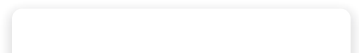


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# Richard Marvin "Rick" Lannen

1947 - 2021



LANNEN, Richard "Rick" Marvin Richard "Rick" Marvin Lannen passed

away at home, surrounded by family on May 1, 2021, donning his favorite Texas Rangers jersey for the final time. Rick was a loving father, a caring husband, and a brilliant lawyer- but most of all he was a true cowboy through and through. He was born on February 22, 1947, in Compton, California to Dick and Rosalie Lannen. Children of a petroleum engineer, Rick and his younger brother Larry moved all over the Western U.S. before his parents finally settled down in Houston, Missouri and established roots. After graduating from Fergus High School in Lewistown, Montana, Rick found his way to New Hampshire, where he spent his formative years attending Dartmouth College. He served as treasurer, vice president and eventually president of the Young Democrats of Dartmouth, over his four years there. Shortly after starting law school at UT Austin, Rick was drafted by the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge in 1971. When he returned home, he used his experience as a legal clerk in the Army to finish his J.D.. Post-law school, Rick excelled as a judicial clerk for the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, making partner in 1979. In 1989, Rick started his own firm that he ran until his passing. Rick and Virginia Pendergrass met on the steps of the Texas State Capitol and he took no time in asking her out. Using his quick wit and charm, Rick slyly duped her into falling head over heels for him. What truly won her over, was after mentioning she had two kids and "came as a package deal," Rick immediately replied, "I love kids." He and Virginia dated for five years before finally tying the knot as Rick was nothing if not a man of patience. They were married in a little chapel in Lajitas, Texas. Rick wore a tuxedo top and blue jeans complete with a black Stetson to match, a metaphor for the man he truly was. Rick's time served as a veteran and political activist fueled his core belief of helping others, no matter the cost or time of day. Whether you needed to fix a flat tire or last-minute legal representation, he would be there, as long as he didn't run out of gas on the way. He was a man who did nothing half-heartedly, except searching for a gas station. He was a dedicated Texas Rangers season ticket holder,

an avid pheasant and deer hunter, a die-hard Willie Nelson fan, and a self proclaimed chili aficionado. The bane of used car dealers everywhere, there wasn't a hobby Rick enjoyed more than haggling for a vehicle. He dedicated his time outside of work to visiting, volunteering, and advocating for the Big Bend National Park, eventually serving as president and board member of the Big Bend Conservancy. If he wasn't busy getting the truck unstuck from Black Gap Road, he could usually be found beer in hand canoeing down Santa Elena Canyon. He was a man who understood the value of education and civil involvement, as well as the importance of keeping your hunting rifle oiled and your Shiner Bock cold. Ricks friends once remarked that they had never met a Democrat with more guns, a statement he couldn't be more proud of. He is survived by his loving wife, Virginia Lannen; children, Richard Henry Lannen and fiancé Renata D'Elena, Richard Justin Lannen and his wife Shiela Lannen, Whitney Lannen, John Bucy and his wife Molly Bucy, Virginia Hart and her husband Ryan Hart; and grandchildren, Grant Tadayon, Lila Tadayon, Richard Aidan Lannen, Jordan Lannen, Avery Lannen, Catherine Hart, Jackson Hart, Ryan Hart, Jr., and Bradley Bucy. Donations can be made in Rick's honor to the Big Bend Conservancy or directly to the Fossil Discovery Exhibit which he was instrumental in establishing. Services will be held at St. Matthew's Cathedral, where Rick was an active member. Expect services to start fifteen minutes late in true Rick fashion, or as the family has dubbed it, "Lannen Time."

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

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