



James E. "Zion" Richardson

November 12, 1949 - September 21, 2025

To join the livestream of Zion's memorial service, please select the link below. The livestream will begin at 1:55 P.M. Sunday afternoon, September 28, 2025. The service broadcast will be archived for 90 days from the date of the service for later viewing.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc1ODU4MjEzNjM4MTU2NyZvbmVyb29tLWVkbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw>

James E. "Zion" Richardson, age 75 years, a resident of Golconda, Illinois and a former resident of Vienna, passed away Sunday morning, September 21, 2025, at 11:15 A.M. at the Linda E. White Hospice House in Evansville, Indiana.

Zion, as he was affectionately known to family and friends, was born November 12, 1949 at the family home in Vienna, Illinois. He was the son of Robbie and Gladys (Sharp) Richardson.

Zion is survived by: his life partner – Angela Pearson of Golconda, Illinois; his sons – Craig Michael Richardson-Burgess of Arnold, Missouri and Derek Shane Richardson of Benton, Illinois; an honorary daughter – Charity Yates of Golconda, Illinois; honorary sons – Niko and Chris; grandsons – Trevor Nathaniel Richardson and Logan Michael Burgess; honorary grandchildren – Conner and Stella; a sister – Darlene Glasford of Anna, Illinois; a brother –

Robert "Bobby" (his wife, Elaine) Richardson of Edwardsburg, Michigan; as well as nieces - Michelle Richardson, Melanie Reid, Gena Grey, and Robin Sullivan; other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents, Zion was preceded in death by a brother-in-law – Ralph Glasford and a niece - Sonya Reinier.

Zion attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He was an accomplished musician and could play many musical instruments. Zion is particularly noted for his percussion skills as a drummer. He was the assistant manager at George Jones' Possum Holler in Harrisburg, Illinois and had also performed with many noted artists, including Jerry Lee Lewis. Additionally, Zion was a time-share salesman at the Canyon Creek Resort in Winters, California.

He was an avid outdoorsman. Zion enjoyed fishing and camping and had traveled throughout the country by motorcycle.

Zion was of the Christian faith.

A memorial service honoring the life of James E. "Zion" Richardson will be conducted Sunday afternoon, September 28, 2025, at 2 P.M. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 1 P.M. until the service hour at 2 P.M. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Interment will be at a later date in the Gilead Cemetery, near Simpson, Illinois.

Memorials may be made to the Linda E. White Hospice House, 611 Harriet Street, Evansville, Indiana 47710. Memorial envelopes will be available and

donations may be left in the care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Gilead Cemetery

4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

SEP **28**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Memorial Service

SEP **28**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

CS

“ Carolyn Stevens lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Carolyn Stevens - October 09, 2025 at 01:15 AM

JW

“ Janeen Walker lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Janeen Walker - September 30, 2025 at 03:24 PM

EB

“ You will be long remembered and missed. Thank you for all the help and support you gave at the end of Dad's life and again when our brother David passed. You and Dad ("Beatle" Simmons) were friends to the end and are no doubt having an amazing reunion now. Rest easy Zion, much love to you and to your family at this time- Erinn and Miles



Erinn Bowman - September 24, 2025 at 05:13 PM

RB

“ Roger Brumley lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Roger Brumley - September 24, 2025 at 01:20 AM

MF

“ Mary Faulkner lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Mary Faulkner - September 24, 2025 at 01:09 AM

MF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Faulkner - September 24, 2025 at 01:07 AM

MF

Decay playing on the square in 1968. 💕

Mary Faulkner - September 24, 2025 at 01:08 AM

MF

Definitely a party on the other side.

Mike Foster - September 26, 2025 at 08:47 AM

BR

“ Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Bobby Rentfro - September 23, 2025 at 04:47 PM

BR

Now playing the ultimate drum trap set in Heaven. R.I.P. my old friend.

Bobby Rentfro - September 23, 2025 at 04:49 PM

LM

“ Linda And Jeff Mathis lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Linda and Jeff Mathis - September 23, 2025 at 04:20 PM

RR

“ So sorry to hear of his passing rest in peace my friend. 🙏🙏

Ray & Robbie - September 22, 2025 at 10:08 PM

DK

“ I had the honor of being Zion's Pastor for a number of years at Anna First Church of the Nazarene. We were friends became very close and we talked several times a week when he couldn't talk. He would listen and I would have prayer with him. Brenda and I are praying and express are sincere and deep sympathies to the family. Dr. Richard and Brenda Keeley

Dr Richard Keeley - September 22, 2025 at 09:58 PM

JS

“ John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



John Slack - September 22, 2025 at 08:17 PM

JS

Fly high, my good friend.

John Slack - September 22, 2025 at 08:19 PM

MF

Zion thanks for the great memories and fun in the 'old' days. I'll never forget you brother! Rest in Peace

Mark Fennell - September 23, 2025 at 01:04 PM

MJ

“ 3 files added to the album Zion



Mary Johnson - September 22, 2025 at 08:11 PM

AS

“ Angie Street lit a candle in memory of James E. "Zion" Richardson



Angie Street - September 22, 2025 at 07:51 PM