



## Richard Kleese

July 20, 1942 - February 20, 2012

Richard Wilson Kleese, age 69 of Hattieville, passed away Monday, February 20, 2012. He was born July 20, 1942 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a son of the late Earl Wilson Kleese and Edith Hagerbaumer Kleese. At age 17, Richard joined the Navy serving on a Battleship destroyer with ports of call at Japan and Seoul Korea. He worked on the offshore drilling rig "Zapata" for two years, came back to Morrilton, and continued his lifelong passion as an auto repairman. His career spanned 45 years in the auto repair business. He was an assistant body shop manager at Richard's Ford in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He later worked for Charles Kelley, Wayne Evans, Koch's Body Shop, an instructor in the auto repair shop at U.A.C.C. M., and had his own shop for a short time. He was the best auto repair technician in Conway County, a master carpenter, loved fishing and being at his farm.

He was married on February 23, 1973 to Pauletta Patton, they were married for 36 years; other survivors include, son, Daniel Kleese of Morrilton; daughter, Danielle (Joey) Caston of Morrilton; step-son, Allen (Kelly) Patton of Omaha, Nebraska; step-daughter, Andrea Patton of Hattieville; brother, Earl W. (Denise) of Ft. Smith; sisters, Earline Sitton of Plumerville, Rose (Charles) Corder of Hattieville, Edith Kleese of Russellville, and Ann (David) Kysar of Springfield, Louisiana; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 23, at Smith Springs Freewill Baptist Church with Bro. Kirk McConnell officiating.

Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Kleese*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Richard was the ultimate professional. He was a joy to work with. A friend indeed. A person I looked up to and sought his advice.*

**Gary Koch** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM



“ *Dear Family: I am sorry for the loss of Richard, He truly was a wonderful man and a joy to work with. Although it was a short time working with us at Bumper to Bumper, he will be missed by all of us. God bless Richard and his family. Vince, Lesley Lentz, and workers at Bumper to Bumper.*

**Vince Lentz** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM



“ *I just want the family to know that everyone will be in our thoughts and prayers. Richard was an awesome man who I admired. Heaven has gained another angel.*

**Allan & Cindy Upchurch** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM

MG

“ *Richard was always so pleasant and full of energy. It was a pleasure having him as a member of the UACCM family. He will be greatly missed.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through this difficult time.*

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**Martha Gattin** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM

BR

“ *Richard always had a smile. Even when he knew his time was short he still smiled and said "God has a plan". The kids all loved "Santa Claus" and will miss him tremendously. God Bless.*

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**Brian** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM

TS

“ *The world is a sadder place without Richard, but heaven will be a brighter place with him. Gonna miss my old antique bottle buddy! Not another like him. T.L.*

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**T.L. Starr** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM

KP

“ *Richard was a self-made and self-educated intelligent man. He loved life and always wore a smile. He never met a stranger and helped many people during his lifetime without expecting or receiving anything in return. I never saw him angry or mad anytime during the 39 years that I knew him. During his illness if you asked him how he was he would say he was fine. He was determined if he could not get well he would die at home a happy old man. He was a very good friend and helped me many, many times. I will miss him very much but, at least I now know that he is truly free and fine.*

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**karen patton** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM

RE

“ *Richard and Wayne worked together through the years and were always good friends. I never saw Richard when he wasn't laughing and talking. He had so much energy and zest for life. He was one of the "Good Guys" and everyone who knew him will miss him. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Rebecca Evans*

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**Rebecca Evans** - June 29, 2018 at 09:57 PM