



## Carley Wintford Rice

July 22, 1936 - June 9, 2025

Carley Wintford Rice, 88, passed away on Monday, June 9, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

A salt-of-the-earth country boy with a cowboy soul, Carley moved through life with a quiet strength rarely seen today. He found joy with his cherished family, in the land he tended, the hymns he sang, and the laughter he shared. He shined brightest when a song was on his lips or when a smile resulted in his teasing wit. He had a saying for everything, and when things didn't go as planned, he'd just tip his hat and say, "Well, that's how the mop flops."

Carley was born on July 22, 1936, in Harrogate, Tennessee, to Charles and Rose Rice. He grew up in a loving home alongside his sisters Gerline, Shirley, Jeanie, Wanda, and Dorothy and his brothers Harley, Arbie, Frank, and Joey.

In 1956, Carley married the love of his life, Lula Ruth Gibson. Together, they shared 63 years of marriage and raised six children: Debra, Danny, Dennis, Diana, David, and Dusty. Carley and Lula instilled deep Christian values and an abiding love in their family. After Carley retired from Ford Motor Company, they moved to Missouri in 1993. Carley was especially proud of his time at Ford, and if he had his Ford hat on, you could be sure to hear a word or two about its virtues.

Carley was a man always in motion, finding purpose in every hour of the day. Whether he was managing his cows, cutting wood, scraping for extra cash, or simply lending a hand to a friend, Carley rarely sat still. But when he did slow down, it was usually over a good cup of coffee and a conversation. He loved meeting for a meal and was often known to quietly pick up the check, a small way he loved to indulge his friends and family.

Deeply rooted in faith, Carley and Lula were active members of their church community and spent much of their lives singing for the Lord. One of their greatest joys was visiting nursing homes and local events, sharing their voices and their hearts through gospel music.

He leaves behind his children: Debra (Michael) Baker, Danny Rice, Dennis (Gail) Rice, Diana (Phil) Graham, David (Michelle) Rice and Dusty (Shawnie) Rice.

Grandchildren: Crystal Pierce, Amber Pierce, Joshua Rice, Bethany Rice, Carlie Rice, Jeremy Rice, Jenna Rice, Jared Rice, April Morris, Pete Morris, Brittany Reid, Jewel Rice, and Marilyn Rice.

Great Grandchildren: Harper, Asher, Skyler, Aria, Azriel, Angel, A.J., Will, Destiny, and Devin.

Siblings: Shirley, Jeanie, Wanda, Arbie, he is preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: Gerline, Dorothy, Harley, Frank, and Joey.

Services for Carley will be held Saturday, June 14, 2025, at the Full Gospel Church in Humansville, Missouri starting at 3:00 PM. Visitation will be held Friday evening, June 13, 2025 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the Butler Funeral Home in Humansville. Interment will immediately follow the service on Saturday at the Humansville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

# Cemetery Details

## Humansville Cemetery

Humansville, MO 65674

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Humansville  
109 East Buffalo St.  
Humansville, MO 65674  
(417) 754-2215  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUN 14. 3:00 PM (CT)

Humansville Full Gospel Church  
Humansville, MO 65674

# Tribute Wall



*“ I'll miss your call I enjoyed our phone talks , sorry we weren't able to have that coffee,you promised ,but some day soon well be able to you were a very special friend I didn't know you long ,but long enough to know you we're a very sweet and careing person*

**margie jones** - June 14, 2025 at 07:37 AM



*“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.*

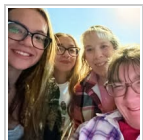


June 13, 2025 at 12:08 PM



*“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.*

June 13, 2025 at 12:08 PM



*“ I am so sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathies for all of you. Lots of hugs, love, and prayers.*

**Terrie Runyon Gee** - June 13, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.*



---

June 12, 2025 at 09:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.

---

June 12, 2025 at 01:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.*



---

June 12, 2025 at 01:28 PM



“ *Jeff, Sherri, Cameron & Elliott Hanger planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.*

---

**Jeff, Sherri, Cameron & Elliott Hanger** - June 12, 2025 at 12:27 PM

JH

“ Jeff, Sherri, Cameron & Elliott Hanger purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



Jeff, Sherri, Cameron & Elliott Hanger - June 12, 2025 at 12:27 PM

HF

“ Holy Bible Fellowship purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



Holy Bible Fellowship - June 12, 2025 at 12:26 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



June 12, 2025 at 12:23 PM

FF

“ Fern Ervin & Family, Dave Bodary & Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



Fern Ervin & Family, Dave Bodary & Family - June 11, 2025 at 09:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



---

June 11, 2025 at 08:04 PM



“ Matt, Debbie and Ronnie Mullins purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



---

**Matt, Debbie and Ronnie Mullins** - June 11, 2025 at 05:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.

---

June 11, 2025 at 05:53 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



---

June 11, 2025 at 05:53 PM

GB

“ I have not seen or spoken to Wint in 50 years, but you will never know the mark you left on my life. I so much look forward to seeing you again very soon. - Greg Burke

Greg Burke - June 11, 2025 at 09:27 AM

DB

Thank you Greg

Deb Baker - June 12, 2025 at 10:34 AM

DI

Very sweet, thank you ❤️

Diana - June 14, 2025 at 08:42 AM

TG

“ The Grandchildren planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.

The Grandchildren - June 10, 2025 at 11:24 PM

TG

“ The Grandchildren purchased the Divine Light for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



The Grandchildren - June 10, 2025 at 11:24 PM

TH

“ Tim and Robin Hammon purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



Tim and Robin Hammon - June 10, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ Lord's Prayer 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



June 10, 2025 at 09:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.

June 10, 2025 at 09:22 PM

GA

“ God bless ya's from Hobo alliance purchased the Father - Large Memorial Stone for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.



God bless ya's from Hobo alliance - June 10, 2025 at 08:57 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.*



---

June 10, 2025 at 08:40 PM



“ *Davey & Mimi Rice purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.*



---

**Davey & Mimi Rice** - June 10, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ *Davey & Mimi Rice planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.*

---

**Davey & Mimi Rice** - June 10, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carley Wintford Rice.*

---

June 10, 2025 at 07:56 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carley Wintford Rice.* ”



---

June 10, 2025 at 07:56 PM