



## Rickie Melvin "Rick" Varner

August 31, 1960 - July 24, 2021

It is with great sorrow we announce that Rickie "Rick" Melvin Varner passed suddenly July 24, 2021, as he slept. He would've been 61 on August 31.

Rick was a West Jones H.S. graduate and later served his country proudly in the United States Army. Rick's career path ultimately led to a law enforcement certification from the academy at the age of 44.

For the last 13 years he served the City of Petal as police officer and most recently Animal Warden. "PawPaw", as his work family called him, loved his calling and respected the people he served. He was an avid outdoorsman and gardener, and he loved spending time with his family.

Rick was preceded in death by his grandfather, John Allen Kirby; grandmother, Jewell Heathcock; father, Charles Sims; and niece, Nacole Varner.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Jewell Elaine Varner; and children, Kristie Boler (Steven) and Shane Tisdale (Charlotte); mother, Mary Sims; brother, Richard M. Varner (Carla); grandchildren, Nicole Howell (Chris), Sydney Tisdale, Colby Tisdale, and Harley Tisdale; and great-grandchild, Nathan Howell.

Services will be held Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Memory Chapel Funeral Home, 3100 Audubon Drive, Laurel, MS 39440. Chaplain Robert Tipps of the Petal P.D. will officiate. Visitation will be Wednesday from 1 p.m. until service time.

Burial service will follow at Myrick Cemetery in Laurel.

Rick's fellow police officers will be pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers are Jackie Lewis, Bobby Wellborn, Richard Varner, Steven Boler, Shane Tisdale, Micheal Sanford, and Colby Tisdale.

The family would like to extend their profound appreciation to Petal Police Chief Matthew Hiatt for his assistance during this difficult time.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Myrick Cemetery

1490 Lower Myrick Road  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUL 28.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

## Service

**JUL 28.** 3:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
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# Tribute Wall

MP

“ *Officer Rick was a sweet guy that always showed up when we had stray animals. One time we had bobtail new kittens under a board in the back yard, that the mom was killed, he told me he'd be here in the morning to get them and he was. He said to give them some sugary water every so many hours until he could arrange a place for them. That big officer picking each little kitty up was the sweetest. He will be missed in Petal.*

Maude Pace - July 29, 2021 at 12:52 PM



“ *Kristie Boler lit a candle in memory of Rickie Melvin "Rick" Varner*



Kristie Boler - July 28, 2021 at 06:00 PM

PG

“ *Such a kind hearted sweet man. Rickie you will be greatly missed. Prayers for your family and may you rest in peace.*

Paula Graham - July 27, 2021 at 07:52 PM



*Thank you for all you've done for my mother.*

Kristie Boler - July 28, 2021 at 05:55 PM



*Thank you for all you've done for my mother.*

Kristie Boler - July 28, 2021 at 05:56 PM

LL

“ *Rickie and I canning vegetables for him and his wife will be one of the memories that I will remember. And him being one of my best friends and my brother I never had.* ”

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**Lyndel Lunsford** - July 27, 2021 at 07:14 AM



*Thank you for loving him.*

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**Kristie Boler** - July 28, 2021 at 05:57 PM

FD

“ *From Petal Fire Department purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Rickie Melvin "Rick" Varner.* ”



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**From Petal Fire Department** - July 26, 2021 at 04:55 PM

BS

“ *Our condolences to the family* ”

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**Brian Schwan** - July 26, 2021 at 03:11 PM