



## Richard A. Burton, Jr.

October 28, 1928 - July 11, 2015

On Saturday night, July 11, at the age of 86, Dick Burton passed away while peacefully sleeping at his home. He and his wife, Marda, would have celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on July 26. Dick is well known for his long tenure of service to the public at Burton's Jewelers, which was established in 1913. His education included the Laurel City schools, Marion Military Academy, and Ole Miss, where he attended ROTC and received a Business degree and an Air Force officer's commission.

After pilot training, First Lt. Burton was sent to Korea in 1952 as a member of the U. S. Air Force 319th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, flying the new F-94 Starfire on nightly missions deep into enemy territory. When the conflict was over, Dick and his radar observer were sent to Langley AFB in Virginia to continue night patrols off the East Coast.

Near the end of his service, Dick and Marda married and began their family. Twin boys, Martin and Richard, were first. Upon the couple's return to Laurel, Frank and Clint were added to the mix. That mix included a dog that chased cars (even in a cast), a tarantula, hamsters, and a guinea pig that lived for nine years. The scattered family now includes daughters-in-law: Mart and Debbie (Houston), Rick and Teresa (Long Beach, MS), Frank and Eileen (Minneapolis). Bachelor Clint lives in Cape Coral, FL. Dick's parents, Georgie and the senior Richard, pre-deceased him. Dick's younger brother Billy, his wife Gwen, and their children Stacey, Shara, Susan, and Steve have added multiple generations to the Burton family.

Visitation will be held at Memory Chapel on Thursday, July 16, 2015, at 9 a.m. with a brief memorial to follow at 10 a.m. and burial in Lake Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to the Laurel Little Theatre.

To view and sign the family guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear about Dick passing away. I hope his wife and sons are doing well. I won't forget what a gentleman he was at Frank and Eileen's wedding. He was so lively, funny and a real pleasure to be with. I want to send my best wishes to Marda. Be well. You are in our thoughts dear lady. With much love, Susan

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**Susan Williams** - July 22, 2015 at 06:20 PM

JF

“ Dear Martin, Richard, Frank and Clint,  
My mother and I send our sincere condolences for the loss of your father. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Joan Flynt and Jodee Flynt-Davies** - July 20, 2015 at 04:55 PM

LR

“ To a friend, my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Burton, and the family he will be missed,

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**Larry & Rosie Russell** - July 17, 2015 at 10:14 PM

CK

“ Love you cuz.

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**Caroline Kluge** - July 17, 2015 at 07:52 PM

PM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.  
Condolences to the Burton family.

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**Pat & Gil Matro** - July 16, 2015 at 02:27 PM

CN

“ Hi Marda,

*I work for Louis and don't know you all that well, but my husband and I loved you the minute we met you. I wanted you to know I am sorry to hear of your husband's passing. It sounds like you have lots of family and friends to help support you during this time, but if there's anything I can do I would be pleased to help. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Kind regards,  
Phil & Chris Nizialek*

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**Chris Nizialek** - July 16, 2015 at 02:16 PM

MC

“ *My prayers are with you Marda and family. I know what a tough time this is for you all, having gone through it myself here recently. The Good Lord will walk you through it, just rely on him!! Love to you all, MaryLee*

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**MariLee Sessions Ccanal** - July 16, 2015 at 08:27 AM

TC

“ *You will be missed my friend. My condolences to the Burton family.*

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**Tom Casey** - July 15, 2015 at 11:14 PM

KF

“ *Dear Beautiful Marda,  
How wonderful it is the last few pages of Dick's life story were in his home, peaceful, and surrounded with all that he loved.  
We love you Marda and you are always on our minds and in our hearts and we carry your voice, your laugh and your smile with us wherever we go.  
Katherine and Madeleine.*

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**Katherine Fugate and Madeleine Fugate** - July 15, 2015 at 05:35 PM

CB

“ *Sending love and prayers to the Burton family...*

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**Chris Barr** - July 14, 2015 at 05:04 PM

SB

“ *With prayers for your loss Sharon Barham*

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**Sharon Barham** - July 14, 2015 at 04:04 PM

JD

“ *Dearest Marda and family, My heart is heavy to hear of your loss.  
Love and peace be with you. - Janis and Dan*

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**Janis Turk Daniels** - July 14, 2015 at 01:59 PM

BB

“ *Condolences to the Burton family.*

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**Barré Bullard** - July 14, 2015 at 01:39 PM