



## Henry Earl Sinks

January 1, 1940 - May 13, 2017

Henry Earl Sinks, age 77 of Goodlettsville passed away Saturday, May 13, 2017 at his residence. Austin & Bell Funeral Home Greenbrier is in charge of arrangements.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 3 pm to 7 pm and on Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm at Austin & Bell Funeral Home Greenbrier. The funeral will be at 12 pm on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at the funeral home with Dr. David Royalty and Rev. Bob Old officiating. Burial will follow in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens.

He was born January 1, 1940 in Levelland, TX to the late William Earl and Vera Mae Johnson Sinks. He was also preceded in death by sisters, Joann Clift and Larell Treadway.

He was a multi-talented singer/songwriter, actor, producer and entrepreneur. He was one of the lead singers with the Crickets. He and Bob Montgomery came to Nashville in 1959 as writers for Acuff-Rose.

Sinks was performing with Bob Wills at age 12 before recording publicly in 1957 on Dot Records. After Buddy Holly split with his band, The Crickets, Sinks was brought in by Norman Petty to fill his spot. He recorded and performed with the Crickets in 1959 contributing to the album In Style With

The Crickets, singing on songs such as "I Fought the Law", "Loves Made a Fool of You", "Deborah", and "When You Ask About Love". He recorded for Decca Records, in addition to Hickory, Capitol, Coral, Brunswick, United Artist, Warner Brothers and Ace of Hearts Records. He and Norro Wilson, along with Bill Fernez, recorded as the band the Omegas (country music) in October 1958. He recorded under the names of Earl Sinks, Sinx Mitchell, Earl Richards and Earl "Snake" Richards. He wrote songs for artists such as Sue Thompson, the Everly Brothers, the Newbeats, Ernie Ashworth, Brenda Lee, Roy Orbison and Mell Tillis. He would either play guitar or sing harmony over a majority of the sessions with artists such as Mel Tillis, Del Reeves, Mel Street, Charlie pride and others. When filmmaker Ron Ormond started looking for a star for his low-budgeted films in the mid-1960s he was recommended to have parts in the productions. Earl was recording for Warner Brothers record label as well as appearing in some of the Warner Brothers television shows, such as Cheyenne, Sugarfoot, and Surfside Six. The nickname "Snake" Richards was given to him by Ormond when he was in his first Ormond film, Girl From Tobacco Row.

From that time all the DJs started calling his Snake Richards. As well as Girl From Tobacco Row he was also in White Lighting Road. He later was in the 20th Century fox film by Richard Ball, That Tennessee Beat. By the 1970s Sinks was tuned in more to the business end of things and ran Ace Of Hearts Records as producer for notable artists such as John Anderson, Faron Young, Joyce Cobb, Jimmy Dickens, Porter Wagoner, Mark Dinning, The Remingtons, Bobby Lewis, Mel Street and more. Sinks stated that although "it was great being an entertainer as well as singing and or playing on 60% of sessions during the early 60sand 70s, Im glad I gradually drifted over to the business side.

He served in the US Army and was a member of Joelton First Baptist Church. He was also a member of John B. Garrett Lodge.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Rita Faye Wilson Sinks; son, Brandon Earl Sinks (Jessie Obert); daughter, Renetta Sinks Moran; sisters, Latrell Pritchett, Nita Palmer; grandsons, 1LT Robert Cody Moran, his wife Rhonda and daughter, Lola; Houston Earl Moran, his wife Bethany and children, Adrian and Zachary.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Music Cares, 1904 Wedgewood Ave., Nashville, TN 37212 or The Alheimers Association, 4825 Trousdale Dr., Suite 220, Nashville, TN 37220.

Online condolences may be made at [www.austinandbell.com](http://www.austinandbell.com)

Cemetery

Forest Lawn

Goodlettsville TN

US

Visitation

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Greenbrier

2619 Hwy 41 S

Greenbrier TN 37073

US

615-643-4000

615-643-4004

Visitation

Thursday, May 18, 2017

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Greenbrier

2619 Hwy 41 S

Greenbrier TN 37073

US

615-643-4000

615-643-4004

Funeral Service

Thursday, May 18, 2017

12:00 PM -

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Greenbrier

2619 Hwy 41 S

Greenbrier TN 37073

US

615-643-4000

615-643-4004

Funeral Home Austin & Bell Funeral Home Greenbrier

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Greenbrier TN - 37073

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615-643-4000

615-643-4004

# Tribute Wall

R(

“ *Earl Sinks-the 2nd best singer after Buddy-rest in peace good buddy. Song Someone, Someone was the most romantic sing when I met my wife,*

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**Robert Postuma (Montreal)** - October 31, 2017 at 02:24 PM

AH

“ *Henry Earl Sinks*

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**Austin and Bell Funeral Home** - August 14, 2017 at 10:44 AM

MC

“ *Rita, Renetta, and Brandon, I'm sorry to learn about this great loss you've suffered. Earl has been on my mind a lot lately. I wish you all peace and good memories. Michael Cody*

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**Michael Cody** - May 24, 2017 at 04:33 PM

KD

“ *Dear Rita, Brandon Earl, Renetta, all the family, We are so sorry for your loss of a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin. I have thought about Henry Earl over the last couple of days, the good times we had, the music and stories he shared. It is so hard to comprehend that he has joined the band up in Heaven, no longer here among us. Once again united with Aunt Vera, Larell and Joan. I know they were happy to see him. I can just imagine Gary, Clem and Henry Earl hanging out as they once did at the big house. We send our love and prayers your way. Karon Johnson Dial, Sharon Johnson Fernandez and Rene Fernandez*

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**Karon Dial** - May 18, 2017 at 12:24 PM

GU

“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Henry Earl Sinks.*

Guest - May 17, 2017 at 10:09 AM

RO

“ *Earl was one of a kind. I loved his energy and storytelling. He was a great cook and shared his meat marinade recipe with me. I have since passed it down to my grandchildren. I have many good memories of a fun loving guy that was generous, kind, and multi-talented. It was a joy to be his friend and pastor.*

Robert Old - May 16, 2017 at 08:55 PM

CC

“ *Rita, I'm so sorry for your loss. Know that you and your family are in my prayers for peace and comfort.*

Curtis Corbin - May 16, 2017 at 03:14 PM

AH

“ *9 files added to the album LifeTributes*

Austin & Bell Funeral Home - May 16, 2017 at 02:47 PM

AH

“ *67 files added to the album LifeTributes*

Austin & Bell Funeral Home - May 16, 2017 at 12:18 PM

GU

“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Henry Earl Sinks.*

Guest - May 16, 2017 at 11:47 AM

MS

“ Cousin Earl, my Dad, Buddy Sinks told me all kind of stories. He loved you dearly. We only met once, it was a great experience for me. You encouraged my music and I appreciated it. I loved your music! My love to the Family.

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**Michael Sinks** - May 16, 2017 at 10:17 AM

MP

“ I'll never forget my trips as a kid to Uncle Earl's house. I still talk about those trips. Love y'all very much.

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**Month Pritchett** - May 15, 2017 at 11:45 AM

BL

“ EARL WAS ONE OF A KIND AND A GREAR GREAT PRODUCER AND HELP ME HAVE HIT AFTER HIT FOR MANY YEARS !!! I WILL MISS HIM MORE THAN I CAN SAY !! BOBBY LEWIS

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**BOBBY LEWIS** - May 15, 2017 at 11:39 AM

GK

“ I worked with him when we had ACE OF HEARTS records. He was quite a friend, I will miss him very much. Gene Kennedy

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**Gene Kennedy** - May 15, 2017 at 10:34 AM

CH

“ I'm late, and I feel as though I'm intruding, since I didn't know Earl personally; but I wanted to say that I've been a fan of his singing since 1959. To me, he was every bit as good as Buddy, whether it was the sweet, romantic 'Someone, Someone' or his wonderfully intense performance of 'Love's Made A Fool Of You'. It's nice to know that he was a good, respected person among his family and friends.

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**Carl Harrison** - January 03, 2017 at 11:34 PM