



## Richard Lee Armstrong

January 13, 1957 - January 13, 2015

Richard Lee Armstrong, 58 of Rossville departed this life Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015. He was born in Sweetwater, Tennessee to the late Junior & Ressie Simmons and was a member of Bible Way Baptist Church in Rossville.

Survivors include his wife, Robbie Armstrong of Rossville, daughters, Chelly (Zachary) Adams of Rossville, Kerri (Daniel) Hodge of Ringgold, sisters, Dorothy Higdon of East Ridge, Reana Hamilton of Florida, grandchildren, Carter and Cooper Hodge, Kaylee, Kamryn, Kelcey, and Kayden Adams, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held 11:00AM Friday, Jan. 16, 2015 in the Chapel with Dr. Vincent Estill officiating. Interment will follow in Gordy Cemetery. Family will receive friends from 5:00PM until 8:00PM Thursday, and prior to the service Friday at the funeral home. Arrangements are by W.L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ I know I am long winded just like me dad, but I want you guys to know what my dads last 16 months was like after his cancer diagnosis, and how incredibly brave and positive he was, he had always been a fighter. My dad had many many friends over the years, he never meet a stranger. Anybody that had the pleasure of knowing dad, knew he had that head full of jet black that was always styled to perfection, he was handsome guy, believe me I heard that a lot from different girls and women my whole life. But guess what dad looked just as handsome bald. Dad had some days where he was tired and would stay home but most days he was out and about, visiting friends, spending the day with my sister and her 2 boys Carter 3 and Cooper who turned 1 the day after dad passed. Going to Dr appointments or to the infusion center where the nurses loved him. Dad was a very charismatic man. My dad also had a huge kind tender heart and was very generous to people. So the time came in August for the stem cell transplant, he would have to stay in Atlanta for 6 weeks, the stem cell transplant was our hope, it is a very gruelling process, they basically take you to the edge of death to kill as much of the cancer as possible in hopes the new stem they give you will reproduce without the cancer. I would stay with dad at the hospital and sleep on the couch in his room, then I would have to dive home work 3 12hr shifts as a nurse, then drive back to Atlanta, I hated leaving my dad, but I was at a new job and had to work. Anyway it was tough seeing dad so weak and the constant go, but I would do it again in a heartbeat for my dad. I would often venture out in Atlanta to get supplies, snacks or meals, hospital food gets old quick. So in a way it was another adventure, after a week or two I had learned my way around. Eventually dad was able to come home, he felt real good after his transplant had took and he regained strength. He was on the go more than ever. I remember on October 21, post cont

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**Chelly Armstrong-Adams - Rossville, GA - daughter** - March 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ It took almost a week in Erlanger before they diagnosed dad with cancer, there are different strains and his type made up less than 5% of all multiple myelomas. My dad has always been unique. Of course a cancer diagnosis is a hard thing to take. But multiple myeloma is at this time incurable, but treatable, with a 45% 5 year survival rate. Little info about multiple myeloma, it is in plasma cells, type of white blood cells produced in bone marrow, basically it eats away at bone in a very simple terms. My sister and I spent countless hours researching this cancer. We began treatment very soon after diagnosis, goal was to get cancer levels low so dad could have a stem cell transplant, this is preferred treatment.... Monthes of chemo and dad was feeling better, still had his hair and levels were low enough. We were sent to Emory in Atlanta Georgia for this procedure, Erlanger does not do it. So now we got a new set of oncologist at Emory. Dad and I must of spent at least 100 he's over the next 6 months going to appointments at Atlanta. More times than not we really enjoyed our road trips, singing loud, long talks, eating at new places, it reminded of when dad would let me go with him when he traveled when I was young. Some of my best memories, I loved those trips, my dad since I was very young made a point of always teaching me things and opening up my young mind to things, that created in me a never ending thirst for knowledge, I catch my self doing it with my kids and nephews now. One day in June I hugged dad and noticed his hair was falling out, he had done a much higher dose of chemo in hospital at Emory in May to prepare for stem cell transplant causing his hair to fall out, but instead of being upset he just laughed and said I always wondered what I would look like bald, So I shaved him bald that very day, we laughed so much, I had never shaved a head, creating memories with my daddy. I even waxed his bald head to a high shine he said after I shaved it. Post c

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**Chelly Armstrong-Adams - Rossville, GA - daughter** - March 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Thank you so much for the kind words. I am just now seeing these posts oddly for some reason when I got on my tablet, it was setting open on my page, even though I have not looked at this page since January 14, and use my tablet every day. Guess it was meant for me to see them... I was truly devastated when my dad passed, he was my best friend. Since 2010 my dad, myself and my family have all lived together. God lead me to make the decision to help my dad take care of his mother, my grandmother was n 2010, so instead of her being in a nursing home she could spend her final days at home surrounded by her family, after her passing. My dad and husband encouraged me to return to college to finish my nursing degree. A few months after I graduated dad was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, God keep me and my family here with my dad for almost 5 years, God is indeed all knowing, I am so thankful for all that great time I had with my dad. I have always been close to my dad, but as we become adults and leave the nest and begin living life, we take for granted our parents will be there, I mean come on to me my dad was invincible, my hero. Dad was incredibly strong and brave battling this cancer. When he was diagnosed in fall of 2013, we were shocked, he didn't have the typical signs of cancer, routine blood work revealed his hemoglobin was critically low, the Dr came out as we were leaving and called us back in, she told us this and they would must go straight to the er, she didn't know how he was even walking. At this time my dad was still working 40hrs a week and leading a pretty active life with family and friends.He complained of leg pain and occasional fatigue, but that was it, he was always so strong, he had worked hard all his life, he spent many years raising and training horses, then returned as a hobby to another one of his life long passions wrestling. So yeah I chalked it up to arthritis and getting older. I had to encourage him to go to dr.  
Post continued

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**Chelly Armstrong-Adams - Rossville, GA - daughter** - March 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dan and I enjoyed riding with Richard and Robbie. It was a long time ago. But, we still remember Richard's laughter. He was such a joy.

**GOD BLESS YOU ROBBIE AND YOUR FAMILY.**

*Dan & Nancy Yearout*

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**Dan & Nancy Yearout - Ringgold, GA - Friend - January 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM**

BE

“ Although it has been over 25 years since Richard worked with us it seems like just yesterday we were all riding our horses in the Batterfield, laughing and enjoying watching our children learning to ride. Richard was in sales for Champ Horse Supply. He took to selling horse equipment as though he was born to be a salesman. His main position was selling in the auction ring. He proved to be a natural at working a crowd and enjoyed getting to know folks and making new friends. But life often has other plans for a person and Richard had to move on to a new job that offered more benefits for his growing family. We missed him when he moved on then and now he has been called home I am sure to a new job our Lord has planned for him. Again possibly to prepare a place for his growing family he has here on earth. We will truly miss you Richard but we find peace in knowing that you are at peace with our Lord.

*Love from Bob, Jill, Roxanne, Robert & Lori Hill*

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**Bob & Jill Hill - LaFayette, GA - Family friend / former employer - January 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM**

RF

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of a boyhood friend and next door neighbor. Praying for comfort and grace for the family and friends

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**Roy Steele - Chattanooga , TN - Friend - January 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM**