



Raychel Sampson

December 20, 1967 - April 3, 2023

RAYCHEL JEAN SAMPSON
AKA
RAYMOND EUGENE SAMPSON

Raychel Jean Sampson, age 55, of Calera Oklahoma passed away on April 3, 2023. Born as Raymond Eugene Sampson to Sgt. Robert and Betty Sampson in Denison Texas on December 20, 1967. Raychel graduated from Pottsboro High School in May 1987. After spending much of her young life in & around The American Legion, joining the US Navy in Dec 1987, and traveling the world, it just seemed like the natural thing to do. She proudly served as Machinist Mate 3rd Class until November 1993. She often spoke fondly of the friends and memories she made during her time in the service.

In 2001 Ray bravely began his transitional journey to Raychel and at last, she felt comfortable in who she was as a person. In 2002 She received her Associate Degree of Science in chemistry from Grayson County College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, graduated Cum Laud and she was a certified master Tutor Level II. Rachel had aspired to become a teacher, instead, she started a career at Cigna where she would gain a wonderful work family. Her Cigna work family proved just how much they all cared for her when she suffered a severely broken leg & had to be care flighted to Dallas. They were there at the hospital & later at home to assist her in any way they

could.

Rachel met Jeff Burkhalter around 2005 & the two of them became best of friends. In 2015 Jeff introduced her to his church family at Calera United Methodist church and she soon became a part of the congregation. Jeff & Raychel became roommates in 2017 and then on October 24, 2020, Jeff and Rachel got married. Raychel then felt like she had the family she wanted by becoming part of Jeff's large family. Unfortunately, Jeff became very ill and passed away in 2021.

Some fondly called her "Ray Ray" and sometimes others still called her just Ray. She did not get upset with anyone that did not acknowledge her as a woman unless it was truly done out of spite. She was known for her kindness, giving affirmations to anyone who was in need of them, and she loved to cook for her loved ones. She also served as treasurer of United Methodist Church in Calera and stayed very active at church. They were her chosen family and she truly enjoyed spending time with them at church or at each other's homes.

Raychel is preceded in death by her parents, Sergeant Robert Harold Sampson and Betty Jo (Holder) Sampson. Her husband Jeffrey Burkhalter, and her brother Jerry Wayne Beavers.

Left to cherish her memories and continue her love of life and community are Her chosen family Dan and Angie Bauer of Calera; Tony and Lorrie Compton of Colbert; Brandon Smith of Calera, Keiller Burkhalter and wife Linda of Calera, Jerry Smith of Calera, Steven Burkhalter and wife Barbara of Denison, Debbie Moore of Calera, Cory Burkhalter and wife Kristi of Durant. Keta Burkhalter and Husband Harry of Calera, Kayla Springer and husband Shawn of Durant; her sister Cathy Beavers and husband Michael of Pottsboro. Her brothers Homer Ronald Beavers III and James Robert Sampson of Texas, and her niece Dadie Condron and husband Ewel of Pottsboro, Tx. along with

many many friends 2 legged & 4 legged.

Memorial will be Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 2 pm at Calera United Methodist Church, 111 S McKinley, Calera, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers please make donations to United Methodist Church of Calera to plant a garden or shrubbery in memory of Raychel.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/ZZWDMWT597KJ65WY>

Cemetery Details

Rosehill Cemetery

N 3rd St.
Calera, OK 74730

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Calera United Methodist Church
111 S McKinley Ave
Calera, OK 74730

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Raychel Sampson* ”



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - April 21, 2023 at 02:07 PM

KP

“ What I remember most about Raychel is best described as "Grace".

I worked with Raychel for nearly 6 years at Cigna. She was generous with her knowledge, always happy to help, and eager to share tips and tricks so others could learn how to be better at their job, and she always did so with grace.

Raychel was kind to others, and always inclusive. I knew I had a place to go for Thanksgiving, as she gracefully extended the invitation to dinner year after year, even though I never took the time to go.

Raychel demonstrated grace by sharing her love of her church, inviting me to attend one time when I believe she was filling in to preach that Sunday. Even though I couldn't find the time to attend, she showed grace by inviting me to other church functions.

I wished I had found the time to attend her and Jeffs wedding, but she showed grace by not asking why I didn't.

Raychel always followed and liked posts of my family and their lives, supported their businesses and showed genuine concern over a post about a troubled granddaughter. I didn't know anything about her family. That is grace.

I do know she shared love and friendship with her other co-workers. And looking back now, I believe she considered me a friend too. If only I had more time to appreciate her grace.

Raychel, my friend, you will be missed.



Kathy Paulin - April 22, 2023 at 12:12 AM



“ 88 files added to the album *Gallery of Pictures*



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - April 21, 2023 at 02:09 PM

SD

“ *Spring DiMartino lit a candle in memory of Raychel Sampson*



Spring DiMartino - April 18, 2023 at 02:18 PM

KD

“ *Raychel was amazing and I will forever be grateful to have met her. Her passing is heartbreaking and I know she is in a better place with Jeff. I wish her family and friends peace and cherish your memories of this amazing woman.*

Katie Donnelly - April 18, 2023 at 11:05 AM

JQ

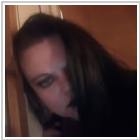
“ Raychel will be a deeply missed member of our work family. We will continue to work hard to support the causes that were so important to Raychel in her honor!

Jamie Quinn(Cigna) - April 18, 2023 at 09:47 AM

S(

“ Over the last several years, I got to know Raychel by leading the Trans and Gender Diverse workgroup here at Cigna. I had the fortunate chance to attend the Philly Trans Wellness Conference with Raychel on a couple occasions, as did others from the workgroup. Her kindness, warm presence, and leadership in person and on the phone were much appreciated. She will be dearly missed.

Stacy O'Ferrall (Cigna) - April 18, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ Raychel and I were friends for decades. The world has lost her flame, but will always carry her light. She was a force to be reckoned with, but always a sanctuary in a storm. Her love was legendary, unwavering, and unconditional. She was the definition family.

Perky Gothgirl - April 18, 2023 at 04:09 AM

KK

“ My prayers are with all the family and friends. Raychel was a sweet, kind and caring friend. She is definitely missed by many. Reunited with Jeff and in the arms of the Lord! RIP Raychel

Kimberly King - April 14, 2023 at 08:21 PM