



Linda Rickman "Ricki" Baer

August 28, 1950 - February 17, 2023

Linda Rickman "Ricki" (Sims) Baer, age 72, passed away in her sleep on February 17 with her beloved husband Terry Blair at her side and her cats Bebe and Kayce at her feet.

Ricki is preceded in death by her father Wilson "Woody" Sims and her grandparents Grace and Cecil Sims of Nashville and Margaret and Robert Henry Bell of Springfield Tennessee. She is survived by her husband Terry Blair and his extended family in Indiana, her mother Linda Bell Sims, her sister Suzanne Sims Haizlip (Wilson) of Chattanooga, her brother Wilson Sims Jr (Ann) of Asheville NC, her nephews Jeff Edmonds (Lourdes Cuellar) and their daughters Panambi and Luna Edmonds Cuellar of Nashville and Philip Edmonds (Linsey) of Driggs Idaho, and her nieces Callie Sims of Asheville NC and Jenny Sims of Santa Barbara CA.

Born August 28, 1950, Ricki spent her childhood in the somewhat idyllic, slow-paced life of 'old' Nashville of the 50's and 60's, when family was key and children could roam neighborhoods more freely. Surrounded by her friends and siblings, Suzanne and Wilson, she enjoyed many adventures in the heart of nature. These included riding horses (more so, break-neck galloping with Suzanne) in surrounding pastureland and at her grandparents' farm in Franklin. She continued to enjoy horseback-riding at several summer camps through the years: Beechcreek Day Camp, Hidden Valley Camp, and on the

trails of Percy Warner Park. At the Franklin family farm, Ricki found a life-long love of nature and animals. Until her death, our warm-hearted Ricki actively donated to many animal rescue groups and organizations for the conservation of nature and endangered species.

She attended Parmer and Ensworth schools for primary education and Harpeth Hall School for high school. In school she was a natural leader and wielded influence in her classes. She was known for her spirited and dynamic personality, original ideas, great sense of humor and identity as an instigator of uproarious fun. She was intensely competitive in sports and academics and was one of the best dancers at the regular after-football-game 'combos'. She was a founding member of the late night "2 O'clock Club". She was voted Most Devilish of her senior class. To use a fifties term, one could say that Ricki was a real 'fireball'. To say she was unique would sell her short.

At the university level, she attended Converse College and Peabody College, earning a degree in Early Childhood Education. She next completed her Masters in Social Work at The University of Tennessee. Her Doctorate of Psychology was granted from Forest Institute in Chicago. Her extensive academic and clinical training, coupled with her own intensive research, made Ricki a particularly skilled therapist, allowing her to treat complex cases with combinations of therapies. Ricki was no stranger to the process of healing. Throughout her life, she faced serious health challenges and underwent numerous interventions and treatments. It is probable that these factors contributed to her successful and intuitive professional practice.

While in Chicago, Ricki met and married Jerry Baer. They traveled extensively throughout the world, living in Santa Fe, NM, Pinehurst NC, and Boca Raton FL. At the end of this relationship in 2005 she returned to Nashville, where she pursued her career in psychotherapy. She had an active practice in several different centers and was still providing therapy until her death.

Upon her return to Nashville, Ricki fell deeply and everlastingly in love with a fellow psychotherapist and social worker, Terry Blair. Among their many commonalities, they shared a dedication to their profession, a deep spirituality, and the joy of performing music. They hosted weekly garage band sessions in their artistic, cozy Sylvan Park home. Ricki loved joining Terry's friends on the conga drums and tambourine. They were active members at a nearby neighborhood church, Spero Dei. We rest assured that Ricki and Terry have fully shared their vision and their boundless joy for years with friends who span the Nashville community and beyond.

Ricki was an exceptional daughter to Linda and Woody, a loving sister to Wilson and Suzanne,

and a loyal and caring friend to many. She possessed fervent faith and a strong connection to guidance from beyond. She believed angels had guided her many times in her life and helped her overcome all obstacles. And we believe the angels came and gathered her on that February night. All of us dear to Ricki feel blessed by her loving kindness. As one of her close friends commented, 'Now that she is an angel herself, we look forward to receiving further guidance.'

A service in Ricki's memory will be held Monday, March 6 at 11am at Vine Street Christian Church, 4101 Harding Pike in Nashville. The visitation will also be at Vine Street from 9:30-11am the same morning. The arrangements are made by Austin & Bell Funeral Home, Springfield Tennessee (www.austinandbell.com). In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Ricki Baer may be made to Project Redesign P.O. Box 159276. Nashville, TN 37215, or to an animal rescue or conservation organization of your choice.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-

509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Memorial Visitation

Monday, March 6, 2023

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Vine Street Christian Church

4101 Harding Pike

Nashville TN 37205

US

Memorial Service

Monday, March 6, 2023

11:00 AM -

Vine Street Christian Church

4101 Harding Pike

Nashville TN 37205

US

Funeral Home Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield

509 Walnut St.

Springfield TN - 37172

US

615-384-1000

615-382-7449

Tribute Wall

AH

“ *Linda Rickman "Ricki" Baer*

Austin and Bell Funeral Home - August 14, 2023 at 09:13 AM

GU

“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Linda Rickman Ricki (Sims) Baer.*

Guest - March 02, 2023 at 05:08 PM

SB

“ *When greeting friends and guests, Ricki exuded - in her distinct exuberant voice and manner - a welcoming, heartfelt joy, and loving warmth. No one was a stranger in Rick's embrace. She embodied a deep spiritual faith and viewed life and relationships through her lens of love and eternal guidance. Ricki was a loyal and deeply caring friend. She listened with depth, a singular sensitivity and wisdom; and she compassionately reflected her knowing and divine perspective to support, uplift and guide. Ricki was a rare Gift. I profoundly miss my dear friend and will always hold her in my heart and mind. Susan Blair*

Susan W Blair - March 01, 2023 at 02:02 PM

DB

“ *I remember Linda from Hidden Valley Ranch summer camp. I was a counselor there for several years. Happy to see she had an active and fulfilled life. Very sorry for your loss. Dixie Brunson*

Dixie Brunson - February 28, 2023 at 11:50 AM

LJ

“ I hear Hey, Les! in my mind , as real as if she were standing beside me. I take joy in knowing I will hear it always. I treasure the memories and wisdom and love she leaves me with....am grateful to have had her as my friend. And I will miss her.

leslie johnson - February 23, 2023 at 02:03 PM

DD

“ I knew Ricky as one of the first people to welcome me to the Garage Band. She welcomed me with open arms and always told me that I was a welcome addition and that she loved me. Kind is too simple a word to describe Ricky. She was always bursting with enthusiasm and joy. What a gentle spirit is hard to find. I hope she comes as a welcome angel and sits on my shoulder anytime. I will always love you, Ricky, and miss your smile and warmth.

Dolores Davidson - February 22, 2023 at 04:47 PM