



Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis

March 16, 2025

Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis, 72, passed away in Chesapeake, Virginia, on March 16, 2025.

Richard was born on March 10, 1953, in Muncie, Indiana, to John Eugene Ellis and Martha Joanne Chalfant. He attended Ball State University before serving a two-year mission in Japan for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he became fluent in Japanese as a proselytizing missionary. Following his mission, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1977, where he rose to the rank of Commander. Richard dedicated his career to psychiatry, specializing in child psychiatry, and continued his work until the day he passed.

Beyond his professional life, Richard was an avid reader with an insatiable curiosity for knowledge. He was a devoted family man, always prioritizing time with his loved ones. Monty Python profoundly influenced his sharp wit and love for comedy, making him a true “student” of their humor. His faith was a cornerstone of his life, and he dedicated countless hours to service within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Over the years, he held numerous callings, from Sunday School teacher to Bishop, always giving selflessly of his time and talents to uplift those around him. He served countless individuals, helping them recognize their self-worth and potential.

Throughout his distinguished career, Richard was a Residency Training

Director and Service Line Leader, mentoring and guiding the next generation of psychiatrists. His work was instrumental in shaping psychiatric care and education. One of the many unique adventures in his life took him to Antarctica, where he was inducted into the prestigious Royal Penguin Society—a testament to his adventurous spirit and love for exploration.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Sallyanne Pyle; his children, John, Sam, Sara, Grant, Mitchell, Ross, and Cameron; and his twelve beloved grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Janet Greene. He is now reunited with his parents, John and Martha, and his brother, Michael.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 2:00 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Elizabeth River Ward, 1115 Cherokee Road, Portsmouth, Virginia, 23701.

Previous Events

Memorial service

MAR **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Elizabeth River Ward
1115 Cherokee Road
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Tribute Wall

JK

“ Your Husband, Father, Grandfather will always hold a special place in our hearts. My daughter was so blessed to have received care from Dr. Ellis for the past few years. We loved going to see him! Dr. Ellis helped my daughter get through a rough time and we are forever grateful for his kind heart. When he'd come get me in the waiting room after seeing my daughter, I couldn't wait to go chit chat with him because Dr. Ellis always had the most amazing life stories and we loved seeing all his cool collectibles. He ALWAYS made my daughter feel like she was the only patient he had because he always listened full heartedly and genuinely cared. Praying for the Ellis and Portsmouth Hospital Family during this difficult time.

J. Krause - April 07, 2025 at 05:06 PM

SF

“ We can not express enough how blessed we feel to have known and been privileged to have had such a kind, wise, comforting and supportive soul be a part of our children and family's journey. We are forever better and our hearts carry his loving spirit in our hearts forever. We send many wishes of condolence to all his family, friends and many grateful patients <3

Stocking Family - April 02, 2025 at 09:04 PM

LS

“ Dr. Ellis was truly a one of a kind human being who not only practiced but cared about his clients. We were honored to have been a partner and worked alongside Dr. Ellis for years. You will be missed. -Lauren, Laura and The Barry Robinson Center Team

Lauren De Simone - March 31, 2025 at 03:39 PM

BM

“ Dr. Ellis was a shining light and helped our daughter through so much over the past four years. We will be forever grateful for him and his dedication to her well-being. We will miss his kind and gentle soul, and our thoughts are with his family, friends, and all of his patients who were lucky enough to know him. - The Mitchell Family

Brianna Mitchell - March 26, 2025 at 03:57 PM

JB

“ Joseph B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.

Joseph B. - March 25, 2025 at 10:08 AM

FC

“ From Zach Amy Brooklyn and Colin purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.



From Zach Amy Brooklyn and Colin - March 25, 2025 at 09:54 AM

FC

“ From Zach Amy Brooklyn and Colin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.

From Zach Amy Brooklyn and Colin - March 25, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



March 24, 2025 at 07:27 PM



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

March 24, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ *Love, Evelyn, Brian, Kathy Adam, & Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



Love, Evelyn, Brian, Kathy Adam, & Family - March 24, 2025 at 06:14 PM



“ *Hamid and Maryam Tavakoli purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



Hamid and Maryam Tavakoli - March 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM

HT

“ Hamid and Maryam Tavakoli planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.

Hamid and Maryam Tavakoli - March 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM

GK

“ Gail, Tom, Sean and Katie purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.



Gail, Tom, Sean and Katie - March 23, 2025 at 08:51 PM

GK

“ Gail, Tom, Sean and Katie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.

Gail, Tom, Sean and Katie - March 23, 2025 at 08:51 PM



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

March 23, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.



March 23, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



March 22, 2025 at 12:31 PM



“ *Kathryn McCannon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.*

Kathryn McCannon - March 22, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *Kathryn McCannon purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



Kathryn McCannon - March 22, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



March 21, 2025 at 10:00 PM

DN

“ David N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.

David N. - March 21, 2025 at 09:46 PM

DN

“ David N. purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.



David N. - March 21, 2025 at 09:46 PM



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

March 21, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.



March 21, 2025 at 05:38 PM



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

March 21, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



March 21, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ *Dr. Ellis has been my daughter’s doctor for the past three years. He was always so kind and knowledgeable. He has been a very important part of her mental health journey. We are grateful to have known him. He will truly be missed.*

Megan S. - March 20, 2025 at 10:50 PM



“ *NMCP Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.*

NMCP Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics - March 20, 2025 at 06:53 PM



“ *I was one of his patients at portsmouth and Dr.Ellis was so incredibly kind and I could tell from the first time I met him. He made me feel understood and seen and he made so many others feel the same way. It was easy to tell how much everyone loved him through the new bird stuffed animals which appeared everytime I had a visit. He will be missed dearly and I send my deepest condolences to the family of this incredible and kind man.*

Melissa - March 20, 2025 at 06:00 PM

MW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Ellis was truly one of a kind and a great man. He will be deeply missed. I will pray for peace and comfort during the families time of grief.



Melissa Wells - March 20, 2025 at 05:59 PM

RT

“ Robyn T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.

Robyn T. - March 20, 2025 at 05:47 PM

CT

“ Child Mental Health/ Psychology Training planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.

Child Mental Health/ Psychology Training - March 20, 2025 at 02:08 PM

CT

“ Child Mental Health/ Psychology Training purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.



Child Mental Health/ Psychology Training - March 20, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



March 20, 2025 at 10:48 AM



“ *Psychiatry Residency Program planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DR. Richard Bruce Ellis.*

Psychiatry Residency Program - March 20, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ *Psychiatry Residency Program purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. Richard Bruce Ellis.*



Psychiatry Residency Program - March 20, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear this. Dr. Ellis has been my son's psychiatrist for 6 years. He was only 6 when he started seeing Dr. Ellis and he was so sweet with him. He has helped him so much. My son will miss him and always remember their conversations. Praying for your family.*



Melissa Kubicki - March 20, 2025 at 09:39 AM

JM

“ *Dear Sal and Cami..*

Such a wonderful and sweet tribute to Rick. He was definitely one of the good ones and he surely did love his Pyle Girls! Please know that both of you are being taken care in the prayers of love and comfort that we're sending. We love you both so much and we'll see you soon.

Joanie and Craig

Joan H. Morris - March 19, 2025 at 09:56 PM