



Randall Earl Rush

January 14, 1948 - August 12, 2021

Randall Earl Rush, 73, of Guntersville, Alabama, died on August 12, 2021, after a courageous battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

He was born to George Earl and Clarice McKenzie Rush on January 14, 1948, in Scottsboro, Alabama. He played basketball on the Section High School team where he served as captain on the 1966 team and was all-county, all-area, and all tri-state. Randall attended Auburn University where he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. He later obtained a law degree from the Birmingham School of Law.

Randall retired in 2015 from Southern Company, where his legacy of technical ingenuity and leadership excellence lives on across the utility industry. Known as a trailblazer who challenged himself and those around him, he was committed to achieving outstanding results and motivated his teams to do the same. Randall joined Southern Company in 1973 as was one of the research and development organization's first chemical engineers. In the early days of the Clean Air Act, Randall pioneered the company's scrubber program. His research directly led to a critical Southern Company "Big Bet" – to build scrubbers from plastic. His research on other environmental control technologies, such as selective catalytic reduction, also formed a foundation for the entire industry. Randall guided Southern Company's early development of liquid solvent-refined coal in Wilsonville, Alabama, under the Department of

Energy's Clean Coal Technology Program. This led to the establishment of the Power Systems Development Facility in 1990 – the precursor of the National Carbon Capture Center, in Wilsonville, Alabama. Randall's unique vision was instrumental in the development and pilot demonstration of the first-of-a-kind Transport Integrated Gasification technology.

Randall is remembered for his booming voice, his magnetic presence, and his drive to discover solutions. He cared deeply for his team, was devoted to his family, and loved hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his wife Carreen Webb Rush; his children Katherine Rush Weitzman (Tedd Weitzman), Anna Elizabeth Ciaccio, Amanda Gibson (Sarah Fricke), Bradley Gibson (Diane Lee Williams King), and Caitlyn Jones (Daniel Payne). He also leaves behind his siblings, Reverend Ricky Max Rush (Pat Kirby Rush) and Cheryl Rush Rhodes; his grandchildren, Ava Stuart Ciaccio, Jackson Oliver Ciaccio, Asher Violet Weitzman, Elizabeth Shook Weitzman, and Arthur Edward Weitzman, John Brantly King, James Henry King, and Daniel Taylor Fricke III. He is predeceased by his parents, George and Clarice Rush; his brother, Barry Rush, and his son, Michael Stuart Rush.

Services will be held Monday, August 16, at 11 a.m., at Union Grove Number One Missionary Baptist Church in Albertville, Alabama. Visitation will be 9:30-10 a.m. for family, 10-11 a.m. for friends at the church. The church is located at 1189 Rice Mill-Chavers Rd, Albertville, Alabama 35951. Friends are invited to attend the internment service at 2 p.m. at the Dutton United Methodist Church, 136 Church Circle, Dutton, Alabama 35744.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alabama Wildlife Federation in memory of Randall Rush for the Outdoor Education Center, www.alabamawildlife.org.

Out of an abundance of caution, masks are encouraged and will be available

for use at both venue locations.

Previous Events

Lie In State

AUG 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Union Grove Number 1
1189 Rice Mil-Chavers Road
Albertville,, AL 35950

Service

AUG 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Union Grove Number 1
1189 Rice Mil-Chavers Road
Albertville,, AL 35950

Service

AUG 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

Dutton United Methodist Church/Cemetery
136 Church Circle
Dutton, AL 35744

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Randall*

I have been blessed to call you friend since your first week on the job at Southern. Your strong will and intellect made the earth move in the right direction. You treated us like brothers and loved your work with passion. We were proud to have the opportunity to hunt with you on several occasions.

I will never forget all our recent conversations over the last years since your retirement. The gifts you presented to Barbara and myself will be with us always. Love you my brother.

Bob Brady

Robert Brady - August 25, 2021 at 09:32 AM

TK

“ I am fortunate to have crossed paths with this man. Randall Rush is one of those rare people who are bigger than life and who change the world rather than just inhabit it. In response to the energy crises of the 1970s, he found a way, adopted across the nation, for America to cleanly burn its bounty of domestic coal and multiply the blessings of affordable electricity. In anticipation of the energy crisis and climate concerns of the earl 2000s, he worked out how to make clean hydrogen from lignite and capture CO2. As he was dying of an insidious and painful disease, he put his mind to work writing an historical chronicle for his grandchildren, and all grandchildren, to help us all appreciate the Divine legacy that is our miraculous nation. He was a loving son, raised well, and very appreciative of those, like his father, who fought in epic struggles and left lasting legacies. His race is run, and he certainly has done the same. I won't say rest in peace, Randall, because I'm sure you are still finding there is work to be done and putting your mind and soul to it. Heaven's gain is our loss. My condolences, Carrie.



Todd "Ike" Kiefer - August 21, 2021 at 08:09 AM

TK

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Todd "Ike" Kiefer - August 21, 2021 at 08:03 AM

RC

“ I worked with Randall for many years and he was one of the most interesting people I have ever met. He was widely recognized as an international expert on power plant pollution control systems but was not just a narrowly focused specialist. I enjoyed many discussions with him and always found him to be well informed on a wide variety of subjects and able to express himself with clear and thoughtful opinions. I will miss him and offer my sincere condolences to his family.

Richard Chastain

Richard Chastain - August 15, 2021 at 11:11 PM

LM

“ I met Randall about 3 1/2 to 4 years ago through my boyfriend Mark , he was helping a friend put up a fence for Randall's pasture. I liked him from the get go, we talked about horses mostly. He had a horse named Major he had bought for his granddaughter Ava and he asked me if I could clean his hoofs which I did. He told me I could come ride anytime I wanted just come on over. He always treated me like part of the family and I thought of him as part of mine. He had a heart as big as Texas and he would always take the time to talk with you or give you advice if you needed it. I'm going to miss him dearly, but am comforted to know I will see him again some day. I know he is restored and is not in any pain anymore and has been reunited with his son and mother and father and all his loved ones that have gone before him. Thanks Randall for being my friend fly high and I'll see you on the other side.



Lori Murphy - August 15, 2021 at 09:33 PM

TJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tom J - August 15, 2021 at 03:45 PM

TJ

*L to R Standing:
Tom Johnson
Kerry Bowers*

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*L to R Sitting:
Gary Styles
Randall Rush*

Tom Johnson - June 20, 2022 at 02:11 AM

TJ

“ Tom J lit a candle in memory of Randall Earl
Rush



Tom J - August 15, 2021 at 03:42 PM

AK

“ Dear Randall’s Family

My name is Akira Kumagai. I have had a good friendship with Randall from the middle of 1980’s through FGD business. It is with a great sorrow that I have just heard the sad news of Randall’s passing.

Randall is good supporter for me in every occasions, not only business matter but also private matter.

His advice was very clear and straight forward to me. I always follow his advice.

When I report our FGD award news to Randall, he always say “SHORI in Japanese language (Victory in English)” with enjoying Japanese Sake together.

Randall is very understanding of our FGD technology.

Previously, I asked Randall why you support me. He simply said “I love your FGD technology”.

Apart from the business matter, it was good memory for me to enjoy staying in his hunting club for several days.

It was my great pleasure to have a long-term good friendship with nice guy with warmest heart, Randall.

Please accept our sincere condolences.

Sincerely,

Akira Kumagai

Akira Kumagai - August 14, 2021 at 07:37 PM

CR

This is Randall's sister, Cheryl. Thank you so much for sharing this with us. It means a lot to me to hear of such a good working relationship and friendship. I can just see the expression on Randall's face when he said, "I love your FGD technology." I'm sure he said it with a smile. And I'm sure he equally valued your friendship and working relationship. Thank you again for you kind words.

Cheryl Rhodes - August 17, 2021 at 12:16 AM