



## Robert Cowles Richardson Sr.

January 25, 1929 - November 20, 2023

Robert Cowles Richardson Sr. peacefully entered the Lord's embrace on November 20, 2023. Born on January 25, 1929, in James City County, VA, he was a lifelong resident and business owner. As the owner/operator of J. N. Richardson & Sons Inc. Sawmill and Lumber Company. J. N. Richardson Sr. purchased the property, which contributed to the founding of the business on Greenspring/Centerville Rd. in 1946 and established the mill permanently in 1960. Notably, it stood as the last functioning sawmill in Williamsburg, VA.

Robert figuratively and literally broke his back for the family business. His unwavering commitment manifested in monumental, dedicated efforts, showcasing his perseverance, loyalty, and resilience for the well-being of his entire family.

A trailblazer in his youth, Robert became "the first local boy" signed by the MLB straight out of high school. His journey led to a class D contract with the New York Yankees in 1949, following graduation from Mathew Whaley High School in Williamsburg, VA, with Letters in Baseball, Football, Basketball, and Track.

Amidst his accomplishments, Robert served in the Korean War, stationed in Germany. He played baseball for the United States Army Baseball Team, known as The Rangers, notably showcasing his skills at Soldiers Field. On

March 19, 1953, three months after his return from service, he married his sweetheart, Mary Kelley. Robert was a loving, compassionate, honest, loyal, and dedicated family man, consistently prioritizing God and his family. In addition to his professional and athletic pursuits, Robert was an avid fisherman, hunter, Top Lot trapper, furrier, and had a profound passion for gardening. His diverse talents and warm spirit will undoubtedly be missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his loving wife, Mary Oma Kelley Richardson; two sons, Rodney and Eric Richardson; his parents, John Newman Richardson Sr. and Beatrice Warburton Richardson; all five of his brothers, John N. Jr., Clarence, T. Earl, James, Willie, Langdon; as well as his one and only "Sis" Madeline Hogge.

Left to cherish his beautiful memories are his son, Robert C. Richardson Jr.; his daughter, Kelly R. Deskins; a daughter by choice, Dolores D. Richardson; grandsons, Eric V. Jr., Cowles, and Nicholas; granddaughters, Olivia, Alexandria, and Melissa; great grandchildren, John D., Heidi, Dylan, Harley, Lyric, Eric K., Jasmine, Haley, Colon, McKenzie, Angelina and Riley; great-great grandchildren, Anthony, Bryanna, John A., Baylee, Alex, Andrew, George, and River.

A graveside service will be held 2:30pm Thursday, November 30, 2023, at Williamsburg Memorial Park Cemetery, Williamsburg, VA.

# Cemetery Details

## Williamsburg Memorial Park

130 King William Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV 30. 2:30 PM (ET)

Williamsburg Memorial Park  
130 King William Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

# Tribute Wall

CN

“ Robert will be missed. Sending prayers for all his loved ones.



Calvin & Ronnie New - December 02, 2023 at 12:01 AM

FD

“ Frankie Drudge lit a candle in memory of Robert Cowles Richardson Sr.



Frankie Drudge - November 30, 2023 at 08:01 PM

RK

“ Randy And Nancy Kelley lit a candle in memory of Robert Cowles Richardson Sr.



Randy and Nancy Kelley - November 30, 2023 at 03:19 PM

RK

*Rest in peace Robert  
We'll be missing you for sure!*

Randy and Nancy Kelley - November 30, 2023 at 03:21 PM

RK

*Rest in peace!*

Randy and Nancy Kelley - November 30, 2023 at 03:24 PM

BH

“ Prayers and Love sent. My Uncle Robert was a mentor and a great fishing Buddy. He is a Legend.

*He has joined Aunt Mary and his siblings in God's Arms.*

*I know the Catfish population will finally increase.*

*Rest Easy, "uncle"*

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**Buff Heath** - November 29, 2023 at 05:28 PM

SP

“ SARAH HAMMONDS PENDARVIS lit a candle in memory of Robert Cowles Richardson Sr.



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**SARAH HAMMONDS PENDARVIS** - November 28, 2023 at 09:31 PM

ER

“ Pop, you have always been a hard working man who loved and cared for every one in your family. It's now your turn to rest in the arms of Jesus. I know He told you when you arrived at Heaven's Gate, "Well done my good and faithful servant." We will love and miss you always.  
- Eric & Michelle



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**Eric & Michelle Richardson** - November 28, 2023 at 07:11 AM

RL

“ Eric, Dolores, and all the family, I'm so sorry for your loss. He will be missed by so many people. Know he loved all of you.



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**Robin Iowney** - November 27, 2023 at 12:36 PM

CP

“ Robbie and family, were very sorry for your loss, you're in our thoughts and prayers.  
Kevin and Cindy



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**Cindy Pennington** - November 23, 2023 at 07:45 AM

KR

“ Pop we will surely miss you. You were the best father in law. I know there was a wonderful reunion when you appeared at the pearly gates and the crowd of people there waiting on you! Nana, Eric, Roddy , all your brothers and sisters. What a joyous celebration you all had. Rest Pop and keep everything in good shape on the other side, until we all get to met together again! We love you! RIP



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**Karen Richardson** - November 22, 2023 at 05:35 PM