



Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr.

May 31, 1976 - February 12, 2024

Richard Dee, the beloved voice behind the airwaves, bid farewell to this world on February 12, 2024, leaving behind a legacy that resonates in the hearts of his listeners. With his passing, the voice of a true icon in the realm of local radio broadcasting is now silent.

Born to the union of Richard and Acquanetta Gadson Donnell on May 31, 1976, in Jackson, Tennessee, Richard Dee received his formative religious training and posted his lifetime membership at Lane Tabernacle C.M.E. Church in Jackson, where he participated in all aspects and activities of church life, including Sunday School, Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF), Angel and Junior Choir, Junior Steward Board, and Easter and Christmas celebrations. He later attended Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Pinson, Tennessee.

He received his early childhood education at St. Mary's Catholic School, followed by attendance at Tigrett Jr. High, and Jackson-Central Merry High School, from which he graduated in 1994. He thereafter attended Lane College and graduated in 1999 with a baccalaureate degree in Communications.

While at Lane, he was elected the King of Homecoming in the fall of 1997. He obtained his first radio gig at WFKX-FM (Kix 96) in 1998 under the tutelage of

radio station owner James E. Wolfe, Jr. From that moment, he was mesmerized by radio and was a popular air personality at Kix for several years. After his stint at Kix, he served as an on-air personality at WYJJ (Jammin' Jackson 97.7), followed by his last and current tenure at Lane College radio station WLCD-FM (The Dragon 98.7). His on-air intro at Kix featured a bumpin' rap song that included a call and response reprise... [What's my name? Richard Dee. Where I'm from? Jackson, TN (pronounced Ten) that was a favorite of his fans each night. He repeated the popular intro at WLCD, and added a regular segment on his show with his mother, who he gave the moniker "DJ Neva Skrd" (pronounced Never Scared), where they interacted humorously with each other to the delight of his listeners across the airwaves each day. He served as his mother's primary caregiver.

Richard Dee arrived into this world with a passion for music and an innate talent for connecting with people. He embarked on his journey as a radio air personality, captivating audiences with his infectious enthusiasm, wit, and warm personality. For 26 years, his voice was the soundtrack to countless lives, bringing joy, laughter, and a sense of camaraderie to all who tuned in.

Beyond the music, Richard Dee used his platform to champion charitable causes and support local artists. His dedication to his listeners went beyond the confines of the studio, as he often participated in community events and engaged with fans on a personal level, earning him their unwavering loyalty and affection.

Whether it was in the evening at Kix, or in the afternoon at Jammin' JJ and The Dragon, listeners found solace and companionship in Richard Dee's broadcasts. His exciting voice had a way of easing the burdens of the day and uniting people from all walks of life through the universal language of music. In addition to his contributions to the world of radio, Richard Dee will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and genuine love for others. He leaves behind a void that cannot be filled, but his spirit will live on in the

memories of those who were fortunate enough to have crossed his path.

In addition to his mother and father, Richard Dee is survived by his siblings, Essence, Noel, Jeslyn, and Acquanetta (Jr.) Donnell; Sidney and Cynthia Halton; and Ravone Littlejohn; nieces and nephews Ariel, Nadja and Travis Donnell, and Chris Campbell; and maternal aunt, Sandra Gadson Ramsey. Also included as survivors are his many friends, colleagues, and countless listeners whose lives he touched. He was preceded in transition by his paternal grandparents, J.D. and Mattie Donnell; his maternal grandparents, Cursie and Doris Gadson; and his paternal and maternal uncles, respectively, Willie "Billy Boy" Donnell and Cursie Gadson, Jr.

As we mourn the loss of a true radio legend, let us take comfort in knowing that Richard Dee's voice will forever echo in our hearts, reminding us to embrace the power of music and the importance of spreading joy wherever we go. Though his voice has fallen silent, his legacy and spirit will continue to resonate eternally in the melodies of our memories.

Click on the following Link to view Celebration of Life Program: <https://www.stephenson-shaw.com/download/205636/RichardDonnellJrprogram.pdf>

Previous Events

Family Hour

FEB 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Lane College Chambers-McClure Academic Center
545 Lane Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301

Celebration of Life

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lane College Chambers-McClure Academic Center
545 Lane Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301

Tribute Wall



“ *Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr.*



Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc - February 17, 2024 at 08:03 AM

KB

Very saddened by this. RIH Richard D

Kimyatta Bolden - March 01, 2024 at 10:30 PM

CF

“ *Just went to Facebook to see why I haven't seen his posts. My heart is broken hearing he has fallen asleep. He always treated me so loving and spoke of my son's accomplishments often. He will be missed. See you in paradise my dear friend.*

Colleen Farmer - February 28, 2024 at 07:47 PM

GM

“ *My heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to the family. Praying with and for you. He'll be deeply missed. I enjoyed listening to him on the radio down through the years in my home. When his rap come on it was time to sit down & listen. I wished I had a chance to meet him in person. We've truly lost a great radio legend in our community & I'll never forget him.*



Guinette Marshall - February 18, 2024 at 07:01 AM

TB

“ *Tyree Burden lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Tyree Burden - February 17, 2024 at 10:15 AM

CR

“ *Richard,
You and your family have my deepest sympathy at the passing of your son Richard Jr.. I pray that God comforts each of you.*

Connie Robinson

Constance Robinson - February 17, 2024 at 09:59 AM

LE

“ *Linda Elam lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Linda Elam - February 17, 2024 at 05:54 AM

TT

“ *I will always remember our conversation of how you often wanted to come "outside" and just be regular and chill. Eventhough that didn't happen for you often you always greeted fans with a smile or "what's up" never changing always the same ole Richard D. Gonna miss running into you EVERYYYWHERRRE!! seeing how you loved on Ms.Aqunetta and cared for her was so inspiring. Get your rest dancing machine! Well done.*

Toblin Tisdale - February 16, 2024 at 11:16 PM

MG

“ The year was 1983. I, Marion Faye Godwin, was blessed to begin my Legal Profession Journey with Donnell, Pride and Cox Law Office. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell, Jr., a/k/a Dooley was one of the first personalities I met then. Dooley grew and became the WLCD Dragon Air Personality of all times. Richard, Acquanetta and all the Siblings and of the Donnell and Gadson Families, you are in my thoughts and prayers. The Journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step. Dooley's Heavenly Journey began on 2/12/24 and will now allow him to Rock the Air Waves of Glory, where he will join a Heavenly Choir ready to sing praises to welcome him. Please know that the prayers of the Godwin, Cox, Bell, Davis Families are present with you in the hours, days, weeks and years to come. Love you all to Life!



Marion Faye Godwin - February 16, 2024 at 05:05 PM

MS

“ I was one of his teachers at Tigrett Junior High. Richard was an excellent student. He will be dearly missed. I will keep the family in my prayers. Mrs. Minnie Springfield.

Minnie Springfield - February 16, 2024 at 04:49 PM

SH

Praying for strength and comfort to the family. Richard will truly be missed.

Sonya R HARRIS-MCGHEE - February 17, 2024 at 12:37 PM

JC

“ Jackson City Council planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr..

Jackson City Council - February 16, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr..



February 16, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr..



February 16, 2024 at 12:38 PM

TF

“ The Blackwell Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr..



The Blackwell Family - February 16, 2024 at 12:38 PM

HC

“ We offer our Prayers and Condolences to the entire family of Richard Donnell, Jr. His passing is a great loss to the Jackson, Tennessee, and surrounding areas, as he was a great Radio Personality. We enjoyed him for 15 years after we relocated back to my home town of Jackson, TN after I retired in Flint, Michigan. I always respected his father Richard Donnell, Sr. during our 15 year stay back in Denmark, until we relocated again to Florida. Jackson, TN has lost a Super Star, but God has gained him in Heaven. Unfortunately, we must all leave this earth one day, but it was a joy to listen to him on the radio for many years. Our loss is Heaven's gain, and we will all miss him. May God Bless and Keep the Family during this period of Bereavement. Attorney Hewitt & Dornell Chatman, Plant City, FL.



Hewitt Chatman - February 16, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr..



February 16, 2024 at 10:15 AM

GW

“ I am so sorry for your loss.



Gloria Walker - February 16, 2024 at 06:59 AM

IA

“ *Irene lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Irene Aldridge - February 15, 2024 at 10:23 PM

SY

“ *Sandra Yarbrough lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Sandra Yarbrough - February 15, 2024 at 08:36 PM

MW

“ *Mary Wynne lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Mary Wynne - February 15, 2024 at 07:50 PM

AG

“ *My condolences to my fellow Lanite family and friends. May God give you peace and comfort doing this time. Richard Dee will definitely be missed. Blessings, Aisha Gibbs-Humphrey*

Aisha Gibbs-Humphrey - February 15, 2024 at 06:22 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard H. "Richard Dee" Donnell Jr..



February 15, 2024 at 03:15 PM



“ Lou Polk lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell



Lou Polk - February 15, 2024 at 03:12 PM



“ Richard, (bc you said I can't call you Dooley) your sudden departure has really messed me up.. From Tigrett to JCM(Class of 94)on to Lane College you were always phenomenal!! Your enthusiasm, your crunkness, your voice will be missed.. I looked forward to listening to you & DJ Nvr Skd on FB Live. Your dedication to your mom was unmatched & we all got to see you take care of her. Your parents had a great son & your sisters had the best big brother!! We lost a legend in Jackson Tn!! You will be greatly missed, Dooley!! On behalf of the Barhams' (Brian & SirKeather Logan), your family has our deepest condolences.. Take your rest, Classmate!! We love you!!
Sirkeather Logan Barham(KeKe)

KeKe Logan Barham - February 15, 2024 at 02:33 PM

CH

“ *Corday Hennessy lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Corday Hennessy - February 15, 2024 at 02:10 PM

LJ

“ *To the family, you have my sincere condolences and deepest sympathy. Richard Dee!!!! Mane!!!! Your unmatched energy will be greatly missed. The way you were taking care of your mom was so inspiring. Such a truly awesome son! Take your rest now friend. One love. -Tony and Toya (Brent) Jones*



LaToya Jones - February 15, 2024 at 09:42 AM

CH

*Such A Sweet, Respectful, Polite Young Man.
He May Be Gone Too Be With His Lord But Never Forgotten.
Rest On Richard. DJ Never Scared Will Be Taken Care Of.*

Corday Hennessy - February 15, 2024 at 02:03 PM

LJ

“ *Loretta Jones-Long lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell*



Loretta Jones-Long - February 15, 2024 at 12:28 AM

ST

“ To the family and friends of my friend my heart is very broken 💔 too you all are not alone 😭 I am so sorry for your loss 🙏🙏🙏 prayers for all Richard Dee was a fine young man he will forever be in my heart GOD has spoken Mr Donnell you did a great job



Shirley Thompson - February 14, 2024 at 05:53 PM

ST

“ Richard Dee we can't believe that you are going so soon. You will definitely be missed 😭
😭

Love
Stephanie and Shirley Thompson



Stephanie Thompson - February 14, 2024 at 05:44 PM

ST

“ Richard Dee you will definitely be missed
Rip we still can't believe that you are going so soon.
Love
Stephanie & Shirley Thompson



Stephanie Thompson - February 14, 2024 at 04:56 PM

EG

“ Elnor Gray lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell



Elnor L Gray - February 14, 2024 at 03:32 PM

SH

“ I remember our days at 96Kix when you started as an intern from Lane College. We had some great days as radio personalities and shared many heart to heart talks. You will be missed ❤️ praying for peace and comfort for the family 🙏

Shari Harper - February 14, 2024 at 02:50 PM

LJ

“ Loretta Jones-Long lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell



Loretta Jones-Long - February 14, 2024 at 12:04 PM

SG

“ Sarah Goyer lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell



Sarah Goyer - February 14, 2024 at 10:25 AM

EB

“ It's difficult knowing we spoke less than a week ago, but my statement stays the same you're with God now; no doubt. You made an irreplaceable mark and legacy that will be forever missed. Rest peacefully my friend!
Erica Blackwell



Erica Blackwell - February 14, 2024 at 07:54 AM

DE

“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends of the late Richard D you will truly be missed rest well, Richard D 🕊️💔

denise - February 13, 2024 at 08:03 PM

RL

“ Ramona Lyons lit a candle in memory of Richard Donnell



Ramona Lyons - February 13, 2024 at 07:25 PM

SH

“ I'm truly at a loss for words Lanite. I'm so glad we got to connect at homecoming a few months ago. There will never be another Richard Dee💔
Your Lane College Sis,
Shai'Kenya

Shai'Kenya - February 13, 2024 at 07:12 PM

RN

“ I have so many memories of Richard Dee. I met him in 1980 and he has always been known to me as Dooley. He was a good kid, grew up to be a fine young man. He was always the same whenever you saw him. Very respectful and respected. Whenever he was in Walmart, he would always find me just to say hello. I am so heartbroken over his passing. My prayers and condolences go out to the Donnell family. God bless you. RIP Take your rest.



Regetta Nelson - February 13, 2024 at 04:05 PM

MC

“ My Prayers And Heartfelt Sympathy Goes Out To Councilman Richard Donnell & Mrs.Donnell.I'm So Sorry For Your loss.What my name? Richard Dee,Where I'm From Jackson Tennessee.🎵 Rip 🎵Richard Dee🎵



Martha Carter - February 13, 2024 at 02:59 PM

MF

🙏🙏 Those we Love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday
author unknown
my ❤️ heart goes out to you an your family,it was a shock to me an a whole lot of people's 🙏🙏.
Stay Strong, Stay Bless remember God don't make mistakes 🙏

mary i.s.fuller
west high class of "1973"

mary fuller - February 16, 2024 at 02:23 PM

TG

“ Terrie Goodmanterrie sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Donnell



Terrie Goodmanterrie - February 13, 2024 at 02:40 PM

MF

🙏 *Those we Love don't go away*
They walk beside us everyday
Author unknown 🙏🙏

*My Heart ❤️ goes out to you an your entire family,it was a shock to me
an a whole lot of other people's who Loved him 🙏 Stay Strong,Stay
prayerful,Stay Bless an most of all Keep your hand in God's Hand!!
Always Remember God don't make mistakes 🙏🙏*
mary Ingram spann fuller
West High class of 1973"☐

mary fuller - February 17, 2024 at 01:41 AM