



Mr. Richard Lee Guinn

September 19, 1972 - December 25, 2025

Richard Lee Guinn was born September 19, 1972 in Tyler, Texas, to Timothy Lee Guinn and Melba Marlene Akin. Richard grew up in Bluegrove, Texas, where he developed an interest in FFA and raising Southdown sheep, and he had a Japanese pen pal he would exchange letters, pictures and cultural items with. He graduated from Midway High School in 1991.

He attended Midwestern State University, where he worked at Moffett Library. He continued his academic journey with distinction, earning a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from Midwestern State University in 1997, and his Masters in Library Science from the University of North Texas in 2001. He worked at the Wichita Falls Public Library before moving to Houston, Texas, where he worked at the Houston Academy of Medicine Texas Medical Center Library, Rice University Library, the Holocaust Museum Houston Library, and the University of Texas School of Public Health Library.

Richard was a man of eclectic passions and joyful curiosities. He was a lifelong supporter of environmentalism and preserving the planet for future generations. He was an avid recycler and a member of Greenpeace. He loved everything to do with libraries and immensely enjoyed exploring ones he'd never been to before. He enjoyed reading, sci-fi, classic and B movies, musicals, animated films, cartoons, sitcoms, comics, juggling, collecting stamps and coins, trivia, coffee shops, traveling and visiting family, trying new

foods and going for walks, attending the Texas State Fair, and he enjoyed all things Texas! One of his favorite films was Say Amen Somebody and he absolutely loved the soundtrack. He got to see Say Amen Somebody at Rutger's Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, New York in 2024 where the filmmaker took questions afterward.

He was a devoted fan of B movies and science fiction, and found delight in cult classics and quirky television programs. Some of the memorable films that were dear to Richard are Silent Running, The Lathe of Heaven, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, The Day of the Triffids, Logan's Run, The Great Gatsby, Breakfast at Tiffany's, Meet Me In St. Louis, Duel, I Was Born, But, The Giant Gila monster, The Incredible Melting Man, Them, Monster's Inc., Good Burger, Manos: The Hands of Fate, The Day the Earth Stood Still, Frogs, The Killer Shrews, Back to the Future, The War of the Worlds, National Velvet, The Incredibles, Toy Story, Return to Oz, The Time Machine, Phase IV, The Wasp Woman, Planet of the Apes, What's the Matter With Helen?, The Brain That Wouldn't Die and Howl's Moving Castle. He had a deep admiration for animation, and enjoyed a variety of music, including musicals like Marry Poppins, The Fiddler on the Roof, My Fair Lady, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, West Side Story, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Cabaret, State Fair, Little Shop of Horrors and Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

Richard enjoyed the plays Wicked, Tea, and Drinking in America. He always enjoyed marathoning The Twilight Zone, Mystery Science Theater 3000, Svengoolie, The Elvira Show, Star Trek, The Night Gallery, Seinfeld, War of the Worlds, V, The Outer Limits, Hitchcock films, Universal horror films, Abbot and Costello films, Futurama, Rick and Morty, Family Guy, American Dad, Regular Show, Adventure Time, Teen Titans Go!, Bob's Burgers, The Peanuts, The Lucille Ball Show, I Dream of Genie, Smallville, The Green Arrow, The Flash, Maude, The Beverly Hillbillies, Green Acres, Mr. Ed, Agatha Christie's Marple, The Littles, and The Muppets.

He cherished the simple pleasures of life and loved to joke around. At the heart of Richard's world was his family. He loved spending time with his children, going on outings, and going to movies with his son, Elliot, and sharing a life with his companion. He treasured Thanksgiving gatherings with family in Terrell, Texas, and Christmas get-togethers filled with warmth, laughter, and game playing. These moments brought him immense joy and were among his most cherished memories.

Richard's legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and the knowledge he helped preserve. He will be remembered not only for his professional excellence, but also for his humor, his warmth, and the joy he found in life's quirks, traditions, and the embrace of family. He was a dedicated father, companion, spouse and cataloging librarian whose career spanned more than two decades and took him from Wichita Falls, Texas to Boston Massachusetts, with each step marking his deep commitment to the craft of cataloging librarianship, contributing to metadata management, cataloguing standards, and scholarly publishing. His professional legacy was serving in key roles at many institutions, universities, and libraries across the country.

While attending Midwestern State University, Richard married Connie Ann Rarick, on November 19, 1994, in Wichita Falls, Texas. Together they had 3 beautiful children, Elliot Lee Guinn and Elijah Stephen Guinn, born in Wichita Falls, Texas, and Benjamin Elisha Guinn, born in Houston, Texas.

He met his life partner, Richard Lee Watts, Texas in the year 2014 at consortium meetings held at MD Anderson Library in Houston, Texas. Together they moved to Mechanicsville, MD in 2019, where Richard Guinn worked at the Southern Maryland Library Association in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. In 2022 they moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he worked at

the Boston Public Library, New England Historical Genealogical Society, and Brandeis University Library.

He is preceded in death by his sons, Elijah Stephen Guinn and Benjamin Elisha Guinn, his grandparents Dovie Akin, George Akin, Yasuko Weir, Betty Flinn, Harry Flinn, and Webster Guinn Jr., and his uncle, Webb Guinn.

He is survived by his beloved son, Elliot Lee Guinn, of Wichita Falls, Texas; and his companion of 10 years, Richard Lee Watts. He is also survived by his parents: mother- Melba Marlene and Roger Thomas Flinn, of Bluegrove, Texas; and father- Timothy Guinn, of Frankston, Texas. Additionally, he is survived by his brothers: Thomas Lawton Flinn of Mitchellville, Iowa; Christopher Brian Flinn of Bluegrove, Texas; and Gage Lee Guinn of Waco, Texas. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews Corbin Flinn, Caura Flinn, Miles Flinn, Graham Flinn, Genevieve Flinn, Matthew Kimball, Molly Bailey, Heather Cremeens, Ashley Perez, and Amanda Foley, and numerous aunts and uncles and extended family.

The chapel service will be on Monday, January 5, 2025 at Colonial Church, 4300 Maplewood Avenue, Wichita Falls, Texas, 76308. The church will host a family meal for all relatives at 12:00 pm. Viewing will be from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, followed by the service from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, officiated by Reverend Dr. Debbie Rarick.

Pall bearers:

Elliot Lee Guinn, Thomas Lawton Flinn, Christopher Brian Flinn, Matthew Oliver Kimball, Corbin Flinn, and Brad Spear.

Honorary pall bearers:

Gage Lee Guinn, Miles Flinn, Graham Flinn, Genevieve Flinn, Caura Flinn, Molly Bailey, Heather Cremeens, Ashley Perez, Amanda Foley, Britt Harbour,

Allyson McInnes, Richard Jasper, Casey Brock, and Richard Lee Watts.

The interment and graveside service will be on January 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM at Harris Chapel Cemetery in Lindale, Texas.

Services are being arranged through Slay Memorial Funeral home, 400 S. Hwy 377, Aubrey, Texas 76227.

A Go-Fund-Me has been set up to help with funeral costs:

[GoFundMe] https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-honor-richard-guinns-memo-ry?attribution_id=sl:8f26c014-d905-4897-9575-39664697cd03&lang=en_US&t s=1767152237&utm_campaign=man_sharesheet_dash&utm_content=amp17 _tc&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=facebook

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Colonial Church
4300 Maplewood Ave
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Funeral Service

JAN 5. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Colonial Church
4300 Maplewood Ave
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Interment

JAN 6. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Harris Chapel
Lindale, TX 75771

Tribute Wall

MN

“ Richard was a bright, gentle soul. Though I primarily knew him as a colleague, I always appreciated his genuine interest in other people, how thoughtful and sensitive he was, especially when he saw others struggling, and his sense of humor. Even when we no longer crossed paths through work or in person, we continued to exchange messages and photos over the years. Richard made the world a better place by caring deeply for others, and I am saddened to hear of his passing. My condolences to all who loved him.

Maurine Nichols - January 22 at 08:53 AM

AH

“ My heart goes out to Richard's family and friends. I worked with Richard and always enjoyed our conversations. He had unique ideas and expressive thoughts. Receiving the news of his passing was such a surprise. May his memory live on through the kindness he shared and the ideas he inspired. Richard will be deeply missed, and his presence will always be remembered with gratitude and respect.

Angel H. - January 06 at 02:45 PM

PF

“ Love and prayers for all of you. I know Richard will be missed!

Patsy Fuller - January 04 at 10:08 AM

WS

“ Rick was a kind, gentle man. I enjoyed knowing him as a friend. I am sad that he has passed from this life so early. May all who know him have pleasant memories of his life.

Ward Schmidt - January 03 at 08:18 PM

EA

“ Richard is my nephew and a wonderful, loving, giving, funny, gentle person. I love him and I miss him terribly already. My heart goes out to all the rest of his family, those I know and love and the rest that I don't know. May God bless us all in our grief, as he blessed us in having Richard, this wonderfully kind soul, among us for this too short time.

Elaine Akin - January 03 at 05:50 PM

MA

So glad I got to reconnect with my nephew in the last few months forever grateful to see the adult. As sweet as he was when he was young. Gentle soul. I will miss him so grateful for that last visit and hug. Prayers for my sister and everyone that loved him he was a wonderful soul. Rest in peace baby. See you again on the other side. I love you Aunt Marfa 💖

Marfa Akin - January 07 at 10:19 PM

MW

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Richard. I worked at the Regional Library in Maryland with him. He was such a helpful, caring person. Heaven has surely gained an angel. Condolences to his family and friends. Rest in peace my friend. 🙏

Marie W - January 02 at 08:52 PM

DP

“ Condolences to Richard's family, companion, and friends. I worked with Richard when he was in Southern Maryland. He was a kind and gentle soul. May he rest in peace.

Debra P. - January 01 at 09:36 PM

DJ

“ My condolences to Richard's family and close friends. Richard was a sweet man, smart and a born cataloger. We shared a love of cataloging, and I had great respect for his abilities. I was happy to call him my friend.

Dean James - January 01 at 04:10 PM

JG

“ Condolences to Ms Melba and Tim, so sorry for your loss.

Joseph Guinn - January 01 at 01:57 PM

LB

“ I am in shock!! I heard from Richard a while back but he only texted that he loved me and I told him I loved him! He always seemed like a gentle soul! Prayers go out to Melba and family and to Richard Watts!!

Lillie Beam - December 31, 2025 at 05:55 PM

TU

“ With deepest sympathy and love.



Tina Uresti - December 31, 2025 at 04:31 PM