



Richard Gay Israel

November 16, 1950 - April 16, 2016

Richard Gay Israel, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2016. Gay was born November 16, 1950 in Americus, GA and grew up on a peanut farm. He had a love for sports, specifically baseball and football, in which he starred during his high school years. He received a baseball scholarship at ABAC Junior College in Tifton, GA. Following that with an athletic scholarship at Appalachian State University, earning a Bachelor's degree in physical education. In his junior year, the Appalachian State Mountaineers earned a trip to the NAIA College World Series where Gay starred as the center fielder.

While still a student at Appalachian State, he met his wife Karan at New Hope Baptist Church in Earl, N.C. Their first date was a sledding trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway. They married in 1973 and both attended Appalachian State during which Gay received his Master's degree. In 1974 he furthered his graduate work receiving a Doctorate in Exercise Physiology from West Virginia University.

Gay started his career at Howard University in Washington, DC, establishing the Howard University Human Performance Lab. He then moved to East Carolina University in Greenville, NC in 1981 founding the institution's nationally recognized Human Performance Lab. He founded and directed the Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factor Identification/Reduction Program. During those years, Gay and Karan welcomed two sons into their family. Gay taught

his sons baseball, enjoyment of the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting and even yard work. He rarely missed any of his sons sporting events.

Accepting the Department Head position at Colorado State University, he moved his family to Fort Collins, CO in 1996. While at CSU he established the Human Performance Clinical Research Laboratory, which holds the distinction of being a CSU Program of Research and Scholarly Excellence. Gay's 18 year tenure as department head was characterized by a tripling of undergraduate enrollment, the development of a new Ph.D. program, and fourfold growth in research expenditures.

Gay was blessed to have grown up in a Christian family, and he received Christ personally as a teen. He has fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith and has inspired many especially during his cancer battle. Gay is home with the LORD today.

Gay is survived by his wife Karan and sons: Wes (Lauren) of Denver, CO, and Alex (Megan), grandson, Graham of Highlands Ranch, CO., brothers Dan Israel of Raleigh, NC and Renza Israel of Pine Mountain, GA.

Gay is predeceased by his parents, Alva (Scrap) and Marie Israel, and sister, Judy Burgess.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on May 20, 2016 at Faith Evangelical Free Church, 3920 South Shields Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526 at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts toward an academic scholarship established in Gay's name at giveto.colostate.edu/gayisrael or mailed to the Colorado State University Foundation, 410 University Services Center, Fort Collins, CO 80523-9100, with "Richard Gay Israel HES Scholarship Endowment # 72705"

in the memo line.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR **23** (ET)

New Hope Baptist Church
2621 Blacksburg Rd
Earl, NC 28038

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Gay Israel*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dear Israels - Karen, Wes, Alex and wives,
We are saddened by your husband and dad's passing. Just learned today. We did not realize he had cancer. Who would have thought? God knows in His ultimate wisdom.*

Gay was an amazing man! We are honored to have known him and your family.

*Love and prayers for you All,
Brice and Jeanne Miller*

Brice & Jeanne Miller - May 05, 2016 at 11:12 AM



“ *Your family is in our prayers. Cristy and Mike Folk, Greenville, NC*

Mike Folk - May 01, 2016 at 12:08 PM



“ *To Wes and Alex,*

We are so sorry for your loss. Your father always exuded kindness and class, and your lives were always his highest priority. His legacy will continue to thrive through you.

The Smailes' Family

Tom Smailes - May 01, 2016 at 07:47 AM

MM

“ Karen, I am so sorry to learn of your husband's passing. And at the same time so glad he is no longer suffering. May you and your family feel the arms of Jesus wrapped around you during this difficult time.

Mim Miller

Mim Miller - May 01, 2016 at 01:02 AM

CH

“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Richard Gay Israel



Chrissy - April 28, 2016 at 11:39 AM