



## Richard Alan Howell

May 14, 1949 - December 30, 2021

Click here to view a livestream of Alan's Memorial Service (<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1641005180156875>)

I have crossed the river to lie down in the cool grass. I'll find my way to Fiddler's Green and maybe ride the Golden Wind.

On Thursday, December 30, Alan Howell, loving husband and father of two children and two grandchildren passed away at the age of 72. Alan was born on May 14, 1949 in Carter County TN to William "Dottie" and Ruth Carter Howell. He was a graduate of Happy Valley High School. He received a degree in Human Resources from Steed College in 1973. On January 5, 1980, he married Mary Ann Looney Howell. They raised one daughter, Hannah; a son, Richie; and a granddaughter, Mariah.

Alan worked in the restaurant business most of his life. He was most known for Dixie Barbeque, the restaurant that he created and loved. Alan knew no strangers, was fortunate to have good employees and customers, and looked forward to each day at work. In addition to Alan and the food, customers enjoyed listening to beach music and watching Andy Griffith.

For many years, Alan enjoyed sailing trips to far-flung locales with his too numerous to name friends. Not only was Alan not afraid to let people know he was a proud liberal Democrat, in 2006 he ran for the First District of Tennessee US Congress seat. Above everything else, Alan was a kind, loving father and husband; a wise teacher; and a fun-loving pleasant man who loved life.

Alan is preceded in death by his parents and his brother Bill Howell. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann Looney Howell, his daughter Hannah Howell, and his son Richard Alan "Richie" Howell Jr. He has two grandchildren, Mariah Howell of Johnson City and Christian Howell of Honolulu, HI. His sister-in-law Rose Ann Howell and several cousins also survive.

Special thanks to Caris Healthcare, Justin Taylor, Carrie Weiss, and Megan Long.  
Honorary pallbearers are former employees of Dixie Barbeque.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Washington County Animal Shelter or charity of your choice.

Memories and condolences may be shared at [www.tetrickfuneralhome.com](http://www.tetrickfuneralhome.com). Tetrick Funeral Services 3001 Peoples Street Johnson City, TN 37601 is honored to serve the Howell family.

# Events

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**JAN 6**    **Celebration of Life**       02:00PM - 03:00PM

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Tetrick Funeral Services  
3001 Peoples Street, Johnson City, TN, US, 37604

**JAN 6**    **Visitation**               03:00PM - 06:00PM

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Tetrick Funeral Services - Johnson City  
3001 Peoples Street, Johnson City, TN, US, 37604

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Tetrick Funeral** - January 06 at 11:34 AM



“ What a wonderful life Alan lived. for the family and thanks for sharing this moment with his classmates and restaurant friends. Heaven is enjoying some FINE BBQ and you can't forget the taters and onions! RIP Alan

**Lynnie** - January 06 at 03:19 PM

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“ 131 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Tetrick Funeral** - January 06 at 11:27 AM

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“ A great friend from the other side of the world with an amazing sense of humour and a kind and compassionate nature.  
We have many happy memories sitting on that back deck with Mary Ann, even if neither of them could say G'day mate!.  
Love and blessings and goodbye mate!  
Marshal and Pattie  
Australia

**GrandParents Collins** - January 06 at 05:50 AM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Alan Howell.



January 06 at 01:06 AM

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“ Alan was my first boss when I worked at Dixie BBQ in the early-1990s. He taught me so much about life and work. He said that I should never be ashamed of how I talked because that's how people knew where I was from. I respected him, and loved hearing his stories and his laughter when he talked with customers. He was sometimes tough on me when I was out of line, but his counsel helped me grow up and appreciate what it meant to work as a team with others in food service.

Alan's BBQ was always my favorite, and even now I compare every other to what he served, which was the finest. A few years ago when Dixie closed, I was able to see Alan for one last time, and take home a pound of pulled pork with Alabama white sauce and East Tennessee Red. Still can't find comparable sauces now that Dixie's gone. But the memory lives on!

I wish peace and comfort for Alan's family and close friends during this time. He was a great man who had a tremendous effect on all of the lives he touched.



**Desi** - January 05 at 06:20 PM

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“ Prayers for your family. Alan will be missed by many.



**Arlene Ross** - January 05 at 02:05 PM

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“ I was very saddened to read of Alan's passing in the Press. When I moved here in 1994, I worked up the street from Dixie BBQ and had never had BBQ before. One of my co-workers suggested we get some one day. Well, I was hooked. For the next 21 years I can't count how much BBQ I ate there; every year on my birthday this was where my wife took me. Over the years I got to know Alan from all the time I spent eating there, talking politics with him especially when he ran for office, and just shooting the breeze. One of my funniest memories was one time some person wrote a long letter complaining about the restaurant and how they were never coming back - well, Alan hung the letter on the wall right by the door so everyone could read it. He had such a good sense of humor. We had a lot of laughs over his "Penn State pennants will not be seen here" on his menu, since I was a PSU fan. As a musician, Alan got a kick out of the fact that I wrote a song about one of his original sauces (East Tennessee Red), which I loved enough that I would come and buy it just to have some in the house and would always dip my spicy fries in it. I still think Alan had the best BBQ in the Tri-Cities and his beans were out of this world.

Anyway, he was such a great guy and I remember eating there the last time 6 years ago or so when he was closing up and all the crowds that were coming by for the last time. The Tri-Cities has really lost a local legend and condolences to his family.

**Joe Martin** - January 04 at 10:03 PM

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“ Chris Collins lit a candle in memory of Richard Alan Howell



**Chris Collins** - January 04 at 05:44 PM



“ Alan was a pleasant man to be around, and had a great sense of humor. I went to his restaurant at Dixie Barbeque on numerous occasions (great food). May the spirit of God be with the Howell family, and comfort them in the days ahead! Sincerely, Benny Franklin..

**Benny Franklin** - January 04 at 05:42 PM

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“ R.I.P. Alan great memories at Dixie Randall & Deadra Salts



**Randall Salts** - January 04 at 04:38 PM

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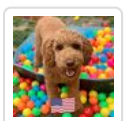


“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Alan Howell.



January 04 at 03:48 PM

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“ To the Howell Family,  
I had a very good relationship with Alan and enjoyed eating lunch at Dixie BBQ on many occasions. He always had a good sense of humor.  
May the Spirit of God be with your family.  
Most sincerely,  
Benny Franklin

**Laura Graham** - January 04 at 03:44 PM