

Richard Blandy

World Champion Pole Sitter

Richard Blandy was born in 1902 and raised in Vieux Carre, Louisiana. He was a Creole, five feet, four inches tall, and generally maintained a weight of 150 pounds. Various accounts recall his experience as a circus worker, boxer, house painter, Merchant Marine, riveter, steeplejack, flagpole painter and salesman.

Richard's first flagpole sitting experience was in 1929 when he answered a classified ad by Goodrich Rubber Company and Texaco, earning \$600 for climbing a spire atop a new service station in Tampa, Florida.

By 1933, he claimed title as champion flagpole sitter during 77 days and nights at the Chicago World's Fair.

In 1954, he set a flagpole standing record after 10 days at the Michigan State Fair.

In 1960, he established a bicycle record for 13 days and nights atop a 50-foot pole in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

In 1964, Richard broke his own 1933 sitting record on the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, New Jersey after 78 days.

And in 1965, he had proclaimed the world title at Grona Lund Amusement Park in Stockholm, Sweden after sitting 125 days in a chair 200 feet above the ground. During his stay he drank 92 bottles of whiskey and smoked 3 packs of cigarettes a day.

On May 6, 1974, Richard Blandy died at 72 years of age when a flagpole collapsed in Harvey, Illinois at the Dixie Square Mall. He is located in Section 201 Lot 271at Woodland.

Blandy had six wives, having been divorced three times and widowed three times. He was known to meet his younger wives through telephone conversations with fans on the ground during his many flagpole sitting exhibitions.

Johnny Carson interviewed him while he was sitting on a 155 foot pole for the Tonight Show in the mid-1960s.

As others broke his records, he dismissed their attempts since they had built elaborate sitting platforms, while he continued to use a small seat as his primary mode of sitting.

Blandy made his winter home in Dayton, Ohio, for over 60 years, bartending to make ends meet. Known as "Dixie-on-the-Ball" and "Buckeye Dixie", he wanted his epitaph, to read: "The World Super Champion Flagpole Sitter and a good American."



125 days straight at  
Grona Lund Amusement Park  
in Stockholm, Sweden



A young lady talks to Dixie on the  
telephone in 1955



Buckeye Dixie  
pole sits on a bicycle



Richard (Buckeye Dixie) Blandy  
1903 - 1974  
Here Lies Buckeye Dixie Blandy  
World Champion Pole Sitter

# Around the Cemetery in 80 Tours

Yes, we have over 80 tours on the calendar so far and many more are coming!



- 7th at 10:00 a.m.  
Historic Tour
- 7th at 6:30 p.m.  
Sports Legends Tour
- 11th at 11:00 a.m.  
Outdoor Mausoleums Tour
- 14th at 12:00 p.m.  
Military Tour
- 15th at 10:00 a.m.  
Arboretum Tree Tour
- 15th at 6:30 p.m.  
Cemetery Symbols Tour
- 16th at 10:00 a.m.  
Luminaries of Dayton Tour
- 18th at 10:00 a.m.  
Street Names of Dayton Tour
- 23rd at 6:30 p.m.  
Luminaries of Dayton Tour



- 2nd at 2:00 p.m.  
History, Mystery, Mayhem,  
and Murder Tour
- 4th at 10:00 a.m.  
Military Tour
- 7th at 6:30 p.m.  
Dayton's Walk of Fame Tour
- 9th at 10:00 a.m.  
Women of Woodland Tour
- 13th at 10:00 a.m.  
Arboretum Tree Tour
- 16th at 10:00 a.m.  
Historic Tour
- 20th at 6:30 p.m.  
Cemetery Symbols Tour
- 23rd at 6:30 p.m.  
Luminaries of Dayton Tour
- 27th at 10:00 a.m.  
Street Names of Dayton Tour



- 8th at 6:30 p.m.  
History, Mystery, Mayhem,  
and Murder Tour
  - 11th at 6:30 p.m.  
Luminaries of Dayton Tour
  - 13th at 10:00 a.m.  
Women of Woodland Tour
  - 17th at 10:00 a.m.  
Arboretum Tree Tour
  - 23rd at 6:30 p.m.  
History, Mystery, Mayhem,  
and Murder Tour
  - 24th at 6:30 p.m.  
Dayton's Walk of Fame Tour
- This is just a sampling of tours  
scheduled from now through  
November. Click on the link  
below to find all of the available  
tours and to register yourself  
and your friends.

Click Here: [Guidied walking tours are now available and registration is open for all tours and events](#)

## THANK YOU for supporting us through our 180th Anniversary!



We hope you will continue to support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation as we move through 2022. Support of the Chapel restoration and preservation project is our most critical need as you will soon see the outside of the Chapel and Administration Building receiving new sandstone pieces and eroding and disintegrating elements replaced. Once the stonework is complete, the beloved Tiffany windows will return and be put back in place. The Tiffany mosaic floor will be restored and the beautiful interior woodwork will also receive a facelift. We are hopeful to open the doors to the public once again in late 2022.

Please consider making a first time donation or an annual donation to the Chapel Fund.  
Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.



[Click here](#) to link your  
Kroger PlusCard to Woodland  
Cemetery and Arboretum's  
charitable account.  
It's an easy way to support us!  
Our NPO Number is: JJ851