



Richard Allen Purcell Sr.

July 15, 1948 - December 6, 2025

Richard Allen Purcell Sr. was born July 15, 1948, in Salem, Missouri. He was one of three children born to Vancil Moses and Beulah Mae (Steelman) Purcell. He grew up in Rector, Missouri, where he resided until moving to Marthasville in 1968.

Richard was united in marriage June 21, 1968, to Denise Dooley, and to this union they were blessed with four children: Sherri, Lisa, Rick, and Amy. He later married Melissa Pankey, and to this union they were blessed with one daughter: Sonya.

Richard was a hard worker and a very skilled carpenter. He built many homes in the Lake St. Louis and Salem areas, including his own. In 1981, Richard relocated back to Salem, where he later started Purcell Logging and served as the owner and operator for many years. He believed strongly in independence and self-reliance. Richard's greatest priority was ensuring financial security, and he took immense pride in instilling a strong work ethic and practical values in his children.

Richard spent his life devoted to the land, acquiring property, raising cattle, and finding peace along the Current River. He was also a valued member of the community, enjoying time with friends and, notably, partnering with his brother to earn multiple first and second place finishes in local canoe races.

Though he loved all these pursuits, the family farm remained the place he cherished most.

Richard proudly professed his faith at the United Pentecostal Church in Washington, Missouri. He became a deacon there and devoted many years to faithful service in that role.

On December 6, 2025, in Rolla, Missouri, Richard entered eternal rest at the age of 77, embraced by the love and peace of his Lord and Savior. He is survived by his children: Sherri Reichard and husband Bobby Joe of Tennessee, Lisa Landrigan and wife Amy of Ozark, MO, Rick Purcell and wife Rachel of Salem, MO, Amy Rolan and husband Tim of Eminence, MO, and Sonya Null and husband Jeff of Lebanon, MO; fifteen grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Preceding him in death were his wife: Melissa (Pankey) Purcell; parents: Vancil and Beulah (Steelman) Purcell; brother: Clarence Purcell; sister: Dephine Purcell; grandson: Travis Watson Jr.; and great-granddaughter: Lyla Smith.

Richard's legacy of hard work and perseverance will continue to live on in those he loved.

Memorial Contributions may be made in memory of Richard Purcell to Akers Cemetery and left with Wilson Mortuary. Memorial Envelopes will be available.

Condolences may be left online at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Akers Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 12:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Wilson Mortuary - December 15, 2025 at 12:38 PM

MW

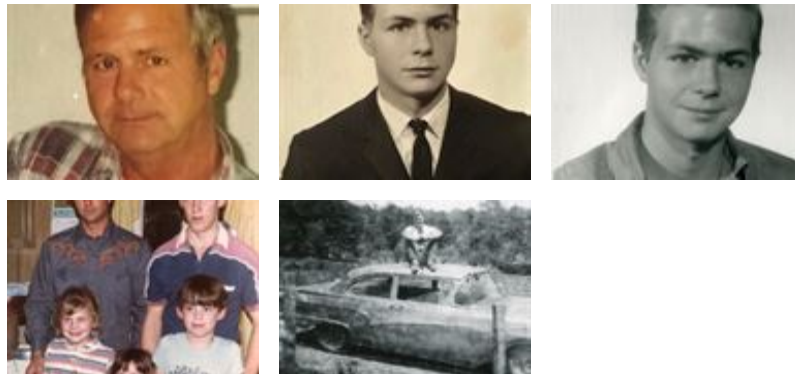
A Great and kind, generous man... I'll never forget borrowing his brand new aluminum canoe... we'll, it was a thirsty trip down the current and somehow the canoe flew off the car on way to bring it back! He found the long version of this tale so funny until I got to the part where I replied, "No, sir, your canoe did not stay on the car... but I got it (it would only paddle in circles after, let's say)! God bless you and family!



Michael Williams - December 17, 2025 at 10:34 AM



“ 156 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wilson Mortuary - December 09, 2025 at 08:34 AM

PW

“ So sorry, to hear of his passing I always thought a lot of him. Dad always liked him as you know. May God give you all comfort. Paulette Steelman Weaver.

Paulette Weaver - December 09, 2025 at 07:19 AM

JY

“ My thoughts are with you and your family.

Jimmy Yeng - December 09, 2025 at 02:19 AM

TL

“ Tonya and Lorinda purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Richard Allen Purcell Sr..



Tonya and Lorinda - December 08, 2025 at 09:41 AM

TL

“ Tonya and Lorinda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Purcell Sr..

Tonya and Lorinda - December 08, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Allen Purcell Sr..



December 07, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ *Lindell & Whitney Thompson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Purcell Sr..*

Lindell & Whitney Thompson - December 07, 2025 at 08:56 PM