



Richard Aubrey Coleman

MAR 14, 1953 - APR 18, 2009



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Richard Aubrey Coleman passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2009 in Covington, LA.

Rich Coleman is from Washington, DC and has been a professional musician for 39 years. The only son of an accomplished violinist, Rich began his music studies at 7 years of age. He studied the violin for seven years. When he turned 14 years old, he switched to drums and percussion and studied with Bill Chisholm, one of Washington, DC's most respected show drummers.

On his 16th birthday, Rich completed a music audition in front of a panel of musicians representing the American Federation of Musicians Local 161-710 in Washington, DC. He then started performing with his father's 17 piece group composed of a 5 piece rhythm section and 12 strolling violins. The group known as the "Strolling Strings" was very much in demand in the Washington area in private and political circles. The group performed at many Washington, DC hotels and on Capital Hill for members of Congress. Rich has shared the stage with many of Washington, DC's finest musicians including: Guitarist Billy Gibson of the Gibson Guitar Company, Violinist Rut Hawn, father of Actress Goldie Hawn, and Bruce Steig, the principle piano player and conductor of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

While in college in Daytona Beach, Florida, Rich performed with various musicians and groups including nationally renowned jazz pianist Dave McKenna and Lead Trumpet Player Don Trube of the Buddy Morrow Orchestra who recorded the hit song "Night Train".

On the local scene, Rich has performed with the jazz trio he formed in 2005 in the Mandeville and Covington area. Known as the Bob Ellis Trio, the group composed of piano, bass and drums, is recognized as the best jazz and easy listening trio on the Northshore. Bob Ellis on piano and vocals has performed locally at the Royal



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Orleans Hotel for 12 years as a single entertainer. When joining Rich Coleman on drums and John Gillis on bass, the group transforms into a very sophisticated listening as well as dancing experience.

Bob Ellis has performed with Steve Lawrence and Eyde Gorme on the NBC Today Show in New York and the Copa Cabana Club in New York City, as well as many venues all over the world with the United States Air Force Band.

John Gillis who is a Dentist by profession is from Terre Haute, Indiana. John is also an accomplished jazz musician and has performed with many groups in Indianapolis, Indiana. He moved to New Orleans in the early 70's and has performed with many local musicians including the Herb Tassin Orchestra at the Fairmont Hotel's Blue Room in New Orleans. Dr. Gillis has also performed at the Steak Knife on Harrison Avenue in Lakeview with his own modern jazz group known as "Absolute Brew".

The Bob Ellis Trio has a 3,000 song repertoire and performs music from America's Great Song Book and love songs from many countries around the world including the worlds most beautiful bossa novas from Brazil.

The trio performed at D.Lamarque's Italian Restaurant in Mandeville for 14 months as well as Benjamin's Bistro in Covington, LA during the Friday Night Block parties. The group has also performed locally at Keith Young's Supper Club in Madisonville and Crown Plaza Hotel in New Orleans.

In addition to being an accomplished musician, Rich Coleman is an aviation professional and flies for the Department of Homeland Security as a Federal Officer and pilot. He graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1975 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Science. He started flying when he was 16 years old paying for flying lessons from his music performances. Rich earned his Private Pilot License at 17 years of age before entering college. Rich achieved all his FAA Pilot Certificates at the minimum age by law, including the Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, the highest grade of pilot license issued by the FAA at the age of 23. He holds six instructor ratings and has logged over 11,525 hours in 42 types of aircraft including 2,700 hours in jets. Rich has been a pilot for the Federal Government for 22 years.



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Rich is also a Shriner and does volunteer work for Jerry Lewis.

Age 56 years, a native of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Rich has been a resident in Beau Chene for the last five years.

He was the beloved son of Richard Adam Coleman and his wife Donna, and he was preceded in death by his mother, Joan Ritchie Coleman.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to a gathering on Monday, April 20, 2009 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 W. 21st. Ave., Covington, LA 70433. Funeral services will be in Shillington, PA at Klee Funeral Home, 1 East Lancaster Ave., on Friday, April 24, 2009, at 2:00 PM, with visitation beginning at 1:00 PM.

Interment will follow services in Salem Shalter's Church Cemetery, Blandon, PA. Flowers will be accepted, but should be arranged in Shillington, PA only.



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Joan Smith posted:

It is with heart felt sorrow for not being able to get to know about this absolutely brilliant MAN .My cousin Richard Aubrey . I so wish that we could have been so very close .Finding out about you has so enhanced and enriched my and families lives . Such a great guy . Im so proud of you .We love you so much . Love from your family in the UK .Your cousin Joan and family .

April 27 at 1:03 AM



Bill Herring posted:

I have known Rich for many years as we worked together at the New Orleans Air Branch. My sincere condolences to his family. Rest in peace Rich, you are higher now than you have ever flown before.

April 26 at 7:00 PM



George N. Schok posted:

Dear Richard & Donna: Joan & I were very sorry to learn of your son's passing. Richie certainly made a success of his life. We know that you both are very proud of his achievements. As parents, we can only imagine how painful it must be to loose a child. You must, however, carry on and do your very best. Sincerely, George & Joan Schok George and Joan

April 24 at 7:00 PM



Ed Fusco posted:

On behalf of the Embry-Ridde Chapter of Delta Chi Fraternity, we are grateful for 37 years of brotherhood and friendship with Rich. We send our prayers and condolences to the Coleman family.

April 24 at 7:00 PM



Joan Smith April 27 at 1:07 AM

Hello and thank you for your sweet words . I have just found out about my cousin Richard Aubrey . I am in the UK and doing my family tree members . So I would like to know more about my dearest Richards past times if possible . Thank you His cousin Joan in the UK ..



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MA

Ms. Linda St. Angelo posted:

Dearest Coleman Family, I have known our Beloved Rich since September of 1983 when we were introduced in beautiful Lago Vista, Texas. We had a loving and beautiful relationship, together with Rich's mother, Joan. I just now received the information of Rich passing away. I am overwhelmed and heartbroken. We have stayed in touch for some 25 years. May you feel God's presence and peace during the loss of a Great Man of many talents. I loved him so, and will miss our emailings and phone conversations. I had no idea of Rich having complications from his surgery. I wish I could be there for his service. My very Heartfelt Sympathy to you, his family. Linda St. Angelo and son, Hans Peter Boy, Jr.

April 22 at 7:00 PM

MI

Matt Issman posted:

I worked and flew with Rich with USCS in Belle Chasse, LA from 1987-1989. I was deeply saddened to hear of Rich's passing. I am praying for his family for comfort. The Bayou Bushwackers lost a true friend and professional. Rich, keep the skies up their VFR!!!

April 21 at 7:00 PM

DC

Donna Coleman January 1 at 4:32 AM

Hi Joan, Richie would have loved you and so would his dad. Thanks for your nice comments. And I hope we stay in touch always P.S. Richie's moms name was Joan also!!Love and hugsDonna

DC

Donna Coleman January 1 at 4:27 AM

Hello Matt, I am Donna Coleman and was Married to Richard A Coleman, Richie's dad. Thank you for your nice comments about Richie. He was a wonderful person and has been sadly missed. I may have met up with you at his home in New Orlean's when I had an open house for him. He loved his friends and family very much. I miss him and his Dad who passed away in March of 2012.Donna Coleman



Joan Smith April 27 at 1:13 AM

Hello MattThanks you for your comments . I am Richard Aubrey's Cousin in the UK . I have just found out about him as doing our Ancestry family tree . We would love to know about his past times with you if possible . We're the same age. Im deeply proud of him . He was a complete star . Thanks Joan in the UK



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MC

Maureen Cooney Cortez posted:

I was deeply saddened to hear of Rich's passing. My condolences go out to his family. I worked with Rich for 22 years at the Air & Marine Branch both in Belle Chasse and Hammond. Rich was a pleasure to work with. He was always willing to help in any way he could. I know that he will be watching over the Bushwacker family. Rich you will definately be missed.

April 21 at 7:00 PM

MF

Mark Ford posted:

I can hardly beleive that it has been 51 years since I met Rich, on the first day we walked into Mrs. Turner's kindergarten classroom. I remember so many things about Rich. But, I think my favorite was the laugh that was so uniquely his own. It made me happy just to hear him. I will miss our friend SkyPro. And I hope that God will watch over all of the Colemans.

April 21 at 7:00 PM

PB

Pattie Bennett posted:

My deepest sympathy for your loss. May God bless you.

April 20 at 7:00 PM

RB

Rae Lynn Burns posted:

it was great geeting to know rachto the frist basit church single class to worship and sunday scholl and great talking to him on the phone and you will be in haven .

April 20 at 7:00 PM

BR

Bobby Richardson posted:

The Richardson family wish to express their condolences for your loss. Having retired from the Aviation Branch in Houston, I'm sure everyone here is feeling his loss and everyone will miss him very much. Bobby Richardson

April 20 at 7:00 PM



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JS

Jim Scanlon posted:

God speed, Rich. To the Coleman family, I am so very sorry for your loss.

April 19 at 7:00 PM

BB

Barbara Broome posted:

To the parents of Rich, I express my deepest sympathy for the loss of your son. Although I knew Rich for just a little over a year, I was privileged to be his friend. He was very faithful to our Sunday School class and worship services at First Baptist of Covington. Before he was hospitalized, he was looking forward to hearing Don Piper talk about heaven. Now he is experiencing the joy and peace of heaven. May God give you peace and assurance that he is in a better place. Love in Christ, Barbara Broome

April 19 at 7:00 PM

GD

George Dausch posted:

You will be missed by all who know you at Gramde Cheniere. m Chic

April 19 at 7:00 PM

SN

Steve Nielsen posted:

It was a pleasure to have known and worked with Rich, better known as "Skypro", over the past 22 years. You were truly a professional and good friend. Life was definitely fun back in the days at NOLA. I am glad that I was able to help in getting your medical back as I know you really enjoyed what you did. May you rest in peace and God speed, my friend.

April 19 at 7:00 PM

JN

Jan And Ted Nagel posted:

Rich will be missed so much. We enjoyed hearing from him often (especially his notes at Christmas!) He was so much fun to be around. A wonderful soul.

April 19 at 7:00 PM



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KG

Keeley Smith Guidroz posted:

There are no words to express my grief and sorrow for the sudden loss of my dear friend, Rich. He was so loved and respected by all who knew him. He touched so many lives with his humility, kindness and friendship. I will never forget him, nor will anyone be able to take his place. There will forever be a hole in my heart where my memories and love for Rich will remain. I rejoice that he is with Jesus in Heaven, but I am deeply saddened that our time with him was so tragically cut short. I will miss you, my dear friend. I am so grateful to God that he gave me the precious gift of our last conversation. When it's my turn, please be waiting there at the gates.

April 19 at 7:00 PM

MS

Marsha Summers posted:

I am very sorry to hear of Rich Coleman's death. I knew him back in the 70's when he played drums with Don Trube. I introduced him to my sister and attended their wedding in Buffalo, N.Y. Rich visited here in Daytona from time to time and we would lunch together and talk over old times and the various musicians that were playing around Daytona then like Patti and Marti and Billy Glenn. He emailed me about his surgery and we were both confident that life would continue on for him with flying and playing drums. I will treasure the tape he sent me of his trio.

April 19 at 7:00 PM

WN

Wendy Nielsen posted:

It is with deepest sympathy that I sign this guest book. Rich was a friend and fellow co-worker of my husband, Steve, since 1987, when they started flying together with US Customs. Always a true gentlemen and friend, Rich will always be remembered with high esteem. May you always RIP, Rich... Our love, Wendy & Steve

April 19 at 7:00 PM

CT

Cousin Alice (Schok) Testa posted:

Dear Cousin Richard: My sincere sympathy on the loss of your son. While I know you're deeply saddened, I am sure you are proud of him for the many accomplishments he achieved in his life. This is not the way it's supposed to be -- the parent isn't supposed to bury the child, but only God decides when to bring his children home. I hope you can believe that Richie is in a much better place now, without illness or pain. Sincere condolences, Alice

April 19 at 7:00 PM



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JK

Jeffrey Kratzer posted:

I had the privilege of working with Rich beginning in August, 1991, in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. I was a new employee, and I remember that Rich never had an unkind word for me. He was always very helpful whenever I needed guidance or a helping hand. I transferred out just over one year later, but eight years after leaving, I came back and worked with Rich again as a manager. Rich was again very helpful to me, particularly in maintaining all the required aviation publications at the office. Having a wife and two small children at the time, I never really got to know Rich outside of the work environment, but I knew he was very involved in the jazz music scene. Like others with whom I worked in Louisiana, Rich was a colorful character. To me, Rich was a little different in his special way; like someone transported forward from a simpler, better time. After reading his biography today, I think I realize why. His life experiences with his music took him back to the classic singers, bands, and music of a bygone era. Rich's record was analog, high fidelity, and stereophonic. It just didn't play long enough. But I'm very happy I was able to share a track or two with Rich before his record ended. I offer my sincere condolences to Rich's family and friends. Sincerely, Jeff Kratzer

April 19 at 7:00 PM

RC

Robert & Linnae Coleman posted:

Uncle Richard and Donna: We are so saddened to hear about Ritchie. We enjoyed the times that we were together when Richie would come home and visit. Being the same age as Richie (about 2 months older) it hits home even more. I wish we could attend the service in Shillington, however we will be in Florida on vacation. We will keep you and Donna in our prayers and may god bless you both. Bob & Linnae Coleman

April 19 at 7:00 PM

DL

Debbie Lynn posted:

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to know Rich Coleman. He was a gentleman, a professional but most of all a friend. We have so many wonderful memories that I will always treasure. Rich, my dear friend, you will be missed!

April 19 at 7:00 PM

DL

Debbie Lynn posted:

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to know Rich Coleman. He was a gentleman, a professional but most of all a friend. We have so many wonderful memories that I was always treasure. Rich, my dear friend, you will be missed!

April 19 at 7:00 PM



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AH

Ann Hussey posted:

I worked with Rich for The Air and Marine Unit. Rich was always so nice and pleasant to be around. I know he loved life and enjoyed it to the fullest. I will miss him.

April 18 at 7:00 PM

DP

Dori Phillips posted:

Rich was an internet friend; we shared political ideas, laughter, family stories, and career goals. He went out of his way to help my son, a fellow ERAU graduate, who was job seeking. Rich was a caring, humorous, intelligent, talented person. I will miss his friendship. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. We have lost a good person. Dori Phillips

April 18 at 7:00 PM

EC

E.J. Chong, Jr. posted:

I feel blessed to have met & served with Rich in New Orleans. He was the consummate professional. My deepest sympathies to Rich's family and to our Bushwacker family.

April 18 at 7:00 PM

HR

Helen Ronsiek posted:

Richard will be missed by all his friends and relatives. He was such a fine young man....I was so sorry to hear of his death.

April 18 at 7:00 PM

GS

Gregory P. Spanbauer posted:

Mr. Coleman, My deepest condolences go out to you Mr Coleman. I just talked to Richard two weeks ago. Richard and I were a very close friends, I really loved that man. I first met Richard in Oshkosh Wisconsin at the EAA in 1976, at the same time meeting his late mother. We have shared many great times together throughout the years past, and his memory will not be forgotten. Sincerely, Gregory P. Spanbauer

April 18 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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