else. Big Teddy Bear - Rick was definitely that to all who knew him. He will live in my heart all the days of my life. My condolences to Heather, Chris, Nathan, Jake, Hope, and Anna, and all of Rick's family in your loss.*

*Rick's Friend and Colleague,*

*Eric A. DeFreitas, MD*

---

**Eric A. DeFreitas** - March 07, 2017 at 08:27 PM

CF

“ Chris, Anna, Jake, Hope, Nathan we love you guys and are so very sorry for your loss. We look back on our Henderson days smiling, laughing, and shaking our heads. Your family meant so much us and your dad will be missed. Please come visit us sometime. Mr & Mrs Church (Paul and Kathy) Ferguson, MO Sarah Jacksonville FL, Jesse Wichita KS, Caleb Cape Girardeau, MO and Rachel Wichita, KS

Church Family - March 07, 2017 at 01:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rick Henderson.



March 07, 2017 at 11:35 AM

KM

“ Kay Meadows lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson



kay meadows - March 07, 2017 at 10:52 AM

GM

“ Gail McCullough lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson



Gail McCullough - March 07, 2017 at 09:49 AM

DS

“ I will always remember Rick helping me study and pass ACLS the first time. He taught me so many tricks to start IVs I still use to this day. And I can't forget when he took some of my co-workers out to celebrate after I got my BSN. He was like my big brother to me. He was a great person to work with!!! He will be missed by so many.

Dianne Beckers (formly Stanley) - March 07, 2017 at 08:16 AM

NP

“ Nancy Plemmons lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson



Nancy Plemmons - March 07, 2017 at 06:50 AM

NP

“ Rick was one of the kindest men i have ever known and my heart is broken for his sweet wife Heather and for all of his family and friends..he will never be forgotten and leaves a wonderful legacy for everyones life that he touched...Sweetwater Hospital will never be the same without him..Heaven gained a true angel...Rest in Peace Rick...my thoughts and prayers are with Heather and their family.. Absent from the body..Present with Lord..❤️

Nancy Plemmons - March 07, 2017 at 06:37 AM

MS

“ Rick was such a selfless, generous, kind hearted, bigger than life kind of guy. He gave without hesitation to those in need. He was a guy that dropped everything for his family, friends and colleagues. He was always a giver and never a taker. Rick left a legacy for those that knew him. He let his light shine through his kindness and his big smile. He was a blessing to so many people and will forever be missed. Until we meet again; RIP my dear sweet friend!



---

**misty stamey** - March 06, 2017 at 08:20 PM

MP

“ My deepest sympathy to the family.



---

**Marlene Prater** - March 06, 2017 at 08:12 PM

AB

“ I met Rick when I first started working at SHA. He was such a kind soul. If I'd see him in the elevator early in the morning and could tell he was tired, he still always had a smile and would ask how I was. He took care of my mother for a procedure. She had dementia and was scared and confused. The care he gave to her and the exceptional kindness he showed will remain with me all my days. When I thanked him with tears for being so kind he said " That's one of the privileges of being part of the SHA family." I would have trusted this gentleman with anyone my heart holds dear. Our SHA family will certainly miss him. Prayers for the family and close friends who are hurting. May God carry you through your grief.

---

**Angela Barrett** - March 06, 2017 at 07:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rick Henderson.*



---

March 06, 2017 at 07:50 PM



“ *"A proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor," I will never say these words again without thinking of you. In good times and bad ,your love and support never faltered. Thank you, I love you, brother. Much love to youn, Heather, all of Rick's family and friends.*

*Bob & Mary*

---

**Robert Thompson** - March 06, 2017 at 07:41 PM



*Oh Bob, how he loved his "brothers"! He was always smiling or laughing when he'd tell stories of you and Bart and the gang! Thank you for making him so happy and giving us the memories!*

---

**Heather Henderson** - March 06, 2017 at 07:51 PM



*Cuban cigar & 20 year old single malt on Thursday*

---

**Robert Thompson** - March 06, 2017 at 08:27 PM

DR

“ I met Rick when he was my son's baseball coach. I knew his sons because they were my sons ages but didn't know their dad until he coached my son. He had such a great attitude and I loved that he treated every child the same no matter how good or not so good that they were. He just had a special way with people and I was blessed to have known him. I work at high school and have had the privilege of watching all but one of his kids come through school so far. Riley is there now and Caleb yet to come and they are a great bunch of kids. My heart goes out to all of you and my prayers also. He loved y'all so much and he was so proud of you



---

**Diane Raulston** - March 06, 2017 at 05:44 PM

LM

*Rick was known as the gentle giant at Physicians Surgery Center. I had the privilege of working with him during My time there. He was great with kids but my wife thought that he hung The moon. He put her to sleep for a procedure and calmed her. If I had to Rate The People that I worked with he would have been in the top position. RIP my friend I will see you again. My prayers are With the family as I know Rick is with God.*

---

**Lee McClure** - March 06, 2017 at 07:01 PM

HH

*Diane, Rick thought the world of you and appreciated that you treated all the kids so good! Thanks for the memories, they've kept us going for sure!*

---

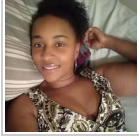
**Heather Henderson** - March 06, 2017 at 07:54 PM

MK

“ I really like Rick, he was a great guy, he will be missed

---

**marcelyn kirby** - March 06, 2017 at 04:57 PM



“ *Mecie Peak lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson*



---

**Mecie Peak** - March 06, 2017 at 04:37 PM

CP

“ *Christy Phillips lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson*



---

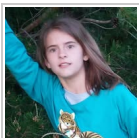
**Christy phillips** - March 06, 2017 at 04:02 PM

CP

“ *I am so sorry to hear about rick we will miss him greatly my prayers go out to heather and the family*

---

**Christy phillips** - March 06, 2017 at 03:59 PM



“ *There are no words that can express the loss that all feel after losing this great man. We will all never be the same his great influence has changed us all. I miss u and I do not know how long it will take to recover from this profound loss.*

---

**Christy Hicks** - March 06, 2017 at 03:52 PM

Lakisha  
Ki

“ Rick was a great man. He cared for everyone. I remember every morning he would say hello ladies as he went by 3rd floor nursing station. He will be deeply missed by all. Keeping the whole family in my prayers.



Lakisha Ki - March 06, 2017 at 03:45 PM

ME

“ I'm going to miss Rick's smile and kind words. He would laugh with you, cry with you, be there for you. He was such a compassionate person, he would always put others before himself. Heaven gained an amazing man!



Malinda Efaw - March 06, 2017 at 03:34 PM

GM

“ Rick was a great man and spectacular CRNA. I've had the honor to work with him and also be his Patient. He mentored so many young adults and adults. His light will shine on forever. I consider it a privilege and honor to call him my friend.

Gail McCullough - March 06, 2017 at 03:19 PM

LA

“ Rick was a wonderful man and will be missed. He cared about his family, friends and his patients.

Laura Anderson - March 06, 2017 at 02:59 PM

LA

“ *Laura Anderson lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson*



---

**Laura Anderson** - March 06, 2017 at 02:55 PM

ST

“ *Prayers for all.*



---

**Susan Treadeau** - March 06, 2017 at 02:37 PM

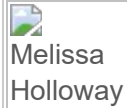
 Betty Sargent

“ *Rick was one of the kindest men I have ever met. When I started working at the hospital we had a very sick patient. Rick came from surgery to help us. He could see that I was a brand new nurse and terrified. He took me with him to ICU and explained everything that was going on and why he was doing a what he was doing with the patient. He was a great teacher and loved teaching the new nurses. Rick was a great man. He will be missed by many.*



---

**Betty Sargent** - March 06, 2017 at 02:35 PM



Melissa Holloway

“ Rick was the sweetest, kindest person I knew. Before I ever started working at SHA I met him in the OR when he did an epidural on me for a surgery I had to have while I was pregnant. I was scared to death & stressed from the pregnancy & Rick kept me calm and talked me through the whole thing. He even made me laugh at one point. I'll never forget that & the compassion he showed for me.



-----  
**Melissa Holloway** - March 06, 2017 at 02:20 PM



“ I will never forget Rick's kindness. He came in when he wasn't on call to do my epidural because he promised me he would be there. He always brought a smile when he was around. Praying for Heather and all the family.



-----  
**Carla Roberson** - March 06, 2017 at 02:18 PM



“ Margaret Hammond lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson



-----  
**Margaret Hammond** - March 06, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rick Henderson.*



March 06, 2017 at 01:37 PM



“ *Emily Johnson lit a candle in memory of Rick Henderson*



**Emily Johnson** - March 06, 2017 at 01:30 PM



“ *Rick I will never forget the first PICC Line I had to assist with. I was so nervous. You explained everything to me and the patient. You were an amazing teacher and I learned alot from you. I will never forget you. You will be missed at SHA. Forever in our hearts!*  
*Emily Johnson*

**Emily Johnson** - March 06, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ *An amazing man, husband, father, and friend!*  
*We love you Rick, Heather, and family.*  
*Love, Craig, Dana, Kennedy, & Kadence Smith*



**Dana Smith** - March 06, 2017 at 01:21 PM

KH

“ Rick, you were on if he greatest men I knew. You always knew how to make me laugh, when I was having the worst day on 3rd floor! I'm going to miss you so much!

---

**Kayla Howard** - March 06, 2017 at 01:00 PM

JS

“ Rick always had a smile and kind word when he came down to the cafeteria. We will miss him so much. My heart is broken and I pray for peace and comfort.

---

**Jennifer Smith** - March 06, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ You were the best. Prayers for your family.  
Love always Diane



---

**DianeandWayne Haynes** - March 06, 2017 at 12:34 PM

AW

“ I met Rick over 20 years ago while at Sweetwater Hospital having a procedure. He was the guy that was going to put me under and I was an absolute nervous wreck. He sat down beside my bed and reached and got my hand. He explained everything that he was going to do and assured me that he would not leave my side until I was awake and in recovery. This was the first time I had ever met him and he was that concerned for my fears! From that point on, through any procedure and especially the births of two of my children he was there. He told me on occasion that he was off, but that he had seen my name on the list and knew he needed to be there because he knew how scared I would be and knew what I would need to hear.

Rick was the epitome of what a person should be in this life. He was kind, compassionate and loving to all souls - no matter who they were. He had the bedside manner of a saint. I became one of his biggest fans the first time he took care of me and I will always cherish the blessing of his friendship that I was fortunate enough to acquire over the years.

May you rest in peace my friend. Thank you for taking care of me all these years - for calming my fears, preserving my sanity and for watching over me. You sir were a blessing in my life and I will sure miss running into you and catching up!

My thoughts and prayers go out to his precious wife Heather and his children and grandchildren. May God wrap his arms around those that loved you and those that heart feels the void of you now. May those that love you always be reminded of precious memories of you.

---

April White - March 06, 2017 at 12:31 PM

Erica  
Jones

“ *My deepest sympathy. You will be missed my friend. Love always! Erica*



---

**Erica Jones** - March 06, 2017 at 12:27 PM

KM

“ *A great man. Larger than life. A wonderful example of how a man should be! You will never be forgotten my friend. See you again one day!*



---

**Karen Martin** - March 06, 2017 at 11:47 AM

RN

“ *in Loving Memory of my best friend/brother. I love you Rick.*



---

**Rob Nelson** - March 06, 2017 at 10:55 AM