



Rex Mhiripiri

July 23, 1935 - March 9, 2026

Rex Mhiripiri, beloved husband, father, grandfather, artist, businessman, and man of deep Christian faith, passed away on March 9, 2026. After 90 years of a full life, Rex is leaving a remarkable legacy of perseverance, redemption, creativity, generosity, and love. Born Stanlake Mhiripiri in 1935 in what was then Rhodesia, Rex was shaped by humble beginnings, a sharp mind, and an early love of learning. From walking long distances to school and excelling academically, to attending Goromonzi, one of the most respected boarding schools of his time, Rex carried throughout his life a fierce intelligence and a determination to rise beyond circumstance.

In 1966, Rex emigrated to the United States, bringing with him a rich life story that had already spanned southern and eastern Africa, where he had worked as a teacher, salesman, analyst, and broadcaster. His path had been marked by adventure, hardship, giftedness, and struggle, but also by the steady hand of God. Rex loved the Lord and devoted himself to serving Him, often reflecting on how grace had changed him and how no life is beyond redemption.

Rex and his beautiful wife Julie were married for 53 years. Together they raised a large and loving family. He was the proud father of nine children: Dave, John, Rhoda (Frank), Mudzingwa (Ebony), Rugare (Mark), Maruva (Steve), Regina, Titus (Angela), and Maria (Jason). He was also the cherished

grandfather of ten grandchildren: Nick, Jonah, Isaiah, Ava, Laura, Kaleb, Sterling, Nyla, Maddie, and Reese, each of whom brought him tremendous joy and pride. Though he was known as a strong and disciplined patriarch, he was also deeply devoted to his family and committed to helping them build lives of purpose, education, faith, and service.

For more than 25 years, Rex made his home in Bloomington, Minnesota, also living in Lakeville for 20 years before moving back to Bloomington. He became widely known through his art and entrepreneurial spirit, most notably as the owner of Mhiripiri Art Gallery which he operated for over 40 years, first at Butler Square in downtown Minneapolis, and then for the last 20 years at 90th and Penn in Bloomington. Through his gallery, he shared beauty, culture, and vision with the wider community, while also creating opportunities to support artists and loved ones in Minnesota and in Zimbabwe. His work stood as a testament to his creativity, resilience, and refusal to let adversity define him.

Rex will be remembered as a man of testimony: a man who lived many chapters, who knew hardship and success, and who ultimately gave glory to God for the life he had been given. He treasured time, prayed earnestly for the protection of his children and grandchildren, and believed that a person could change through faith. His life was not simple. It was full. His legacy will live on through his beloved Julie, his children and grandchildren, his art, and the many people who were touched by his story.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 28 at Grace Church in Eden Prairie (9301 Eden Prairie Road). Visitation will begin at 11:00am followed by a one-hour service at 12:00.

After the service, all are invited to the Mhiripiri Art Gallery (9001 Penn Ave S, Bloomington) for an Open House in Rex's honor from 2:00 - 5:00, with catering provided by the gallery's neighbor, Gyropolis.

The service will be livestreamed: [Grace.live/memorial](https://grace.live/memorial).

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor Rex's legacy may contribute through his family's GoFundMe, at: <https://gofund.me/f07bb007b> to support education tuition, medical expenses, clean water wells, and subsistence farming in Zimbabwe. Rex would be honored to know that on March 28, 2026, his family and friends continued his spirit of generosity.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)
9301 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Celebration of Life

MAR **28**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)
9301 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Tribute Wall

EC

“ I am Ellen, Uncle Rex was my great-uncle , I am his sister’s (Regina) granddaughter

I was deeply heartbroken when I heard of my uncle’s passing.

He was a man who loved and cared for everyone. Even while I was here in the UK, he would call me to check how I was doing, ask about my family, and asked about my mum, who is not very well. That was the kind of person he was thoughtful, present, and full of love.

He supported me financially while I was trying to settle in the UK, something I will always be grateful for. He gave of himself selflessly and was always there when it mattered most.

He was a man who cared deeply for his extended family back in Zimbabwe and gave so much of himself to helping others, including supporting orphans.

One thing that always stood out to me was how much he valued education, he would always ask what you were studying and encourage you to keep going. That was his way of investing in people and their future .

Unfortunately, I could not attend the memorial in person, but I am truly grateful that I was able to watch and be part of it from the UK.

We have truly lost a great man who meant so much to so many

May God comfort Auntie Julie and the entire family during this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Uncle

Ellen Chidenga - March 29 at 09:29 AM

RF

“ Roderick F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Mhiripiri.

Roderick F. - March 28 at 02:49 PM

BF

“ I will miss calling Rex from the clinic and checking in with him. He was always joyful and positive. He lived and died the way he wanted and that is a beautiful thing. I donated to your go fund me in honor of him.

becky forrest - March 28 at 01:33 PM

AT

“ We wandered into the gallery years ago and had the most delightful conversation with Rex. We were raising sheep at the time and learned he loved lamb. He and Julia visited our hobby farm and he was so delighted. We had many fun visits and interesting conversations with Rex over the years. He was such a faithful man and had such interesting stories. Ann and Albert Tanko

Ann R Tanko - March 28 at 09:03 AM

KB

“ Kjell and Donna Bergh purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rex Mhiripiri.



Kjell and Donna Bergh - March 27 at 03:05 PM

KB

“ Kjell and Donna Bergh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Mhiripiri.

Kjell and Donna Bergh - March 27 at 03:05 PM

MR

“ Matthew Rowan and Samantha Reilly purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rex Mhiripiri.



Matthew Rowan and Samantha Reilly - March 25 at 01:12 PM

MR

“ Matthew Rowan and Samantha Reilly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Mhiripiri.

Matthew Rowan and Samantha Reilly - March 25 at 01:12 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rex Mhiripiri.



March 24 at 11:14 AM

RM

“ We are really sad for the passing of our father . He was such a loving and a caring person . The best blessing any one could ask for . Always there to help in times of need or whenever we needed help . I will always cherish the moments , the calls and everything he did for me 🥺

Rachael Mhiripiri - March 18 at 08:26 AM

SJ

“ My father, mentor, shoulder to cry and lean on. I was named after him and up until his death was still learning a lot to be like him. He asked me to wear his shoes one when he is gone to be a pillar for the entire Mhiripiri Family. I never thought this day would come and the shoes too big to be filled though there is no shame in trying. I have learnt to love all, not to be judgemental, to speak less and listen more, to be an action man and to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe I will meet my him again on that great resurrection morning.

Stanlake Mhiripiri Jr - March 17 at 07:44 AM

EM

“ My distant yet close father he was to me .He was the one supporting me in school and meeting my every need .He made my wish of being on an aeroplane come true .I will forever cherish my father .I only saw him physically 2 times but he would always call to check up on me .I'm hurting 💔.He will forever hold a special place in my heart ❤️.

Esther mhiripiri - March 16 at 02:37 PM

MG

“ Our sympathy to the Mhiripiri family. We've known Rex since the 70's when his family lived in our Bloomington neighborhood and their children attended the same school as ours. We acquired our first painting back then and have added prints and a sculpture of a hippopotamus group. His art has a universal appeal. We enjoyed meeting his extended family at his recent 90th birthday celebration.
Mariar Gannon

Mariar Gannon - March 16 at 07:00 AM

CO

“ I learned so much from visiting Rex's gallery and talking with him. Two dear friends introduced me. I was moved by his passion and appreciation for art and his desire to preserve the Zimbabwean artistic legacy in particular. I have lovely pieces I purchased from him and cherish them every day. I admired his profound faith and desire to spread the word. Rest in your so well-deserved peace, Rex. Know that you touched so many people and will not be forgotten by us.

Colette - March 15 at 05:06 PM

NM

“ *The way he loved us unconditionally back home needs to be studied..He started taking of us (my twin sister and 1) when I parents passed away and by then we had never met..He was always there for us,he made sure everyone back home (Zimbabwe) was ok.I just pray we all learnt something from him.We lost a great man here.Rest in peace sekuru,you fought a good fight ,in Shona we say Makarwa kurwa kwakanaka Gwai.*



nyasha mhiripiri - March 15 at 12:08 AM

TT

“ *The Terps purchased the Divine Light for the family of Rex Mhiripiri.*



The Terps - March 13 at 08:14 AM

TT

“ *The Terps planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rex Mhiripiri.*

The Terps - March 13 at 08:14 AM