

*In Memory of*  
**“Top”**  
**Richard A. Burns**  
***First Sergeant***

*There are special people in our lives who never leave us.....  
Even after they're gone*  
*D. Morgan*

*April 05, 1934 – December 23, 2025*



***Rest in Peace Top – You've earned your place in Heaven  
Your Brothers***

GRANBURY - Richard Albert Burns (Rich) died peacefully on December 23, 2025, ending a 91 year life, where he proudly served in the military, coached young people, and enjoyed retirement in Pecan Plantation.

Rich was the first child of Reginald A. Burns and Delia Handley and was big brother to Mary and Patti. He was born in Long Beach, California, then family moved to Saratoga Springs, New York where Rich and his sisters graduated from high school.

After graduation, Rich joined the Army, where he served for twenty-one years and was grateful to have the opportunity to serve overseas. He was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany, for three years as a military policeman and played baseball, basketball, and boxed competitively for the army. Rich then served as a medic in Augsburg when he went back to Germany with his family. He served in Korea and then as a combat medic in Vietnam.

In 1967, Rich served as a medical advisor to the South Vietnamese military. He was awarded two Bronze Stars by the US Army and the Cross of Gallantry by the Vietnamese Army for valor while he cared for wounded soldiers in the jungle and rice paddies. In 1970, Rich was deployed to serve as First Sergeant of the 236th Medevac Unit (Dustoff) in DaNang where he was called 'Top'. He was so proud of the Dustoff experience and treasures the close ties he has with those pilots, medics, and crew chiefs to this day. Rich finished his Army career as an Army recruiter in Albany, N.Y., and Mineral Wells, Texas.

Rich loved sports and played baseball into his sixties: His most cherished sports experience was at the St. Louis Cardinal Fantasy Camp in Jupiter, Florida where he was able to play with some of his heroes at age 66. Rich was a life-long coach, coaching Little League baseball for twenty years and starting Little League programs in Bremerhaven and Ft. Bragg. After retirement he coached baseball and basketball in New York high schools for several years before moving to Texas. There he was particularly proud of coaching the winning girls BCI high school league basketball team in Azle, Texas, for ten years. He was relentless in urging those young women to play in college and helped several get scholarships.

Rich married Emma Decker in 1961, when he was stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and together they had three sons: Michael, Edward, and Robert. Rich moved back to Texas and met and married Wynette Parchman in 1997, and became a beloved part of her large family, He was affectionately known as PaPa Rich. Rich and Wynette moved to Pecan Plantation in 2010 where they quickly became involved in the community and golf associations forming many close friendships.

Rich was preceded in death by his sisters, Mary Tallman and Patti Muziker. He is survived by his nieces and nephews; his three sons, Michael, Edward, and Robert and their children and grandchildren. He is also survived by his wife, Wynette; and will be missed by the Parchman children and their extended families; his brothers from the 236th, and friends.

A celebration of life for Rich will be held on February 28, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. in Greenwood's Live Oak Chapel, 3100 White Settlement Rd., Fort Worth, Texas 76107. Donations in Rich's memory can be made to Pecan Plantation EMS whose employees helped Rich many times in the last two years

#### GREENWOOD FUNERAL HOME

Greenwood Funeral Homes - Cremation

3344 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX 76107

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