



James Michael Riddlesprigger

May 7, 1947 - May 31, 2024

On May 7, 1947, James Michael Riddlesprigger was born in Fresno, California to the union of William & Mildred Riddlesprigger. Known to family and friends by Michael, he was the fifth of nine children, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 31, 2024, surrounded by loved ones.

Michael is preceded in death by both of his loving parents- William Bearl & Jeanette Mildred Riddlesprigger; four beloved siblings, two older sisters- Phyllis Ann Jones, and Jerry Lee Boggs, two older brothers- William Bearl Riddlesprigger Jr. and Richard Edward Riddlesprigger.

Michael was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He will be deeply missed by all who know him. He leaves to cherish his memory the love of his life Donna Rae Caesar-Riddlesprigger, two children, David Michael Riddlesprigger and his partner Thomas Henderson of Tampa Bay, Florida, William Patrick Riddlesprigger and his wife Cathy, and one stepdaughter Danielle Thomas. He is also survived by three granddaughters- Mariah Riddlesprigger and her fiancé Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Makayla Riddlesprigger of Fresno, California and Maya Riddlesprigger of Los Angeles, California, and 3 grandsons- DeAndre Thomas & his wife Treyana, Davon Thomas, and Dwaine Hannah. He is also survived by his eight great-grandchildren- Zaveah Johnson, Liam Antetokounmpo, Maverick Antetokounmpo, Eva Antetokounmpo, DJ Thomas, Aryanna Foy,

Kenyan and Kenya Lee. Michael is also survived by brothers- Wayne Anthony Riddlesprigger, George Patrick Riddlesprigger, and sisters- Victoria Dawn Riddlesprigger and Sharon Denise Riddlesprigger, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Their love and support were a source of strength and comfort throughout his life's journey.

Michael's journey from Edison High School to becoming a Senior Plumbing and Mechanical Consultant for the City of Fresno demonstrates a commendable commitment to his field and community. Graduating in 1965 and continuing his education through vocational courses at Fresno City College showcases his dedication to building his expertise. He spent over 30 years with the City of Fresno shaping the infrastructure and development of Fresno, ensuring that it met the needs of its residents and businesses.

Throughout his life, Michael was known for his deep passion for westerns. He once confided that he inherited this love from his father, cherishing the memories of sitting together, watching classic films and TV shows. Whether it was a gripping movie or a captivating television series, Michael would lose himself in the tales of cowboys, outlaws, and frontier justice.

An avid sports fanatic, Michael enjoyed sports of all kinds, however basketball was his favorite by far. His love for basketball extended beyond the court; it was a means through which he connected with others and made lasting friendships. In the world of Fresno sports, he was affectionately known as "Pops" to coaches, young athletes, and officials alike. He volunteered countless hours, sharing his expertise, encouragement, and unwavering support to help them reach their full potential. His passion for helping young athletes grow was evident in the positive impact he had on their lives, both on and off the court. His impact extended far beyond the sports arena. He was a pillar of his community, known for his generosity, kindness, and unwavering support. Whether he was lending a helping hand to neighbors, words of

encouragement to a friend, Michael's compassion knew no bounds.

The Riddlesprigger family would like to extend a heartfelt acknowledgment to Don Slade. Despite not being related by blood, Michael and Don Slade were like brothers, connected through their love of basketball. Their bond only grew stronger with each passing year as they shared countless memorable moments, proving that true friendship knows no boundaries.

Michael leaves behind a legacy of love, friendship, kindness, laughter, and inspiration. He will be forever remembered for his warm smile, generous heart, and unwavering support and his memory will continue to live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him. Though he may no longer be with us, his spirit will forever remain a guiding light, reminding us to live each day with purpose, passion, and kindness.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **14.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Funeral Service

JUN **15.** 10:00 AM (PT)

Saints Community Church of God in Christ
3740 E. Ashlan Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Tribute Wall

PB

“ So many wonderful memories. My teenage years sharing afternoon movies at the Crest theater with Uncle Michael, Uncle Wayne, Uncle Pat, & Aunt Sharon. Partying at Frans. Traveling to Los Angeles & San Jose. The basketball games. So many wonderful times & memories. Love u forever.

Pamela R Berry - June 20, 2024 at 09:44 AM

DM

“ Darren, Val, Mia-Alani & Milan Matsubara purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Michael Riddlesprigger.



Darren, Val, Mia-Alani & Milan Matsubara - June 15, 2024 at 03:02 PM

DM

“ Darren, Val, Mia-Alani & Milan Matsubara planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Michael Riddlesprigger.

Darren, Val, Mia-Alani & Milan Matsubara - June 15, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Michael Riddlesprigger.



June 12, 2024 at 10:53 PM

RS

“ Ronnie “Sisco” Sims purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Michael Riddlesprigger.



Ronnie “Sisco” Sims - June 10, 2024 at 11:16 PM

RS

“ Ronnie “Sisco” Sims planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Michael Riddlesprigger.

Ronnie “Sisco” Sims - June 10, 2024 at 11:16 PM

DM

“ Darshawn McClellan purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Michael Riddlesprigger.



Darshawn McClellan - June 10, 2024 at 07:21 PM

DM

“ Darshawn McClellan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Michael Riddlesprigger.

Darshawn McClellan - June 10, 2024 at 07:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Michael Riddlesprigger.



June 08, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Gary, Jamila planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Michael Riddlesprigger.

Gary, Jamila - June 08, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ My deepest Sympathy, to our Family, My Cousin was a giving man of strength and wisdom. I had the pleasure of laboring with him transporting special needs children to school safely, which was a charitable form of giving back to the community after retirement.

Bruce Haynes Jr. - June 07, 2024 at 02:21 PM



“ Stephanie and Wil Hooker purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Michael Riddlesprigger.



Stephanie and Wil Hooker - June 07, 2024 at 02:21 PM