



Ricky Gene Matlock

December 31, 1961 - March 4, 2021

WOODBIDGE – Ricky Gene Matlock, 59, passed away March 4, 2021, surrounded by his family. He was born on December 31, 1961, the son of Mary Sue (Battles) Matlock and Aubrey Gene Matlock. Ricky graduated from McNairy Central High School class of 1980 and went on to serve proudly in the U.S. Marine Corp and Navy for 20 years. During his time in the military, Ricky traveled the world and made many close friends. With his fun-loving personality and loyalty to his friends and family, Ricky was always a bright light to all in even the worst of times. After retiring from the Navy, Ricky worked as a government contractor, but his passions in life were spending his time with his family and riding his motorcycle.

Ricky is survived by his sons Christian, Caleb, and Isaac Matlock, his daughter Aislinn Matlock, granddaughters Elizabeth and Makenna Matlock, and expected grandson August Amaya Matlock. He is also remembered by his siblings Tina Hardin and Wendy Jackson, and many other family members.

Tribute Wall



“ *Laurie Wagnon lit a candle in memory of
Ricky Gene Matlock* ”



Laurie Wagnon - April 23, 2021 at 07:27 PM

“Ricky was a a great colleague of mine at IV&V, but he was a better friend! I will miss our daily chats in the office about his children, motorcycles, Memphis, and all other topics! I know nothing can take your family's pain away, but I hope they find some comfort in the below written by an Old Wise Man:

“Alright, here goes. I’m old. What that means is that I’ve survived (so far) and a lot of people I’ve known and loved did not. I’ve lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, mom, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can’t imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here’s my two cents.

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. I never did. I don’t want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don’t want it to “not matter”. I don’t want it to be something that just passes.

My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are a testament that I can love deeply and live deeply and be cut, or even gouged, and that I can heal and continue to live and continue to love. And the scar tissue is stronger than the original flesh ever was. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can’t see.

As for grief, you’ll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you’re drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it’s some physical thing. Maybe it’s a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it’s a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive.

In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don’t even give

you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, maybe months, you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come further apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything...and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O'Hare. You can see it coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out. Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. But you learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them too. If you're lucky, you'll have lots of scars from lots of loves. And lots of shipwrecks."

Laurie Wagnon - April 23, 2021 at 07:22 PM

RF

“ I have only beautiful memories of you. Us 13 and 14 years old laughing at everything. Growing older learning to drive. I love you my cousin. I will dance in heaven with you soon. God keep him.💖
🥹

Rhonda Battles Follis - March 20, 2021 at 11:00 PM

LP

“ Lisa Brown Partain lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock



Lisa Brown Partain - March 20, 2021 at 10:33 PM

DH

“ Spent many 'o nite on the E/R poz with this guy - along with just a few parties - on the rock known as Diego Garcia. Such a GREAT friend that I am better for having known!

David Jon Hauschild - March 20, 2021 at 08:31 PM

D(

“ RIP to a great classmate from MCHS Class of 1980. Will miss your fun, loving personality at our class reunions. Continued 🙏 For your family.



Donna King (Murry) - March 20, 2021 at 06:28 PM

TG

“ Tina Goodman lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock



Tina Goodman - March 20, 2021 at 04:30 PM

VH

“ *Vicky Hurst lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock*



Vicky Hurst - March 20, 2021 at 03:51 AM

KO

“ *Kimberly Matlock Owens lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock*



Kimberly Matlock Owens - March 20, 2021 at 03:07 AM



“ *Jessica McEvoy lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock*



Jessica McEvoy - March 19, 2021 at 03:31 PM

LU

“ *Lesley Urquhart lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock*



lesley urquhart - March 19, 2021 at 02:01 PM

AC

“ Alan Cecce lit a candle in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock



Alan Cecce - March 18, 2021 at 01:25 PM

AC

My condolences to Ricky's family and friends. I had the pleasure of serving with Ricky when I was in the Navy. He was a great guy. RIP Shipmate!

Alan Cecce - March 18, 2021 at 01:26 PM

WR

“ With Deepest Sympathy, Steph and Chris Reid purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Ricky Gene Matlock.



With Deepest Sympathy, Steph and Chris Reid - March 12, 2021 at 05:54 PM

SR

“ Steph & Chris Reid sent a virtual gift in memory of Ricky Gene Matlock



Steph & Chris Reid - March 12, 2021 at 05:10 PM



“ *Steph & Chris Reid lit a candle in memory of
Ricky Gene Matlock*



Steph & Chris Reid - March 12, 2021 at 05:08 PM