



Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown

May 1, 1945 - March 15, 2025

Richard Wilson "Rich" Brown, 79, of Mooresville, passed away peacefully at his home on Lake Norman in the arms of his devoted wife. Rich was born in Lumberton, NC, and adopted by his loving parents, the late Martha Williams Brown and Wilson W. Brown, in 1948. He spent his formative years in Philadelphia, PA, before embracing the southern lifestyle he cherished after moving to North Carolina in 1984.

Rich was a dedicated and passionate sales professional. He began his illustrious career with 3M in the Traffic Safety Division, steadily rising through the ranks to become the Southeastern Regional Administrator for Governmental Affairs. As a legislative lobbyist, he played a key role in promoting graphic license plate programs across the Southeastern states, including the development of North Carolina's first graphic license plate. Rich later joined the Radiator Specialty Company, serving as Vice President of the Traffic Safety Division, where he took great joy in counting the barrels and cones he sold throughout the highways of the United States. A true entrepreneur, he also opened the first Oil Exchange in Raleigh, NC, and expanded this venture to include a series of car washes in the area.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Rich was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed a wide array of activities, including golf, tennis, boating, fly fishing, snow skiing, diving, and playing the piano. His lifelong love for horses

was evident as he spent weekends tending to his cutting horses and cattle at his beloved Silver Spur Ranch.

He graduated from Haverford High School in Havertown, PA, and furthered his education with a track scholarship at Gardner Webb College before receiving a diving scholarship at the University of Tampa. Those who knew Rich recognized his love for life, particularly the moments spent basking in the sun with his toes in the sand.

Rich's legacy is carried on by his devoted wife, Alma W. Brown; daughter, Heather L. Wathey (Christopher) of Loxley, AL; sons, Richard G. Brown (Shannon) of Dunnellon, FL and Martin Nesbitt (Lisa) of Marion, NC; grandchildren, Hayden Wathey, Taylor Nesbitt, Lexi Brown; and five great-grandchildren. He is also remembered by his cherished extended family and friends.

In addition to his adopted parents, he is preceded in death by his mother, Ruth W. Stone; stepbrother, Allen M. Stone, Jr.; and granddaughter, Katelyn Brown.

A celebration of Rich's life will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 3 PM at the Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Jon Boling officiating. All are invited to come together to honor his memory and the joyful moments we shared.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, PO Box 4777, New York, NY 10163-4777 and/or VIA Health Partners Hospice of Lake Norman, 705 Griffith Street, Suite 203, Davidson, NC 28036.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home in Mooresville is proudly serving the Brown family. For those wishing to express their condolences, you may do so by visiting www.cavin-cook.com

w.cavin-cook.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **30**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Chapel
494 E. Plaza Drive
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

DS

“ DEAR Heather and Christopher,
I am so very sorry for the Loss of you Dad .
God Bless you and all of the family
Love and prayers Deb Shane



DEB SHANE - September 12, 2025 at 12:07 PM

LH

“ Larry & Beverly Hipsh purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.



Larry & Beverly Hipsh - March 28, 2025 at 02:24 PM

BB

“ Berry Bean purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.



Berry Bean - March 28, 2025 at 01:49 PM

BB

“ Berry Bean planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.

Berry Bean - March 28, 2025 at 01:49 PM

JM

“ Rich and Alma, two of the most wonderful friends Carol and I have ever known. Alma, we are broken hearted for your loss of Rich, the love of your life, and a true joy to all who met him. We treasure the memories of the four of us and the happiness we shared. Rich Brown was a true southern gentleman with a smile that would light up a room. So privileged to have been in his company. RIP my friend.

Joe and Carol Mason - March 23, 2025 at 02:15 PM

JC

“ Jenny and Keith cline purchased the Pretty Pleas e for the family of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.



Jenny and Keith cline - March 23, 2025 at 11:47 AM

JC

“ Jenny and Keith cline planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.

Jenny and Keith cline - March 23, 2025 at 11:47 AM

WS

“ I wish to send my most sincere condolences to family and friends during this difficult time. Rich was a wonderful person who will be forever missed, from Ward Smith

Ward Smith - March 21, 2025 at 03:17 PM

PE

“ Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.



Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors - March 20, 2025 at 08:45 AM

PE

“ Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rich" Wilson Brown.

Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors - March 20, 2025 at 08:45 AM



“ Your contagious smile and laugh will never be forgotten! Continued hugs and prayers for family & friends - may God give you strength during this difficult time.

Allison Corbridge - March 19, 2025 at 06:00 PM

RH

I surely enjoyed your company when we were together. RIP my friend.

Richard T Hardick - March 20, 2025 at 04:55 PM