



Orvis Rigsby

September 26, 1939 - November 7, 2018

Orvis Rigsby passed away on November 7, 2018, at the age of 79 in Orlando, Florida. After many courageous years of battle with Lewy Body Dementia, he died peacefully in the arms of his wife, Karen. He is survived by his wife, Karen, brother Gary and his extended family.

After serving in the U.S. Army, “Rig” began his career as a teacher of Theatre Arts at Oklahoma University and later at Windham College in southern Vermont. In 1981, Rig and Karen relocated to Florida. They worked together in many areas of theatrical design and production. In 2007 Rig retired from Film & Television Production Design. He was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia shortly thereafter. Rig will always be remembered as a loyal and loving friend and husband.

In lieu of any flowers, the family asks you to donate to the Lewy Body Dementia Association at their website.

Tribute Wall

SI

“ *Such a nice friendly man! A good friend of my late husband, Frank Parman. I am wishing Karen all things good. I am very happy Rig went peacefully. It was a happy afternoon we all spent together in Maine. Sarah Iselin*



Sarah Iselin - January 09, 2019 at 12:21 PM

KR

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



karen rigsby - November 26, 2018 at 08:09 PM

KR

Rig with his 2 great friends, Bennet & Jorge on a pleasant afternoon in Austin , TX

karen rigsby - January 13, 2019 at 08:16 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



karen rigsby - November 26, 2018 at 08:07 PM

KR

Rig with his Trainer (YMCA), Marissa.

karen rigsby - January 13, 2019 at 08:16 PM

LA

Great memories of this man who, along with Paul Nelson, directed me in 'The House of Blue Leaves'. Teacher, Stage Visionary, Friend, always. L. MacLearn

Lachlan - August 19, 2019 at 07:44 AM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



karen rigsby - November 26, 2018 at 08:05 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



karen rigsby - November 26, 2018 at 08:03 PM

AL

“ *In my career, I can think of no gentler, funnier, more generous soul than Orvis Rigsby. It was always a pleasure and an honor to have this fine man nearby to advise or to listen or to commiserate. His perspective and his sense of humor were trusted anchors during often difficult, often ridiculous film shoots. My memories of him will continually inspire my own compassion and patience. Thank You, Orvis Rigsby. You will be missed, but always loved.*

Alan Levi - November 19, 2018 at 06:48 PM

JW

“ *My thoughts of Orvis are nearly all work related unfortunately but he was a true friend in that setting. He was a kind and caring person who was always willing to listen and help figure it out. We shared Oklahoma ties and felt a true kinship. I regret not knowing Orvis better but am glad for the times we did get to share. I will never forget him. He was a true gentleman. Words can't do justice for the admiration I have for a man like him. Thank you Orvis for showing us compassion in a sometimes heartless business.
Rest In Peace*

Jim Williams - November 17, 2018 at 08:34 AM

GA

“ *Rig was an inspiration to me when I was in college. In later years, we shared a house together in Hopewell as we rode together to work at the McCarter Theater shop.*

Glen Anderson - November 16, 2018 at 09:29 PM

TF

“ *What a great pic of Orvis, big hugs to you and your family, I'm sure his memories will live on in your hearts. <3*

Tim Fake - November 16, 2018 at 07:12 AM



“ *For a man named for a fishing rod, Rig, you hooked many human hearts. It was my honor to have worked with you at the Vermont college stage where you painted from your coffee cup and drank from your paint cup. RIP.
Dennis Cohen*

Dennis Cohen - November 15, 2018 at 07:02 PM



“ *You were an idol to us in our early days, a friend shortly after, and family as time went on. You will be so missed and always remembered. We will look after Karen for you as you exist up there in the heavens, whole once more, until one day we all meet again.
Love Dan and Dawn.*

Dawn Holbrook-Wilkerson - November 15, 2018 at 06:16 PM

PT

“ To Karen and family, our sincere condolences. Orvis was such a pillar in the film and television community. A creative soul, and such a gentleman. A very sad loss. We were blessed to have worked with and known him.

Sincerely, Pamela Tuscany and the Universal Studios Florida Production Group

pamela tuscany - November 15, 2018 at 06:08 PM

VB

“ What a beautiful picture of Orvis and Cooper. This is how I will always picture him, especially that day we were at Mark Klingaman's house doing a barbecue and enjoying sitting out on the porch. It was a gorgeous day and Copper was running around, but he always come back to check on Rig. Orvis was the epitome of a gentle soul, a creative and talented designer, plus a loving man. He will be missed by many.

Vicki Bowlin - November 15, 2018 at 03:24 PM

WC

“ My sincere condolences. Orvis was very special to me. Our relationship was greater than the work we did together. Our talks meant the world to me. He was truly a wonderful gentleman. I had nothing but admiration and respect for him. He will be missed. May he Rest In Peace.

Bill Cimino

William Cimino - November 15, 2018 at 03:21 PM

LG

“*Rig was a loving soul, a man with a huge heart. Anyone who was lucky enough to meet Rig and share time with him, learn from him, share stories will not forget a legend like Rig. He was a teacher who made absolutely sure that his students took something with them, used it, thought about it, wrote about it, lived it. He made my two years at Windham College more like a film, with actors and sets and gave me the script to find out what theater was all about. I’ve never met another like Rig. And since he is a legend, I never will. Rest In Peace my friend.*”

Liz Gram - November 15, 2018 at 03:19 PM

AL

“*I remember driving you both to the airport a few times and Rig asking me questions and getting to know me. I remember him making me promise to take good care of his boy Cooper. Rig was a good man and a caring soul. He will be missed.*”

Amanda Lynch - November 15, 2018 at 03:10 PM