



## Frederick Leonard John Townend

November 26, 1940 - March 30, 2026

Rick Townend, age 85, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 30, 2026.

He was born on November 26, 1940, in London, England, within the sound of the Bow Bells of St. Mary-le-Bow Church—making him, by tradition, a true Cockney. Rick grew up in London during World War II and recalled having to take shelter during the bombing raids.

In his early years, his family later moved to the Isle of Wight, off the southern coast of England, where he grew up playing rugby, swimming, and perfecting what would become his lifelong art of mischief.

Rick met Kay, the love of his life, in Edinburgh, Scotland and they were married on June 7, 1965. Shortly after, they moved to Manchester, where Rick began his career in sales and where they started their family.

Not only was Rick our hero—he was a hero in the truest sense of the word. One day, while waiting for an appointment, he passed the time fishing along the River Tyne. In a moment that defined his courage and selflessness, he saw a mother and her two children in distress in the water. Without hesitation, Rick dove into the river to rescue all three, pulling them to safety. One of the children had sunk beneath the surface and Rick brought him back to life. For this extraordinary act of bravery, Rick was awarded the British Empire Medal

by the Queen of England—an honor that reflected the character that defined his life.

While living in Manchester, Rick's entrepreneurial spirit shone through as he ran his own auto repair business, demonstrating the independence and work ethic that would shape much of his life. During this time, the family kept a caravan in Scotland near Oban, where they spent many summers and holidays together. Rick cherished those moments, teaching Terry and Andrew how to fish in the lochs and creating memories that would last a lifetime.

In 1975, Rick began working in the North Sea oil industry with his best friend Joe Charles. Starting as a sandblaster, he and Joe would often fall asleep back-to-back after long, grueling shifts. In 1977, as he worked his way up, he moved the family to Stavanger, Norway, and they enjoyed three wonderful years there before ultimately relocating to Houston, Texas for a project in the Gulf of America. When that project was completed, it became clear to the family that there was no going back and that Texas was home.

Rick and Kay became naturalized American citizens on June 30, 2000, a moment of immense pride for him. Over the years, Rick held several roles and business ventures, eventually founding a fabrication business with his son, Andrew, which grew into a successful industrial fall protection company. He retired in 2008 after a successful and storied 40+ year career.

Rick loved his sons dearly and when both attended Texas A&M beginning in 1983, he became a devoted Aggie. His pride only grew as three of his grandchildren also went on to graduate from Texas A&M.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and spent many weekends at his bay house on Oyster Creek. Rick loved being on the water and seemed to always have a boat, no matter where he lived. He also had a passion for cooking and

grilling and was especially known for his Indian curry, as well as frying turkeys each Thanksgiving for his employees to take home—small but meaningful acts that reflected his generosity and appreciation for those around him.

Rick is preceded in death by his mother, Alice Murray, and his sister, Pam Fisher.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Kay; his son Terry and his wife, Jacque, and their children, Samuel and Mitchell; his son Andrew and his wife, Susanna, and their children, Shannon and Anna; and his sister, Jeannette.

A private service and interment will be held at Klein Memorial Cemetery. A Celebration of Rick's Life will be held at a later date, where all friends and loved ones will be welcome to gather, share stories and laughter, and remember the many tales that made Rick so unforgettable.

In lieu of customary remembrances and with gratitude from the family, memorial contributions can be made in his name to the Texas A&M Foundation or Klein Trinity Lutheran Church. Please indicate: In memorial of Rick Townend.

<https://myaggieland.txamfoundation.com/tamf/give>

<https://trinityklein.churchcenter.com/giving>

# Cemetery Details

## **Klein Memorial Park**

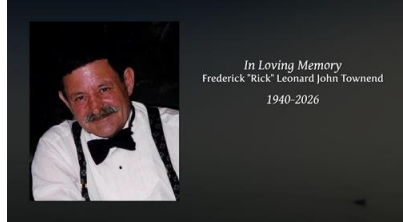
32509 TX-249

Pinehurst, TX 77362

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ *Rasberry Family Cremation created a Tribute Video in memory of Frederick Leonard John Townend*



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**Rasberry Family Funeral Home** - April 24 at 04:05 PM

GK

“ Rick will be missed. He had such a good soul. He connected with people better than anyone else I know. I aspire to be as good.

*In high school, I was fortunate to meet and become friends with Andy.*

*One day, while visiting Andy for the first time, we noticed some noises coming from my car. Andy and I were looking under the hood. That's when I met Rick. He came out immediately, introduced himself, as Rick, and asked what he could do to help.*

*I didn't know much about cars. He seemed "cool" and knew Andy so I graciously accepted his help. He quickly diagnosed and repaired the problem. I thanked him and offered to pay him for his time. He replied "absolutely not!"*

*After leaving, I asked Andy who that was, thinking maybe his older brother? Andy said "that's my dad".*

*I met back up with Rick many times at Andy's and Terry's pool parties. Rick was always at the parties socializing with the guests. Covertly keeping all of us out of trouble. Well liked by all and a key reason the parties were always safe and successful!*

*I feel honored to have known Rick and continue seeing his legacy in his family! God Bless! GKF288*

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**Greg K** - April 21 at 03:31 AM

SS

“ Rick was the kind of man who brought energy and joy to a room with a legendary mustache leading the way.

*From the moment I met him around 1997, that mischievous twinkle in his eye told you something was always brewing. I once watched him use scotch to light a barbecue — he saw absolutely nothing wrong with this.*

*He was funny, quick, and the kind of storyteller that made you lean in every time.*

*To Andy and the whole family, know that the laughter he gave doesn't disappear — it stays with everyone who was lucky enough to know him.*

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**Scott Santana** - April 20 at 07:10 PM



“ That voice, I will never forget that voice. I'm 40 now, and I can still hear Rick's voice when I was 9 years old. I didn't know it at the time, but Rick embodied an idea for me as a growing boy of what a man is. He was truly larger than life, a man of many talents and sharp wit.

*At his famous backyard parties, with his always well trained dogs, he would always take time out to ensure I was entertained. He would teach me to play duck hunt on Nintendo, and as I came into adolescence dominoes games. He offered advice when I headed off to college and was always there with warmth and pride as I grew up and saw him less and less. What a guy, Rick reminds me of where I came from and my own growth across the years, punctuated by the times I got to spend with him. I'll carry him with me always. Cheers Rick.*

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**JP Temperilli** - April 10 at 12:54 PM

JT

“ The power, tone and timbre of universally singular voice.  
Dogs and people that kenneled on command.  
Maglitto party central with Garth Brooks “Friends in Low Places”  
sing-alongs.  
First time tried fried turkeys which then became a Temperilli family  
tradition.  
Rousing “42” games.  
Single malts. And a treasure trove of stories. The cosmos is  
universally poorer for your absence Rick. And universally better for  
your having been here. I know it was for me and my family.  
Godspeed.



John Temperilli - April 06 at 01:42 AM

P

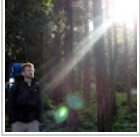
“ My memories of Rick Townend involve great gatherings at the  
Townend home, 42 games, and his infectious smile and voice. I  
have been smiling a lot as these memories have been flooding my  
mind since finding out he has left us. I found him fascinating. He  
lived a full life filled with love for his family and friends.

Paula Temperilli - April 05 at 11:16 PM

AN

“ Remembering my Dear Cousin Rick with  
Fondest, and remembering him for his  
humour and compassion. Treasured  
Memories will last forever. Anne Newiss xxx

Anne Newiss - April 05 at 08:34 AM



“ Wrote this in 2017. A reflection of a memory one winter when he taught me how to clean a fish. Mr. Rick, as my siblings and I will always remember him, was larger than life and had an outsized influence on our childhoods. May he rest in peace.

*Mr. Rick*

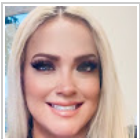
*The knife clicked as it ran  
across each fragile fish bone  
And echoed out the opening  
where the head had been.*

*An ageless wisdom poured  
from Scotch scented whiskers  
A river running over rocks  
with a gravelly laugh.*

*The fire burned and cracked  
as his calloused hands pulled  
the guts to one side  
teaching me everything.*

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**Patrick Temperilli** - April 04 at 11:16 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Rick at Flexible Lifeline Systems. He was such a generous and caring person. One of my favorite memories is his kindness in offering to fry turkeys for us to enjoy at Thanksgiving. Rick had a truly kind heart, and I know he will be deeply missed. Heaven has gained an angel.

*Rest in peace,  
Patricia Corona*

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**patricia parada** - April 04 at 06:03 PM

PC

“ Rick was always busy - one of the most active men with many projects.

*I had the pleasure of working for Rick and becoming a friend and neighbor in Hide A Way. One of my memories of him was he would always bring up the noise I made with my high heels, his office was downstairs from mine and the floors were concrete - at that time Rick was still a smoker and his smoke fumes came up the wall into my office. We had continuous conversations on the subject.*

*He was always there for you - I was in Florida and had a TIA - he kept calling me to see if he needed to come and get me. He had an unwavering commitment to those he cared about. I will miss hearing him yell a greeting across the street.*

*Rest in peace! Love Pam*

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**Pam Cranston** - April 04 at 04:41 PM

PC

“ Pamela C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frederick Leonard John Townend.

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**Pamela C.** - April 04 at 04:38 PM

PC

“ Pamela C. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Frederick Leonard John Townend.



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**Pamela C.** - April 04 at 04:38 PM