



## Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr.

August 12, 1951 - June 23, 2020

On Tuesday, June 23, 2020, Pastor Leroy Edward Ricks, Sr. was called to his eternal rest in the Heavenly realm by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Leroy Ricks, Sr. was born on August 12, 1951 in Norfolk County, VA (South Norfolk section of Chesapeake) to the late Doris Bell Ricks.

He graduated from Crestwood High School in 1971. While at Crestwood, he excelled at drafting and mechanical drawing. He loved the game of basketball. His work-ethic, tenacity, and dogged perseverance was forged on the hardwood. He championed the position of point guard for the Bombers earning All-City honors. Basketball was his second love, next to his love for his high school sweetheart, Vanessa Hinton.

After graduation, he work at Norfolk Dredging Company, GFM, and Norfolk Naval Air Station as an inside machinist. It was at the Air Station where he encountered Jesus Christ via a bible study. After he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal savior, he joined Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church under the leadership of Wilbur Jones and then under the guidance of Dr. Allen R. McFarland. While at Calvary, Pastor Ricks served as Sunday school teacher and then Sunday School Superintendent, Deacon and Associate Minister. In September of 1989, he and a few faithful men founded New Berean Baptist Church where he faithfully and tirelessly served as the Senior Pastor for 31 years. Great will be his reward!

In preparation for the calling, he attended Washington Bible College, Luther Rice College and Seminary, and later he graduated with a Bachelor of Biblical Education degree from Tabernacle Baptist College & Theological. His favorite scripture that related to his calling to preach was Galatians 1:15-16, which states: “ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.”

He was predeceased by his grandmother, Cora Ricks, mother, Doris Bell Ricks-Hargrove, and eldest sister, Dorothy Jean Parker.

He leaves to cherish his beloved memory his high school sweetheart and wife of 49 years, Vanessa Ricks, three adult sons and daughters-in-love, Leroy (Nuke) E. Ricks, Jr. (Felicia) of Suffolk; VA., Dr. Lamont. E. Ricks (Tracey) of Suffolk, VA., and Lance E. Ricks (Ericka) of Suffolk, VA.; four granddaughters, Destini Ricks, Aniyah Ricks, McKenzie Ricks, Areyah Ricks ;a sister, Mary Clayton and brother, Percell Ricks (Selma); New Berean Baptist Church family, pastoral co-laborers in the ministry, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

\*\*\*Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the family request for the safety of all that the funeral service be limited to 75 people including close family and church family. Social distancing will be enforced.

# Cemetery Details

## Roosevelt Memorial Park

1101 Campostella Road  
Chesapeake, Va

# Previous Events

## Wake Service

JUN 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

New Berean Baptist Church  
3600 Bamboo Road  
Portsmouth, VA

## Service

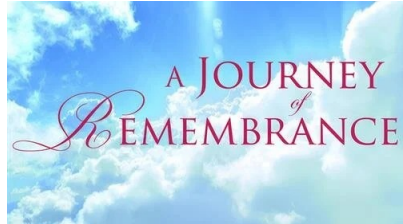
JUL 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church  
205 Gust Lane  
Portsmouth, VA 23701

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr.



---

**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - July 03, 2020 at 02:12 PM

RJ

*We are sorry for the pain that the family are feeling here on earth, but the joy in heaven will replace your family pain, went you all get together again.*

*Be blessed and praise God  
Ray & Liz*

---

**Ray & Liz Jackson** - July 09, 2020 at 06:17 PM

GS

*A wonderful man of God. Blessings being sent to his beautiful family during this time and the days to come.*

---

**Gwen Spence** - August 03, 2020 at 10:07 PM

PS

“ *May God bless and comfort the family of Pastor Leroy Ricks.*  
*Pastor Joseph Downing Sr*

---

**Pastor Joseph Downing Sr.** - July 05, 2020 at 08:36 AM

VE

“ I am constantly praying for all of you. Pastor Ricks is one of a kind. He will be missed. God’s love and grace WILL get you through. 🙏  
💜 Zephaniah 3:17

Vernicia T. Eure - July 01, 2020 at 11:50 PM

VP

“ Praying for the Ricks family that God will give you Strength to go through this Journey. Know that my Prayers are with you . My heart is heavy , because all of you are like close family to our family. God will take care of you all .Love you all.



Vicky Porter - July 01, 2020 at 11:15 AM

MN

“ Extending heartfelt prayers and sympathy to the Ricks family and the NBBC family. May the God of "right now" grace comfort you today & in the days ahead. Marian, GTCC-Elizabeth City, NC



Marian, GTCC Elizabeth City, NC - July 01, 2020 at 10:48 AM

SB

“ Sincerely, Valerie Langhorne and Fulton Bank purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..




Sincerely, Valerie Langhorne and Fulton Bank - July 01, 2020 at 10:03 AM

CP

“ *The Williams and Fitchett families extend our sincere condolences to the Ricks family especially today. This has been a difficult and unexpected journey for you. But, God will give LeRoy's boys strength to carry on the legacy and be right by their mom's side. Things are so different today but know you are not grieving alone our family and so many others are also. Gods got each of you even thru this! Follow your days blueprint! Love you all*

---

**Cherita Puryear** - July 01, 2020 at 09:12 AM

 Patrice Covington

“ *All my love and so much light to the Rick's family! Always, Patrice Covington*

---

**Patrice Covington** - July 01, 2020 at 01:54 AM

DJ

“ *To the family of Pastor Ricks, sending our deepest condolences and prayers to you, Pastor Ricks was a true man of God. Praying that God will give you all the strength and comfort you need.*

*Elder Miles and Deborah Jordan*



---

**Deborah Jordan** - July 01, 2020 at 12:38 AM

SC

“ My heart is heavy right now because my Spritual Daddy & Beloved Pastor Ricks is no longer with us physically and I will miss him, but I find comfort in knowing that Pastor Ricks is in Heaven with Jesus and he is no longer suffering. I will be praying for comfort for the entire Ricks family & my New Berean Baptist Church family. We will continue to keep Pastor Ricks vision & preach& teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you Pastor Ricks for being a great teacher, preacher and the caretaker of my soul. I hope to live a life that will make you proud & honor God. I will see you again one day. We will take care of Sister Vanessa. Rest in peace.

---

**Sis. Char** - June 30, 2020 at 11:38 PM

AL

“ Leroy, Lamont and Lance,  
your father led from the front and not the rear.  
Everyday his hands were at the plow and he  
showed me the work ethics the Lord had for  
us. I will miss my Pastor, brother and friend.  
Deacon Lawhorn



---

**Anthony Lawhorn** - June 30, 2020 at 08:03 PM

CP

“ Reverend Eric and Cherita Puryear extend our sincere condolences and love to you, Vanessa, LeRoy, Jr, LaMont, Lance and the entire Ricks family. As I think of the fond memories of LeRoy Ricks, Sr my heart beams as I recall how he put Nuke in my care as he and Vanessa would have their date night and how he would welcome me into their home and say be comfortable Rita. Would you like something to eat? Come on here and eat! How he loved being in the home of the late Mrs. Beatrice Harrell (aka to the Ricks family "Momma Bea") and talk about how good God had been to his family especially his 3 sons. He loved the New Berean church family and was proud to be the leader of that flock. I am thankful for the words in imparted in my life and encourage me to know it would be alright. I thank God that he and my husband had the opportunity to personally share Gods goodness and the knowledge God had imparted in each of them one Sunday when visiting New Berean. Thank you Pastor Ricks for all you have done for the kingdom and for being a special part of our family. The boys will follow your blueprint and will take excellent care of your girl, Vanessa. We know you are resting comfortably in the arms of Jesus.  
Peace and blessings

---

**Cherita Williams Puryear** - June 30, 2020 at 04:22 PM

DF

“ Doris Edmonds & The Lewis Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



---

**Doris Edmonds & The Lewis Family** - June 30, 2020 at 03:33 PM

PJ

“ I send the entire Ricks family my most heartfelt condolences on your loss. While I never met Pastor Ricks, I knew of him through my work with son, Dr. Lamont Ricks. It was obvious to me how much Pastor Ricks meant to his family and to the community. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time.

Paul Joseph - June 30, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



June 30, 2020 at 12:44 PM

LM

“ Love & Sympathy --- NBBC Pastor's Aid Ministry purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



Love & Sympathy --- NBBC Pastor's Aid Ministry - June 30, 2020 at 12:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



June 30, 2020 at 11:01 AM

RO

“ *Rev. Dr. Claude & Mrs. Bettina Odom purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..*



---

**Rev. Dr. Claude & Mrs. Bettina Odom** - June 30, 2020 at 08:39 AM

CO

“ *To the Family and friends of Pastor Leroy Ricks, Sr. We the New Middle Swamp Missionary Baptist Church Family of Corapeake, NC will continue to keep you in prayer as we grieve the death of Pastor Ricks. We know this is a difficult time. Remember, God is in control and will provide all your needs according to His riches in glory. Be encouraged in the Lord Jesus.*  
*Claude M. Odom, Pastor*



---

**Claude Odom** - June 30, 2020 at 08:27 AM

CW

“ *May I express my deep sympathy to the family and loved ones for their loss in this time of grief.*  
*Connie Williams*

---

**Connie Williams** - June 29, 2020 at 08:08 PM

OS

“ Our deepest sympathy, Pastor Keith and Susan Smith purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



---

**Our deepest sympathy, Pastor Keith and Susan Smith** - June 29, 2020 at 06:16 PM

VS

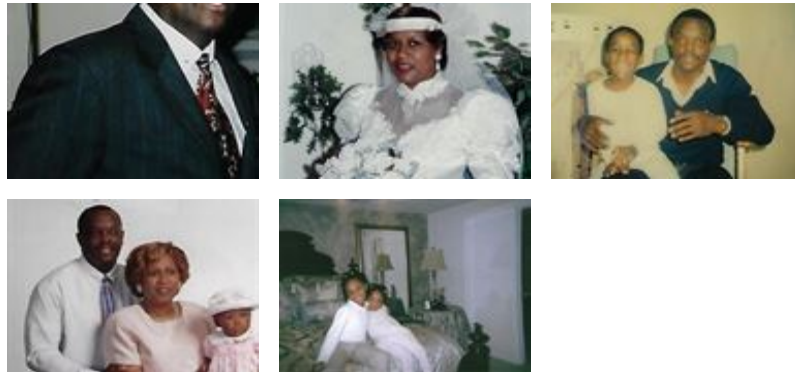
“ Brother you will be missed, but not forgotten. Your legacy will live on forever. You will be forever in my heart...Love Velma

---

**Velma Simmons** - June 29, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ 21 files added to the album Life Tributes

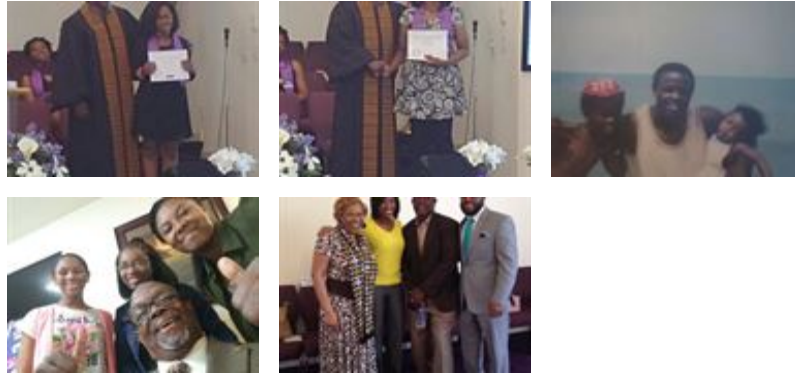


---

**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - June 29, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Life Tributes

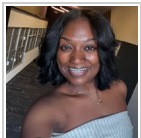


J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - June 29, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ Condolences to the Ricks family. Didn't know Pastor Ricks well, but I know that the world is a better place because of him and his family. John, Brenda Tice and John Jr.

John Tice - June 29, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ I'm missing my Granddaddy everyday. ❤️

Beanie Ricks - June 28, 2020 at 11:11 PM

BT

“ Our sincere condolences to Vanessa Ricks and the family. Pastor Ricks was always an inspiration and truly a blessing to us. He was a friend, mentor, and always had a listening ear. We are stronger in the Lord because of his teaching and preaching. We will truly miss our friend of over 30 years . A faithful man of God who stood on God's word. May God strengthen the family and bless them doing their time of bereavement.

Clarence ("The Sheriff" as he would call Clarence) and Barbara Thompson

---

**Barbara Thompson** - June 28, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



---

June 28, 2020 at 06:45 PM

DM

“ Our condolences from the Murray family, gone but not forgotten ❤️  
❤️

---

**Dwayne and Keisha Murray** - June 28, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



---

June 28, 2020 at 05:01 PM

LR

“ *Leroy and Vanessa were with us in the first hours after our daughter Candace died. We will miss our dear friendship and fellowship. Love and prayers for family and church... Ricky and Lynnette Richardson*



---

**Lynnette Richardson** - June 27, 2020 at 08:55 PM

FR

“ Every morning when I open my eyes to the reality that Pa Ricks is gone, I cry in disbelief. He was more to me than just a father-in-law. He was my Pastor, my teacher, my words of wisdom, my mentor, and more, but most importantly, he was a Father to me. I can remember times when I was not well or our baby wasn't well and he would call me to check on us and see what we needed. I remember all of the long talks we had and all of the laughs and jokes we shared. Whenever we had any type of gathering, he was there bringing a bag full of stuff to help out, even though I told him not to. I'm going to miss our every Sunday dinner outings after church, we had so much fun! This was such a wonderful man who Loved his family and he Loved people. His passion for his true calling was immeasurable. He called our daughter Keni Boo-Boo-Boo and he called me Ma Fe-Fe and I was his daughter and as I Loved him, I know that he Loved me. ❤️ He would always say, “Y'all gonna miss me when I'm gone” and I would tell him “Pa Ricks stop saying that, you ain't going nowhere”, but maybe he knew something. He was right though, I miss him already and I always will. The only good thing about this, is that he's no longer suffering and he's rejoicing now in heaven! I Love You Pa Ricks!! ❤️  
Felicia Ricks



---

**Felicia Ricks** - June 27, 2020 at 12:08 PM

CB

“ Condolences to the Rick's family. On behalf of Angela Jenkins and Chystell Bright-Holland we feel your pain and struggle. God bless each of you.

---

**Chystell Bright-Holland** - June 27, 2020 at 11:47 AM

DB

“ I am glad and happy about meeting a man such as Pastor Ricks every time I had a chance to be around him he showed me love and I know that him and his wife cared for my wife and treated her with such love and I'm thankful for that and I know that he will truly be missed, to the family you have our deepest condolences and prayers, and may God comfort you and give you a peace that passes all understanding. Minister Duwane and Faith Bowden

---

**duwane bowden** - June 27, 2020 at 11:05 AM

DH

“ Our sincere condolences and prayers to the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr. We are saddened to hear the passing of Pastor Ricks. We pray that God will strengthen and comfort you wherewith He is able to comfort us in such times these. Our memories and fellowship with Pastor Ricks and the New Berean Baptist Church family will always be dear to our hearts.



---

**Donald & Avis Holley** - June 26, 2020 at 06:54 PM

DT

*Sending Condolences from the Class of 1971 ,you will truly be missed Thank for your commitment, Campassion for the body of Christ, Sister Denise Copeland Trusty, may God comfort for through your breaveament time*

---

**Denise Copeland Trusty** - June 28, 2020 at 02:04 PM

ES

“ My deepest sympathy to the Ricks Family. I pray God will comfort and strengthen you during your bereavement. Pastor Ricks was a great husband, father, and pastor. He and Sis Vanessa has always been very dear to my heart. Pastor Ricks impacted my life and helped me through some very difficult times when I lived in Virginia. I will always be grateful to God for leading me to New Berean Baptist Church! I can truly say I'm better today for it! From Labor to Reward! Well done Pastor Leroy E. Ricks Sr... Hallelujah... Well Done!



---

**ERMA SHOEMAKER** - June 26, 2020 at 05:58 PM

DH

“ Our hearts are deeply saddened to hear the death of Pastor Leroy Ricks. We pray that God will strengthen and comfort you wherewithal He is able to comfort us in times such as these. Our many memories and fellowship with Pastor Ricks and the New Berean Baptist Church family will have a dear place in our hearts. Pastor Donald Holley & Family



---

**Donald Holley** - June 26, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..



---

June 26, 2020 at 05:33 PM

PB

“ Our hearts are sadden to hear about the passing of Pastor, Leroy Ricks. We send our sincere and deepest condolences to Mrs. Vanessa and the entire Ricks family during this difficult time and will keep you prayer.

*Jansen & Patsy Butler,  
Patsy Rollins*



---

**Patsy Butler** - June 26, 2020 at 03:18 PM

DT

“ Our deepest condolences go to the family of this faithful servant of the Most High God. I will never forget the time when he so graciously opened his church to my son-in-law to conduct a baptismal service. It was at this service that several young people including my youngest grandson were baptized. This act spoke volumes about his character and integrity. He distinguished himself that day by unselfishly helping a co-laborer in the gospel. He sealed a place in my heart by setting the atmosphere for salvation not only in my family but in the families represented.. Throughout eternity, we will be in his debt and we know his reward is great in heaven. Again, though we mourn his passing, we rejoice in his victory here on earth.



---

**Debra Dyson Taylor** - June 26, 2020 at 02:02 PM

MB

“ My deepest condolences to the Ricks family. Pastor Ricks was truly a man of God; who fulfilled his assignment to spread the WORD. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

---

**Marionette Butts** - June 26, 2020 at 12:14 PM

AM

“ *Leroy Ricks and family, please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your loved one. May the memories you have shared last a lifetime, and may the road ahead be a comforting one.*

*Ms. Mattai  
Former DCHS Co-worker*



---

**Arlene Mattai** - June 26, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..*



---

June 26, 2020 at 08:22 AM

LS

“ *"My deepest sympathy goes out to the family, friends, colleagues and neighbors on the passing of the Pastor Ricks. He is sorely missed."*



---

**Lamont Simmons** - June 25, 2020 at 07:49 PM

PJ

“ To the Ricks Family you're in our Prayers, we'll really going to miss Pastor Ricks, glad to have known him for 29 years, as our Pastor And Friend, always there for me and my family, cause he was one of a kind, we won't find another like him...Love you'll, Alvin & Paula Jones & Family



Paula Jones - June 25, 2020 at 05:50 PM

AC

“ A One of a Kind Pastor. A true friend and Pastor! Well done; a Faithful Servant of God! Praying for the family! Love The Cason Family



Allen and Frieda Cason - June 25, 2020 at 05:06 PM

JO

“ He was a true man of God who willing looked 4 ways to help those in need. He lived what he preached. He made it known that he loved his New Berean Baptist Church family and we loved him. Praise the Lord, my pastor is not lost, he is in the presence of the Lord. I'm missing him so much. But one day I shall see him again. My prayers are with the family

Joan - June 25, 2020 at 01:17 PM

RP

*A true man of God*

Rhonda Allen Puckett - June 26, 2020 at 06:34 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..*



June 25, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ *Our hearts are deeply saddened in the loss of Pastor Leroy Ricks! We're praying for all Family members and especially my childhood friends Vanessa, Gail, Cynthia and children. We're praying as you go through this heartfelt loss. We love you all* 🥹😭🌹❤️🙏



*Verna Walton Bowden  
Edna W Dailey  
LaTonya Walton  
Pooler, GA*

**Verna Walton Bowdem** - June 25, 2020 at 07:14 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr..*



June 25, 2020 at 01:10 AM

Steve  
Pat  
Barnes

“ 3 files added to the album Leroy's Legacy



Steve Pat Barnes - June 24, 2020 at 11:59 PM



“ I want to thank Pastor Leroy Ricks for being so kind and loving to my daughter Erin. She was CRYBABY, but there love, kindness and patience made her fall in love with them. That love is still felt today. His love for Vanessa stood out immensely. I saw them in Golden Corral, his patients and nurturing really flooded my heart!! Grateful to be a part of part of the Ricks family.

Afiya -Sills - June 24, 2020 at 11:06 PM

TI

“ To the Ricks Family. First I extend my deepest condolences , to all of you. Pastor was a great man of God and He was Spirit lead . There are many memories I have many sermons I can reflect back on and many lessons I will forever hide in my heart and spiritual growth. The Best memories of I would like to be lead by are His Love for God and his love for his wife and family. These are truly Legacies he left behind. Rest on Pastor Rest on ... See you when I get there. Your Spirit will always be in us for you left Legacies of Pure Love godly ..physical... and spiritual.

Tish - June 24, 2020 at 06:43 PM

YS

“ Yvette Shepherd lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Leroy E. Ricks, Sr.



Yvette Shepherd - June 24, 2020 at 06:28 PM

VS

The best Pastor ever I am so glad God sent me to New Berean he has  
do so much for my family and my son kris always. had some to look up  
to

VANESSA SAMPSON - June 27, 2020 at 10:56 PM

ES

Condolences to the Ricks Family. It's never easy. He's in the hands of  
the lord. No more pain, no more suffering. Hold on to the memories.  
Praying for comfort and strength. Erma Stokely Upper Marlboro Md.

Erma McDonald Stokely - June 28, 2020 at 07:30 PM

JY

Condolences from Mrs Jeannette Yates and the late Arthur Jr. Yates. It  
will be three years come Aug. Thank you for being there for my  
husband and family. God bless your family. Truly a man of God. You will  
truly be missed.

Jeanette Yates - June 28, 2020 at 08:42 PM

GT

I attended New Berean for a short time. Pastor Ricks blessed my life, I  
will always remember his godly personality.

Glendora Troublefield - June 29, 2020 at 05:11 AM