



Carl F. Benham

December 8, 1963 - September 24, 2023

Carl F. Benham passed away suddenly on September 24th, 2023 after an undiagnosed respiratory illness. He would have celebrated his 60th birthday in December.

Born to Alice (nee Schweizer) and Grant Benham, Carl was the younger brother of Mary, Elizabeth, and A.J. Benham, and the older brother of Samuel Ewing. He attended St. Mary Magdalen school in Media, Pennsylvania and graduated as valedictorian from Solebury School in New Hope in 1981. He credited the school with fostering his lifelong love of reading, and his enduring enthusiasm for Shakespeare and historical biography.

Although he explored career opportunities with Acme Markets and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Carl ultimately chose to work at what he loved best and became a professional golf caddy. He progressed from picking up bags in local course parking lots to being a regular at qualifying schools and on the PGA Senior (Champions) Tour where he thoroughly enjoyed working with Walter Morgan, Buzz Thomas, Dana Quigley, Allen Doyle, Michael Bradley and many others. Carl was deeply grateful to the players and caddies who became beloved friends and trusted mentors, many of whom featured in his hilariously self-deprecating tales of adventures (and misadventures) on and off the golf course. Given his natural talent for storytelling, those tales were often a highlight of Carl's tour-adjacent visits as he checked in regularly to maintain connections with family and friends around the country.

When golf season was over, Carl turned his full attention to Christmas, taking

great pride and joy in executing his role as Chief Elf for his immediate family, and as a Secret Santa for several others'. He nagged people for wish lists, planned surprises, shopped, wrapped, and shipped, kept track of holiday movie schedules, wrangled trees, ran countless errands, and stuffed stockings – all to a soundtrack of holiday classics culled from his vast and eclectic “road music” collection. Whether times were tough or flush, Carl made Christmas as magical for kids - and as peaceful for everyone else - as possible.

In recent years, Carl settled in Florida where he caddied at Hilton Resorts while serving as primary caretaker for his ailing mother. His patient presence and quiet determination allowed Alice to pass peacefully, and he spent his final Christmas ensuring that her prized antiques and collectibles were thoughtfully gifted to loved ones who would appreciate them most.

In addition to his sisters, Carl is survived by nephews William Moran, Grant (married to Ashley) Moran, and niece Molly Moran, as well as great nieces Elsie and Maggie Moran and great nephews Grant and Colton Moran.

Memorial services are planned for next year at West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia and at Pebble Beach in California.

Carl never met a dog or cat who didn't befriend him instantly, and he was an inherently passionate and compassionate protector of the vulnerable.

Memorial gifts in his honor should be sent to an animal shelter of your choice, or to United Medical & Social Services or All Souls Catholic School, both in Sanford, FL.

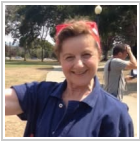
Tribute Wall

GH

“ I am in disbelief! I grew up with Carl and we were close neighbors. I was the first person that he told when he swallowed a quarter on the bus. He had to have surgery to remove it. We went from playing sports to party time. After I hadn't spoke with him in years I reached out and we spoke on the phone for 3 hours. Old times, good friends like Vance, John, and Gary Hight. I believe the call was months before his passing. He was going to pick me up in NC and we're going to Media to visit the old gang and have one last big bash. I feel bad I didn't follow up and realize now why he never got back to me.

Carl I love you and will always remember you! Peace out my good friend.

Gary Hennel - June 28, 2025 at 09:40 PM



“ We just started our season at the golf course and we all miss Carl. Yes, Carl, as I shared with you previously, overheard me attempting to obtain tickets to the Father and Son Champions Tour event that our golf course in Orlando hosts. Since Tiger Woods was playing with his son Charlie, tickets were hard to come by. Carl was able to get me two tickets through one of his many tour caddie friends. So, he refused to accept any money from me and agreed to let me buy him a beer sometime. Unfortunately we were not able to have that beer. And, you brought to my attention, he didn't even drink. (Sent via text by Chris Meinhard)

AJ Benham - December 18, 2023 at 08:03 PM

RE

I met Carl on at least one occasion at Aunt Alice's home in or near Philadelphia. It was dinnertime, and Carl was dispatched to get me out of the pool. I was about 7, and was terribly afraid to get out of their pool because of some daddy-longlegs crawling around the steps. Carl managed to get me out unscathed (how much harm can a daddy long legs do, after all), and all was well with the world! Thank you, Carl, for creating a wonderful memory!

Rebecca - June 19, 2024 at 10:47 PM

EB

“ 2 files added to the album Pets



Elizabeth Benham - November 19, 2023 at 09:32 PM

EB

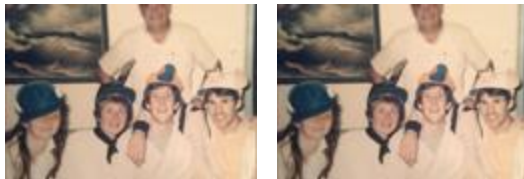
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Elizabeth Benham - November 19, 2023 at 07:46 PM

EB

“ 2 files added to the album Over the Years



Elizabeth Benham - November 19, 2023 at 04:03 PM

JG

“ One of his favorite lines; “It only costs 85% more to go 1st Class” sums up Cal for me. Nothing was out of reach, nothing was impossible in his world. Insanely protective of his family and his friends. Cal was deeply effected by the death of Grant and then his dog. We partied hard and worked hard for many years. Cal had a close relationship with John, me, and Jason. My Mother took Cal in as a 4th Guistwhite at times. We spoke at length after Alice passed. I will always cherish the support I received from the Benham clan and the happy times we had in that awesome back sunroom. Cal, you will be missed, and know you left a mark on many folks, like me.

Jeff Guistwhite - November 14, 2023 at 12:39 PM

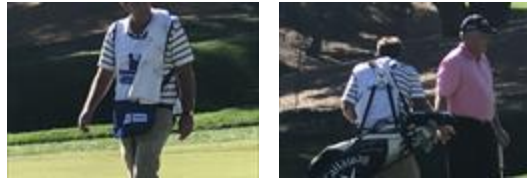
EB

What a lovely note, thank you, Jeff! I forgot you guys nicknamed him, "Cal"-& I got a chuckle seeing that here. Yes, you all were definitely brothers--w/both different and shared mothers--I loved the camaraderie, comedy & support you all shared, and loving care/concern when things got tough for any of you. Your post brought to mind a photo (I will post here or on photos page, if can figure out the how-to!) that I put aside to give to Carl this Christmas for the ChristmasTimeCapsule he fervently (but unsuccessfully, dt unforeseen circumstances) attempted to get us all to to create last year. I took the pic w/my (then-1981?) new Christmas-gift polaroid camera, so I think this is either at Christmas time or New Years. Years later I sent away to Polaroid and had it blown up & 2 copies made, but then lost their envelope in life's shuffles--& then found them again in May. I'm thinking you might enjoy it, too. OxOO Elizabeth (aka, "Lizzie")

Elizabeth Benham - November 19, 2023 at 03:43 PM

CF

“ So many wonderful memories of Carl. My heart goes out to the family in this difficult time. We talked on the phone several months back. I wish I could call him one last time. These are my last photos of Carl on tour. 2018 Lake Sherwood CC Thousand Oaks, CA. We had dinner afterwards and he told me such great stories, I just listened and smiled...like always. I'll see you on the other side old friend.



Christopher Fry - November 11, 2023 at 07:33 PM

EB

Thanks Chris. Losing a friend is mega hard, too. I'll miss hearing news about you. Stay in touch if you can, eh?

Elizabeth Benham - November 19, 2023 at 08:03 PM

AJ

“ 3 files added to the album *Over the Years*



ajbenham - November 10, 2023 at 03:17 PM

AJ

“ 3 files added to the album *Pets*



ajbenham - November 10, 2023 at 03:12 PM

AB

“ 1 file added to the album *Pets*



aj benham - November 09, 2023 at 07:56 PM

AJ

“ 6 files added to the album *ON TOUR*



ajbenham - November 09, 2023 at 07:53 PM

AB

“ 2 files added to the album *ON TOUR*



AJ Benham - November 09, 2023 at 12:38 PM