



Leon Thayr Richey, Jr.

November 3, 1919 - May 26, 2016

Leon Thayr Richey Jr, formerly of Ashland, Kentucky, died May 26 in Bloomington, Indiana, where he was a resident of Garden Villa. Leon, son of Leon Thayr Richey Sr. and Ida Kitchen Richey, was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, where he graduated from High School in 1939. During World War II he served in the Navy on the USS California and the USS Stephen Potter, where he was chief of the fireroom.

After the war, Leon settled in Ashland, Kentucky, where he began working as a locksmith at Ogden's Key Shop in the Mayo Arcade. Richey was one of 10 locksmiths selected by Sargeant and Greenleaf, a major safe manufacturer, and cleared by the FBI for special schooling in the opening of safes and vaults by manipulation.

When Mr. Ogden retired in 1954, Richey continued the Key Shop under his name until he retired in 1994.

Leon was a long time member of the B.P.O.E, the American Legion, the Masonic Temple and the El Hasa Shrine.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Delmer Lee Richey and his sister Thayra Eileen Roseman and his wife of over 50 years, Vera Harrison Richey.

Leon is survived by a brother James Eugene Richey of Franklin, North Carolina, his son Leon Thayr Richey III and his daughter-in-law Virginia Hoeing Richey of Bloomington, Indiana, who lovingly took care of him for over 15 years, his son Ralph Richey and his daughter-in-law Dorothea Schoeller

Richey of Essen, Germany and by his grandchildren Elizabeth Richey Branscome and her husband David Branscome of Tallahassee, Florida and William Thayr Richey and his wife Brenda Matthews Richey of Indianapolis, Indiana. He will also be missed by those who called him Granddad and who made him part of their own families: the Hoeings, the Hartmans, the McCreas. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 North Fee Lane, Bloomington. Burial will be at Golden Oaks Memorial Gardens in Ashland, Kentucky. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Church
2120 N. Fee Ln
Bloomington,, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Bloomington, Indiana*
May 31, 2016

As a visitor each day to Garden Villa -- to see my wife -- seeing persons nearing life's end can be sad. Some, though, like Mr. Leon Richey, have a gift for spreading life's joys amidst their own twilight.

*He did not keep life's "daybreak" under a bushel. My daily greeting -
- Hello Mr. Richey! -- always brought forth a more-than-winning smile with a "look directly into your eyes" return greeting.*

He made ME feel better.

The wonderful staff at Garden Villa always share their caregiving talents equally with the residents, but I suspect they all feel my sense that here was a very special man -- a man who had served his country in war on Navy ships at sea and who, as a locksmith, likely had "picked the locks" of many a heart to make them want to live happier.

To the family of Leon T. Richey -- who visited and loved him every day -- my condolences, but also a shared joy for his life, even as its twilight has now faded.

Cleve Wilhoit

Cleve Wilhoit - May 31, 2016 at 12:02 PM

TS

“ I met Leon several months ago and enjoyed visiting him at Gardenvilla when I would go there to also visit my mom. He always had a smile for me or even sometimes a little song that he would move his feet to as if he was dancing. Leon had such a big heart and soul and he always made my day when he would kiss my hand and call me beautiful. RIP my sweet Leon I will miss our visits !! I hope you keep wearing your dancing shoes. Love Tammy Sauer

Tammy Sauer - May 29, 2016 at 07:57 PM

JT

“ Thayr, I remember your Dad and Mom being so nice to me as a child. They purchased a TV Guide from me weekly when we were at Hager.

I remember their smiles and kindness and how they always took the time to talk with me then and later when I went to the shop as I got older and started my newspaper career at *The Daily Independent*. I know they had to be very loving parents, which makes you a very lucky man.

Hope this email finds you well, considering the circumstances. My thoughts are with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Todd
Berea, KY
1-859-986-9888
carolyncastle@windstream.net

Jim Todd - May 29, 2016 at 06:07 PM

GR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Ginny Richey - May 29, 2016 at 09:14 AM

TS

*I will you Leon !! I hope you are still wearing your dancing shoes
Love Tammy Sauer*

Tammy Sauer - May 29, 2016 at 08:01 PM