



## Mr. Terry Albert Kamhi

January 14, 1976 - April 29, 2021

Terry Albert Kamhi passed away on Thursday, April 29, 2021 in Altamonte Springs, FL. Born in Columbia, South Carolina he is the son of Albert and Patricia Ann McCoy-Kamhi.

Terry passed away on his own terms, peacefully and with those whom he most loved. His daughters, Alicia and Jamie, were his world and for him to see them together, bonded as sisters, made him feel complete and at peace.

We had the incredible honor to love and learn from Terry over his short 45 years. Smart, resilient, loved by many and always first to stand up for family. He always stood for equality, fairness and particularly the homeless. Every Saturday, when he was physically able, Terry would prepare around 100 lunch bags and distributed each of the lunches to Orlando's homeless. As he did so he would sit, talk and listen with the people, and offer comfort where he could.

Terry always said his happiest three days were the births of his daughters and watching his sister, Tracy, marry Rob Szalay, a man who Terry described as perfect match for his sister.

Terry had long suffered with health issues but always displayed continued strength, courage, love and perseverance. It just became too much, and now he is without pain and finally resting in peace.

We miss him so much already but he is forever in our hearts.

Terry is survived by his daughters Alicia Winslow and Jamie Napier, his sister Tracy Ann Kamhi-Szalay, parents Al & Patricia Kamhi, and a multitude of aunts, uncles and cousins who adored him and were always smitten by his infectious smile.

While donations to organizations Terry supported are most welcome, Terry would prefer that you volunteer your time to help those less fortunate and to stand for equality. He

would love for each of you to spend a little of your time helping:

The Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida

ACLU of Florida

Pet Rescue by Judy

Or local organizations within your community

Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 14, 2021 at Oaklawn Park Cemetery - Tranquil Oaks Cremation Garden, 4991 Co Rd 46A, Lake Mary, FL 32746.

The family of Terry Kamhi invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

# Events

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**MAY Memorial Service**

01:00PM

**14**

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Oaklawn Park Cemetery – Tranquil Oaks Cremation Garden  
4991 Co Rd 46A, Lake Mary, FL, US, 32746

# Comments

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“ There’s to many memories to post. It would end up being a novel. Terry was always w me inside, even when we didn’t see each other for a while. That’s what a true friend is. He was ALWAYS there, as well as his entire family, when I needed them most. Terry’s going to forever be in my thoughts till the day we meet back up!! There’s so much he did for me I wish I could write it all, but just...he was always watching out fir his friends. God k ones we had some crazy times from, hmmmnn. 1992-1995. Everyday, and all night!! I will always love my man like a true brother. Hell, we knew stuff about each other nobody knew! I’ll always love terry like Family.

**Billy Denis** - May 22 at 12:10 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Al Kamhi** - May 13 at 04:18 PM

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“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



**Patricia Kamhi** - May 13 at 02:39 PM

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“ A post by Tracy Kamhi

## I Am My Brother's Keeper

It's a daunting task to carry on a loved one's legacy. And I've been asking myself how I become my brother's keeper.

I can remember Terry as protective. When I was in 6th grade, some older girls were attempting to bully me. Terry told me to ignore them and not to be scared. He encouraged me to fight my fear and be strong. Two days later, a very tough looking 8th grade girl saw me walking out of the locker room. She smile and asked if I was Terry's little sister. She said she took care of my bully issue, and to find her if they started up again. Turns out she was the sister of Terry's close friend. After the bullying started, when he told me to be strong and stand up for myself, he made sure I was safe by calling in the troops. That's Terry. He couldn't sleep at night if his loved ones were not safe. But Terry also believed in building others up, pushing them to be their best, letting them learn to be strong on their own terms. He challenged you to your face and swooped in quietly to ensure your success.

I can remember Terry as charismatic. I hated being several years behind him in school because I was always "Terry's little sister". Every school we went to started the same way-everyone saying "you're Terry's little sister right"? And every popular pretty girl saying hello to me because they had a crush on him. He was smooth, sweet and handsome. He drew people to him. But no matter how many pretty girls swooned over Terry, his heart only had room for two, Alicia and Jamie. Now that I think of it, it must have been karma that he was blessed with daughters.

I can remember Terry as a proud father. I remember the morning he walked into my room with a two-year-old Alicia. There was a look on his face that can only be described as true love...a look I only saw one other time. That was when I saw him hold his youngest daughter, Jamie. There was no doubt that they are his greasiest pride and accomplishment.

There are countless memories, but I can tell you how I will keep Terry with one specific story. While organizing Terry's items the other day, my parents found a ticket stub from a community theater play I was in when I was 18. Terry had saved that ticket stub with a handwritten note that reads "Tracy's first lead role. She was fantastic!" With fantastic underlined several times. My brother was his family's biggest fan. Despite his own personal hardships, Terry was always championing our accomplishments. I'll never forget the cry of joy he made when I told him I obtained my clinical license. He screamed "YES! I knew you could do it!" Or the excitement in his congratulations when I announced my engagement. Big, small or life changing events, it didn't matter. Terry was always so purely excited and joyful when his loved ones thrived.

That is what I take with me. That is what I make his legacy. That is how I will be my brother's keeper.

Al Kamhi - May 13 at 01:33 PM



“ Terry loved you guys. He knew all there really is in life is family. God knows that's what's important to me for a few years now. You have true friends that are family, and then real family. You guys have many of both.

**Billy Denis** - May 22 at 12:13 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Terry Albert Kamhi.



May 12 at 10:45 PM

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“ Patricia Kamhi lit a candle in memory of Mr. Terry Albert Kamhi



**Patricia Kamhi** - May 12 at 10:37 AM

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“ 4 files added to the album Dedication to the Homeless



**Al Kamhi** - May 11 at 09:02 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



AI Kamhi - May 09 at 05:31 PM



“ If there was a crab to be eaten, Terry was there.

AI - May 10 at 07:47 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



AI Kamhi - May 09 at 05:24 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Terry Albert Kamhi.



May 09 at 02:56 PM

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“ I remember the first time I met Terry shortly after AI relocated to Orlando to lead the Communications team at Lockheed Martin. My first thought was "how handsome!" followed by "how nice." Every time I saw Terry he was a great kid with kind words. With a son nearly the same age, I cannot imagine the grief Terry's family is experiencing. Thank goodness he had such a caring and supportive family throughout his life. In reading the memories here, I am in awe of the Kamhi family.  
Andrea Lawrence

Andrea Lawrence - May 09 at 07:20 AM



“ Andrea, thank you so much for the kind words. Although we have not seen each other in more time than we probably care to remember, I have such great memories of you. Thank you.

AI - May 09 at 12:00 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Patricia Kamhi - May 09 at 02:24 AM

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“ AI Kamhi is following this tribute.

AI Kamhi - May 07 at 01:07 PM

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“ Terry didn't want a fuss on his birthdays as an adult. He just wanted the family with him. He also didn't want too many photos of him on his birthday. I would always put a "Happy Birthday" banner on the mirror in his bathroom and hang a birthday card. He said on his 45th birthday when I used mini cup cakes on the table to form 45, " You had to remind me that I'm 45"! He would smile and open the few presents and then we would go out for his favorite seafood dinner.



Patricia Kamhi - May 07 at 09:53 AM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Al Kamhi - May 06 at 08:25 PM

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“ Have so many memories of times w Terry (and all of you guys!) it's impossible to let you know. I miss him. Been thinking about him the majority of every day. One thing I can say is we had so much fun! From the multiple senior weeks at the beach, to just hanging out together w all out friends back then. We were a kinda small, but tight circle. We all miss him. Billy.

Bill Denis - May 06 at 12:10 PM



“ Billy, Terry always remembered those days, despite his and your teenage recklessness that always kept us worried. You both grew to be great dad's. For that you should be very proud. Al & Pat

Al - May 06 at 08:33 PM



“ Billy you were a good friend

Tracy Szalay - May 07 at 04:52 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Tracy Szalay - May 06 at 07:43 AM

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“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Al KAmhi - May 05 at 08:42 PM

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## “ Home – A Mother’s Memory

We wanted Terry to have a permanent home.

All his life, he was trying to make a home for himself.

At birth, he didn’t have a home; born too early to a too young mother. Tiny and fighting for his life, others saw him but couldn’t give their hearts nor home out of fear he would not survive. We were waiting. Ray McClain helped us to give Terry a home. We became his permanent foster parents and drove to Columbia, South Carolina to bring Terry

home. Born on January 14 and ready to leave the hospital at the end of March. Terry had vanished; taken away without our knowledge by a State’s Attorney wanting to use Terry as the test case for bi-racial adoptions. Terry’s home was stolen from him. For two weeks, he was at a foster care home becoming sick from lack of knowledge of what he needed to thrive. Ray fought for Terry, choosing a judge who deemed the State’s Attorney a fool and ordered that the State pay the thousands of dollars of Terry’s medical bills that we had said we would gladly do. We drove to Columbia and finally our son, tiny and dressed in a white knit hat and a blue knit jumper found his home. He had a home. Two years later, he had a baby sister. He loved his baby sister, trying to give her his toys by tossing them into her playpen. He protected her as she grew.

Terry spent his adult life trying to help his daughters have loving safe homes. He had to deal with the resistance placed in his way. His hope was to see them before he died and that they would bond as sisters to help each other find their homes. His home became a hospital room too many times. He fought it mentally and physically. He had a stroke. His home became the neuro surgical critical care unit. His next home was a short ambulance ride to the Specialty Hospital to learn to breathe with a tracheotomy and to learn how to speak. Then his next home was miles away at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital to learn to swallow, eat, speak, stand and use a wheelchair. He endured the constant pain. He wanted to have a better home.

He came home to us. He started the effort to walk, move his left side, be independent, go to rehabilitation, occupational therapy, speech therapy. He made friends with his therapists, giving them gifts, laughing and telling them stories of his life while working through the pain. He wanted to have his own home, independence on his own. He knew that his body was failing weeks before we were ready to accept it. He told his doctors he couldn’t live this way, surgeries that render him bedridden and in constant pain. “Look at me” he said to his doctor. “No more,” he said. He refused pain medication in his IV so he would be awake to see his beautiful daughters. He asked if his daughters could visit him in hospice and if his cats could visit. They did. He had the strength to determine his last home.

This is how we honor our courageous, brave, loving son, father, bother and brother-in-law, by giving him a permanent home to look over the trees and lawn and people who come to visit. His permanent home is Oaklawn Park Cemetery. We honor him with this home near the Koi pond and the constantly babbling brook. Peaceful and with a view at the top. His home is where we will join beside him when we, each, have no need our temporary home.

TERRY ALBERT KAMHI

January 14, 1976 – APRIL 29, 2021

# REST OUR SON - NO MORE PAIN – ALWAYS FOREVER

**Patricia Kamhi** - May 05 at 08:39 PM



“ This is a beautiful story. I know he loved his family and daughters. He will be missed by many. I will never forget him.

**Candace Biller** - May 13 at 09:42 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Terry. I went to Towson High School with him and spent many weekends driving around, laughing and carrying on with him at his home. We were able to reconnect over the years through social media and catch up. Terry was always a kind and supportive person. He will be missed my many. My condolences to the entire family. Candace Biller

**Candace Biller** - May 05 at 12:21 PM



“ Thank you, Candace. Terry had warm memories that he shared with us. AI & Pat Kamhi

**AI** - May 06 at 08:31 PM