



Richard Spence Jr

June 1, 1947 - November 20, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Richard Thomas Spence Jr., age 78, on November 20, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family.

His life was one of quiet strength, deep feeling, and a steady devotion to the people he cared for.

Born on June 1, 1947, in Columbus, Ohio, he carried a strong work ethic and an unwavering sense of responsibility throughout his life. He spent many years as a telecommunications engineer with AT&T and Siemens, taking great pride in his work, his skill, and the connections he built along the way. In his later years, he served the community as a school bus driver for Marysville, where he was known for his dependability, kindness, and gentle presence.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Judith Ann Spence, with whom he shared many meaningful years and memories. He is survived by his second wife, Teresa Kaye Spence, with whom he shared deep love, companionship, and many adventures throughout their life together.

He leaves behind his children — Heather, Holly, and Jason — along with his son-in-law, LeRoy, each forever carrying a piece of his heart. He also leaves behind his beloved grandchildren — Reagan, Jackson, Finn, and Renie — who brought him pride, joy, and warmth throughout his later years.

He embraced and cared for his stepchildren as his own: Kecia, Kandace, Brittany, Zoey, and Zaida — all of whom were part of the family he built and cherished.

He will be remembered for his stubborn resilience, his dry humor, his protective nature, and the quiet but unmistakable ways he showed his love. His presence, his voice, and his steady strength will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of his life will be held on December 6, 2025, from 1:00–3:00 PM at Oakhaven Golf Club, 2871 US Highway 23 N, Delaware, OH 43015. Family and friends are invited to bring their stories, laughter, and shared memories in honor of the man he was and the life he lived.

May he rest in peace, surrounded by the love of family — past, present, and forever.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 6. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Oakhaven Golf Club
2871 US Highway 23 N,
Delaware, OH 43015

Tribute Wall

LA

“Teresa, my thoughts are with you and the rest of Rick's family. I hope you find comfort in all the ways Rick showed his love for you. In the memories you two created during your many adventures. In the daily happiness you two shared--one of my last memories of Rick is watching the two of you holing hands and snuggling while we all talked together in the living room, and how happy and content he was. How happy being with you made him.

Rick was a big guy who could come across as intimidating and gruff. He would joke that he made a terrible first impression. But he knew he'd win over just about anyone once they got to know him. It's true; I was one of those people. The juxtaposition of his external appearance with his internal personality is one of the many characteristics I liked about him.

When Rick told me about the bus crash in 2021 and his skillful maneuvering to mitigate harm to his passengers, I was not surprised at all. He was the man who would do everything he could to protect those he cared about and those he was responsible for. So I was equally unsurprised when the school board recognized him as the hero he was. He deserved nothing less.

What did surprise me about Rick was that he wasn't afraid to show his emotions. It melted my heart when I'd see tears well up in his eyes as he read a card I'd written for him or when he talked about how he felt about his kids or when someone would acknowledge his goodness. He really appreciated the little things.

I will forever be grateful for Rick's kindness, for his consistency, for his integrity, for his love. How he always made sure to tell me how much he cared about me, how he considered me a part of his family, how he considered me a daughter. We both knew what it felt like to not have a good dad, and I will never forget that he wanted to do that for me.

I will always remember Rick's stubborn refusal to take no for an

answer when he offered help.

I will always remember my first visit to a Greek restaurant and the laughs we had that day.

I will always remember the stories Rick told me about his life growing up (about his mom, about his dad, about his grandma, the schools he attended, the different things he loved to take apart just to figure out how they worked then put them back together (with varying degrees of success)), church and religion, raising his kids (who he loved SOOOO much!), lessons learned from parenting that he openly shared, working at AT&T, traveling, driving a school bus.

I will always cherish the hours-long conversations and discussions we had about anything and everything--from work to gardening to parenting to the latest scientific article he'd just read or a documentary he'd watched or a book he had to tell me about and wanted me to read too--Rick's love for learning and knowledge was lifelong and never ending. And he'd freely share what he knew with whomever wanted to listen and learn too.

Rick, I miss you already, and I will always regret not being able to have another discussion about whatever random topic crossed our minds. Not being able to giggle at yet another dad joke you found hilarious. But I will hold on to all the memories and knowledge we shared, keep moving forward, and never give up. Thank you for being in my life and welcoming me into yours. I love you!



LS

“ Rick drove the bus to many cross country and track and field events over the years. We all appreciated his sense of humor, stories and strong work ethic. Our condolences to his family.

Luke Sundermeier - December 05, 2025 at 02:12 PM

CH

“ Rick was my neighbor and I also worked with him at Marysville Schools Transportation. He was a good man who I always enjoyed our conversations.

Chris Hoehn - December 05, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Spence Jr.



December 01, 2025 at 08:10 PM

EK

“ Ed Kauffman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Spence Jr.

Ed Kauffman - December 01, 2025 at 08:10 PM

RH

“ I had the pleasure to work with Rick while driving school bus. Immediately we hit it off with our old man humor and wit that few understood. Prayers and condolences for his family and friends. He will be missed.

Rich Holliday - November 25, 2025 at 04:18 PM

DW

“ Doris Spence & Carolyn Welch purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Spence Jr.



Doris Spence & Carolyn Welch - November 25, 2025 at 11:18 AM

TS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Rick for several years at Marysville Schools. He was a very dedicated and loved the people he was around. We had several laughs together. He was a true friend. R.I.H Rick. Our gentle giant.

Tina Sharrock - November 25, 2025 at 06:56 AM

RH

“ We were sitting in the break room all women Rick walk in and said he was walking into the bathroom cave, I laughed so had R.I.P FRIEND

Rose wibley hoffman - November 24, 2025 at 07:24 PM

RH

Didn't exactly print what I said but R.I.P FRIEND

Rose wibley hoffman - November 24, 2025 at 07:27 PM

JH

I had the Pleasure of Both, knowing and working with Rick at Marysville Schools Transportation Dept. My prayers go out to your Family, during this time. Good Bye my friend.

Joe Hicks

Joe Hicks - December 03, 2025 at 12:20 PM