



Donald Richard Bard

February 15, 1947 - January 26, 2025

Donald Richard Bard passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2025, following a long, hard-fought illness. He was at peace, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on February 15, 1947, in Dumont, New Jersey, Don was raised in the small town of Tenafly. At age of 18, he came to Texas to study at the University of Texas in Austin, achieving both a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, followed by a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. He continued his studies at Texas Tech University, and then joined the psychology staff at Big Spring State Hospital. Over the next 40 years, 30 with the State of Texas, he practiced psychology in various locations, including Big Spring, San Angelo, New Braunfels, Marlin, Ft. Stockton and Pyote. After retiring from the State, Don worked for The Monahans News as a reporter for eight years.

On May 6, 1981, Don made the strongest and most valuable commitment of his life when he married Paula Schkade, becoming part of a family including son Paul Michael Buerger and daughter Sue Ann Buerger, ages 11 and 9 at the time.

Don was preceded in death by his mother, Edith Ruth Hess Bard, and his father, Robert Whitney Bard and stepmother, Irene Crowell Bard.

He is survived by his wife of forty-three years, Paula Schkade Bard; son, Paul

Michael Buerger; daughter, Sue Ann Buerger Smith and her husband, Rich; grandsons, Milo Jacob Smith, Jack Elliott Smith, and Caleb Stanley; granddaughter, Hannah Buerger Tatem; sister, Roberta Louise Bard Ruby and her husband, Warren Ruby and their son, David; brother, Carter Whitney Bard and his wife Susi, and their sons, Christopher Whitney Bard and Craig Festinger; sister-in-law, Mary Newcomb and brother-in-law, Travis Schkade and his wife Sheila.

Don's thirst for knowledge never subsided continuing to read until he could no longer hold a book. As a man he used that knowledge to enlighten those around him while also having the courage to grow in his views.

Perhaps his biggest strength was having the patience to listen to his kids and acknowledge their opinions while guiding them into adulthood.

He was extraordinarily proud of his family and loving them was his reason for existence. His profound knowledge, patience and humor will be greatly missed.

We welcome all family and friends to join us for a Celebration of Life at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 7, 2025 at Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Disabled American Veterans: <https://www.dav.org/ways-to-give/>

Cemetery Details

Miller Crematory

202 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX 79415

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 7. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donald Richard Bard



Sanders Funeral Home - February 07, 2025 at 01:11 PM



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Richard Bard



Sanders Funeral Home - February 06, 2025 at 03:52 PM

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My God, he was loved!

Stasia (Bestan) Millett - February 19, 2025 at 07:36 AM



“ 62 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sanders Funeral Home - February 06, 2025 at 03:44 PM



“ 19 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sanders Funeral Home - February 05, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Donald Richard Bard.



January 31, 2025 at 07:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Richard Bard.

January 31, 2025 at 07:04 PM