



## James Richard "Rich" Candler

March 20, 1942 - August 26, 2020

James Richard "Rich" Candler, 78, of Red Bud, passed away on August 26, 2020 at his home.

Rich was born March 20, 1942, in Red Bud to James Harold and Elizabeth Anna (Kalmer) Candler. He married Ruby Helen (Ehlers) Naeger on November 25, 1971 in Perryville, MO.

He began a long career in carpentry right out of high school when he went to work for the family's business- "Candler Construction". Rich retired from Illinois Excavating in Ruma where he worked many years operating heavy equipment and driving piling. He could fix most anything. He was a hardworking man who was a long time member and Elder of the Waterloo congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. He served on the Regional Building Committee and was instrumental in helping build and remodel hundreds of Kingdom Halls throughout southern Illinois and Missouri, including 2 in Alaska. He was a soft-spoken man who never met a stranger. His friends called him "the gentle giant" since he was kind and compassionate, who loved to give to others. He was a jack of all trades and a master of carpentry. He enjoyed spending time with his 8 children and numerous grandchildren. He also enjoyed the simple things like a good cup of coffee and a RC Cola. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Surviving are his wife- Ruby Helen Candler of Red Bud, five sons, Michael (Helen) Naeger of Red Bud, Richard (Mariden) Naeger of Ruma, Curtis Naeger of New Athens, James (Sharon) Candler of Colorado Springs, CO and Joseph (Staci) Candler of Red Bud; three daughters, Janis (Paul Rankin) Burdell of Red Bud, Jennifer (Darren Rieke) Candler of Red Bud and Julianna Candler of Red Bud; 21 grandchildren,; 21 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren; brother, Ronald (JoAnn) Candler of Rocher; sister, Rosemary Wieson of Red Bud and sister in law, Nancy Candler of Red Bud. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, his Kingdom Hall family, his many work friends and associates throughout the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother- Roy Candler

A virtual memorial service will be held September 26. Memorial arrangements were entrusted to Leesman Funeral Home in Red Bud.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to the Waterloo Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. For more information, please access our website, [www.leesmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.leesmanfuneralhome.com).

# Comments

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“ We sure enjoyed seeing Rich and Ruby every quick build throughout Illinois. Always loved Rich’s humility. Look forward to seeing rich real soon in the paradise soon to come,

**John and Jan Morris** - September 18 at 06:52 PM

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“ One of the first times I met Rich was on an RBC project when I was much younger. Just a teenager at the time I marveled as I watched him solve a problem with the truss placement over the foyer. Nothing was lining up right as they tried to secure the trusses in preparation for the decking to go down. I watched as a group consulted him on the problem and then stood back and watched as he picked up a long piece of lumber and simply stick it up into the trusses above and with mighty shove push the trusses into order and the brothers above immediately nailed them into place! Problem solved with no fanfare, just a lot of jaws dropping at the sight. That was just a small story of many more that endeared me to Rich and his entire family. Our deepest sympathy and love is with you all. Till we work together again.....  
Love, Aaron & Connie Emmerich

**Aaron Emmerich** - September 03 at 01:02 PM

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“ Rich and Ruby and their family have been a part of my life since I was 7 years old. They’re the kind of people you, in the back of you mind, just think are going to be there forever. I remember making apple butter in their driveway, playing cards in the kitchen, looking through Ruby’s photo albums, so many memories of them. The Smith family sends Ruby and the rest of the family a huge virtual hug. Our love runs deep for your family and I patiently wait until we can see all of you including Rich again.

**Shanna Mayes** - September 01 at 02:46 PM

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“ Part of a wonderful childhood memories. Hearing his talks and always smiling face. Spending time with the family. Love them

**Candace Harrison-Robnett** - August 29 at 12:42 PM

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“ Just thinking about Rich and Ruby warms the heart. He was a treasure! A humble man who made everyone feel like they mattered. Always there with a smile and hug when we arrived at the RBC builds. What an example to all of us. You will be truly missed but we will see you soon. Our hearts are with you Ruby and the whole family.

Joe and Sonia Colon

Joe and Sonia Colon - August 29 at 12:03 PM



“ Rich was a true friend and a "real" brother to everyone he met. We all hope to see him again in the very near future..

Paul & Sharon Horn

Paul & Sharon - August 30 at 01:57 PM



“ Rich was such a kind and gentle brother. I loved his heartfelt talks. My heart is with you Ruby and the family. Remember it is "just around the corner ".

Trudy Jarvis

Trudy Jarvis - September 02 at 08:09 PM

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“ I always admired Rich's practical wisdom and kindness. Ruby's tears are in our hearts. He was and will be a prince! Ken & Cheryl Phillips

ken and beverly cheryl phillips - August 28 at 05:41 PM



“ My condolences to the family. Many fond memories of Rich and Ruby. I am happy I had the privilege to know him.

Sandy (Rittenhouse) Ziegler

Sandy Ziegler - August 30 at 06:31 PM

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“ Betty and I just learned of Richard's passing. This is a shock and we just want to let the family know what great neighbors he and his family are to us. We will miss Him and keep the family in our prayers.

Betty and Orvel Cox

Orvel. Cox - August 28 at 09:38 AM

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“ Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of James Richard "Rich" Candler.



August 28 at 09:27 AM

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“ Roger Bryant sent a virtual gift in memory of James Richard "Rich" Candler



**Roger Bryant** - August 28 at 08:48 AM



“ Brother Chandler was a loved and respected brother. Our dear Friend Richard will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. We have many wonderful memories of him and his beautiful wife. It will be a honor to imitate his great example of love and devotion to the friends and the congregation. Until Paradise we will wait for Jesus call and Richards answer. Till we meet again my friend.

**Roger Bryant** - August 28 at 08:55 AM



“ We were shocked & saddened to hear of our dear Bro Candler's death. Such a dear brother. So many RBC & LDC memories. An example to imitate as a Christian, husband, father & friend. You'll be truly missed. Until we see you again in Paradise, just around the corner. Love & prayers for his dear wife Ruby & family.

Bruce & Adella Meadows

**Bruce and Adella Meadows** - August 29 at 01:10 PM

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“ Rich was always a source of confidence for me, appreciated so much the opportunity to work with him in preparation for delegate day here in Waterloo, during the international convention . Great experience.

**Ken heintz** - August 28 at 07:25 AM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Richard "Rich" Candler.



August 27 at 07:04 PM

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“ I am very sorry to hear about your loss. I have always had deep respect for Rich! I remember so fondly working with him on RBC projects for many years. Even though I was a teenager and didn't have very much by the way of construction skills, he always made me feel like I was needed on the projects. His encouragement always made me want to come back on the next project and to work hard to make him proud. I also enjoyed how calm he was under pressure, a true spiritual man. I look forward to seeing him again after he is resurrected! Your family is in my prayers.

**Chris Pace** - August 27 at 06:58 PM

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“ Thinking of Rich and his family has always brought a smile to our faces and our hearts. Working together at the 'quick builds' was even more joyous because of brothers like Rich. Our families made lifelong friends. Ruby, we looked forward to seeing him again. Our prayers for peace and calm are with you and your family.

**Rick and Debby Horn** - August 27 at 06:58 PM

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“ Please accept our deepest sympathies.

Charles and Bertie Zipfel  
Grayslake, Illinois



**Zipfel Charles** - August 27 at 05:16 PM

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“ Richard Candler was one of finest people to enter my life. I always thought of him as the person who had the qualities I most wanted to have in myself. It was my pleasure to serve with him on the Regional Building Committee. He was always a stabilizing influence when he was present.

**Duane Saska** - August 27 at 04:43 PM

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“ Your family is in our prayers. So sorry for your loss, you have our deepest sympathy.  
Johnny & Patti Kornegger

**pat kornegger** - August 27 at 03:57 PM



“ I admired this brother for his practical wisdom and kindness. It's an honor to have known him. My tears are with Ruby. Ken Phillips

**beverly phillips** - August 28 at 08:23 AM



“ Rich was and will be in PARADISE such a fine fine man and brother. He was so knowledgeable. Ruby and family we will see him again.

**Randy** - August 28 at 05:26 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss Ruby and family, and our loss of such a fine example and dear brother. I always enjoyed working at the quick build projects and then regional builds and Ldc construction but being with Rich made it even more enjoyable, he was so up building and encouraging and humble. More reason for us to endure faithfully and to see him again in the new world!

**Richard Frakes** - August 29 at 11:39 PM