



Richard Floyd Finch

JUL 29, 1935 - AUG 12, 2018



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Robertson
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Richard Floyd Finch

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Richard Floyd Finch, 83, of Portland, Oregon died Sunday, August 12, 2018 in Portland, Oregon.

Services will be 11:00 AM Saturday, August 18, 2018 in Robertson Funeral Directors Saints' Roost Chapel in Clarendon with Don Stone, officiating. Burial will follow in Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon.

Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 PM Friday at the funeral home.

Richard Floyd Finch was born July 29, 1935 to Richard Henry and Travis Elizabeth (Donald) Finch. He graduated from high school at age 16 years, soon becoming a manager in a department store. His love of automotive and mechanical technology led him to race Go-Karts and sports cars. He worked in Civil Service in the Aerospace industry at Vandenberg Air Force Base as well as with the Rocket Testing Program at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. His aerospace work also took him to the Marshall Islands during the Cold War years.

Graduating eventually from California Polytechnic State University in San Louis Obispo, California, Richard taught in Community Colleges, published technical books, and designed aeronautical devices. His greatest delight was in being accepted as an engineering team member at NASA's Space Center in Florida. Richard retired in New Mexico, having acquired a love for the region near his earlier aerospace work. During his retirement years, he volunteered as an educator for the Experimental Aircraft Association. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Travis Finch, his wife Gayle E. Finch, and his sons Rocky Dale Finch and Richard Dean Finch.



Obituary

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Richard is survived by his siblings, E. Beth Johnson of Chennai, India, Roger Finch of Clarendon, and Phil Finch of Oregon, and is survived by a granddaughter Sara Gorlick of Austin, Texas.

Family requests that donations be made to Clarendon Citizen's Cemetery Fund at P.O. Box 983, Clarendon, TX 79226.



Events

Richard Floyd Finch

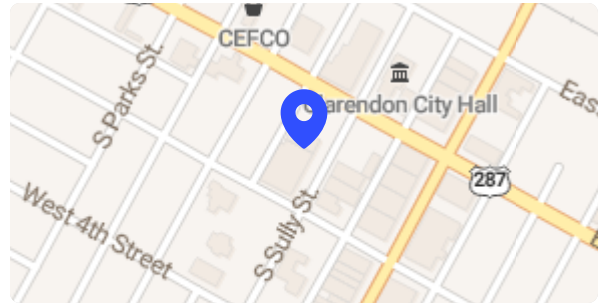
JUL 29, 1935 - AUG 12, 2018

Viewing

Friday, August 17, 2018

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM CT

Robertson Funeral Directors - Clarendon
212 South Sully Street, Clarendon TX 79226

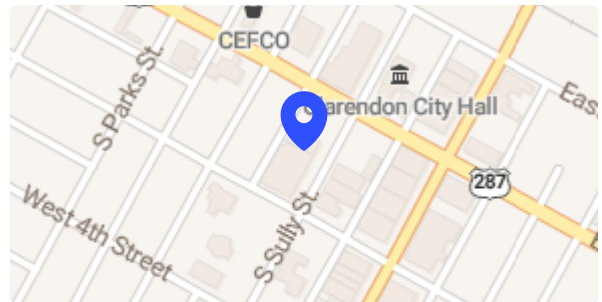


Visitation

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5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT

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212 South Sully Street, Clarendon TX 79226

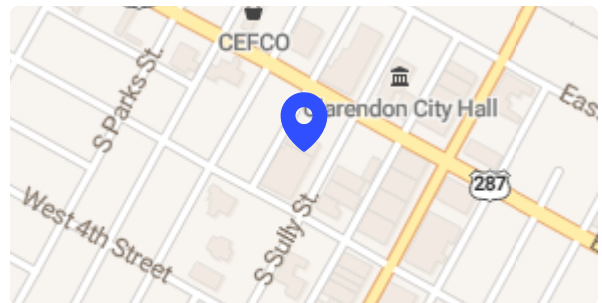


Service

Saturday, August 18, 2018

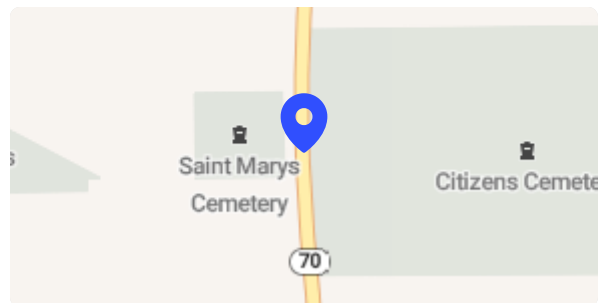
11:00 AM CT

Robertson Funeral Directors - Clarendon
212 South Sully Street, Clarendon TX 79226



Cemetery Details

Citizens Cemetery - Clarendon
4347 SH-70, Clarendon TX 79226





Tribute Wall

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SG

Steve Goodman posted:

Sad news, one of the CORVAIR world greats is gone. I have all of his books and enjoyed our last visit several years ago at a Corvair gathering in NM. Richard was knowledgeable and friendly and will be missed. My condolences to his family. Steve Goodman Golden, Colo

August 23 at 11:27 AM

RF

Roger Finch September 11 at 1:56 PM

I thank you for your gracious comment. He did know Corvairs inside and out! As a younger brother I always looked up to him!

CL

Craig Lamond posted:

No one has ever done so much to help me with these infernal internal combustion air cooled machines as Sir Richard! Truly the greatest of them all. You are a great friend and will be deeply missed. Craig and Lea Lamond

August 23 at 8:07 AM

RF

Roger Finch September 11 at 1:57 PM

Thank you!

SE

Seth Emerson posted:

I was sorry to hear of Richards passing. I had known him since the mid-1970s. Over the years, I learned a lot about Corvairs from him, but probably the most enduring lessons were about welding and fabrication. The books he wrote on welding techniques were industry standards. He wasn't afraid to build something himself and share the information on how to do it. His Corvair books are great examples, but especially his welding books. He once told me that he could teach me all I needed to weld in an afternoon, then, after a few years of practice, I would be "okay". He will be missed. Seth Emerson, San Jose, CA.

August 22 at 9:53 PM

RF

Roger Finch September 11 at 2:01 PM

Yes Richard built a racecar entirely including the steering and suspension and powered it with a rearmounted Mercury outboard and used frame to carry coolant to Chrysler heater core as front radiator!



Tribute Wall

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Nell Donna Stevens lit a candle in honor of Richard.
My condolences to you, Roger and your family members.

August 17 at 3:39 PM



Roger Finch September 11 at 2:02 PM
Thank you!



Bill Hadley August 22 at 11:24 PM
Thoughts and prayers to all.....



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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