



John Ritter

September 17, 1948 - September 11, 2003

Burbank, California

John Ritter, the American actor who made physical comedy look effortless as Jack Tripper on Three's Company and later found a second prime-time life on 8 Simple Rules, died at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California, on September 11, 2003. He was fifty-four - six days short of his fifty-fifth birthday. The cause was an aortic dissection.

Born Jonathan Southworth Ritter in Burbank on September 17, 1948, the son of singing cowboy Tex Ritter and actress Dorothy Fay, he trained at USC and learned television the long way: guest spots, soaps, then the ABC sitcom that made him a household name from 1977 to 1984. Emmy and Golden Globe recognition followed a brand of slapstick that never quite hid the actor underneath. He kept working through films, stage, and later series, returning to ABC as a father of teenagers when sudden illness took him from a rehearsal stage to the hospital across the street - the same hospital where he had been born.

He left four children, including actors Jason and Tyler Ritter, and a profession that still borrows his timing. Colleagues spoke of kindness as much as pratfalls; audiences remembered a face that could fall down stairs and somehow stay welcome in the living room.

He died in Burbank on September 11, 2003. The laugh track ended; the craft lessons did not.

Ritter's comedy depended on trust: the audience had to believe he might actually get hurt, and then forgive him for surviving. That trust transferred oddly well to dramatic beats on 8 Simple Rules, where the fatherly worry felt earned. Industry friends remembered set visits and handwritten notes more than the stunts. His children

continue the craft; the sitcom reruns continue the pratfalls. September 11 already carries enough national weight; adding Ritter's private medical emergency does not diminish that weight so much as remind us that ordinary American deaths share the date too.

Services

Died in Burbank, California, on September 11, 2003, of an aortic dissection. Private funeral; interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills.

NN-OBIT-2026-H065

<https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/john-ritter-obituary-burbank-ca>

On-chain proof: <https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/john-ritter-obituary-burbank-ca/proof>

View on blockchain: <https://basescan.org/tx/0x66c1a8c0edd7f13a17118462ffb1ed5eed5d7a90808a283cca3b9dd07e238939>

Base stores the content hash, publication number, memorial id, and timestamp - not the full obituary text. The complete memorial remains on Notice Nearby. This is not a legal affidavit.

This page is a memorial, not a legal affidavit.