



## Harold E. "Toby" Ashby Jr.

April 15, 1947 - February 25, 2019

Harold "Toby" Ashby, 71, passed away after a long struggle with cancer, at his residence in Tangerine, FL. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00pm on March 4, 2019, at the Zellwood United Methodist Church, 5538 Jones Ave, Zellwood FL 32798.

Toby was born in Syracuse, NY, and grew up in Weedsport, NY. He was a glazer in Texas, where he met his wife of 37 years, Gina (Wright) Ashby. They moved to Florida in 1986, where he painted for Disney and Cape Canaveral. After retiring from the Local 1010 (Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO), he painted homes in the area. Toby lived life to the fullest, and loved to dance and make conversation with anyone.

Toby is survived by his wife Gina Ashby; mother Ann Ashby; sister Linda Tortorello; brothers Rodney (Tina) Ashby, and Jeffrey (Karen) Ashby; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. He was pre-deceased by his father Harold Ashby, and Ann's long-time family friend Roy (Pa) Snyder.

Toby had a gift of gab, and was always willing to help anyone. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations in Toby's name may be made to the AdventHealth - Waterman Cancer Institute.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Zellwood United Methodist Church  
5538 Jones Ave  
just a few blocks N of US 441  
Zellwood, FL 32798

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Toby as we knew him was a wonderful man. He always had time for people very friendly loving and had a general concern for his fellow man. We were blessed enough to know Toby and Gina from playing bingo with them. You will be greatly missed Toby and perhaps while you're in heaven you can teach them how to play Bingo.* ”

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**Don & Kathy Smithers** - February 28, 2019 at 12:07 PM

ML

“ I am sure the words kind, thoughtful, good man and wonderful person will be used by many to describe Toby in the next few days but some words that comes to my mind when I think of him is accepting, welcoming and the most powerful...protector.. I met Toby thru my friendship with Gina in late 1990. Here I was a naive 20 year old away from my family and friends and feeling very lonely and unsure of myself.. part of that insecurity was amplified by seeing how popular and together Gina was in her personal life but she NEVER made me feel less than... and this feeling was even more so when I met Toby... in his actions he taught me what internal strength was, how to carry myself with confidence, he treated me like a broken bird who needed love and acceptance, he along with Gina included me in their inner circle of friends, they accepted me for who I was and never asked for anything in return. Sometimes a smile from him or a wink was all I needed to make me feel like I belong... I will never forget one day when a man would not accept me rejecting him for a dance.. Toby quickly came to my rescue and advised him I was not interested...within minutes Toby was outside ready to fight him... At first I thought he was a little extreme... but within minutes he came inside to tell me "do not ever accept that behavior from a man, you are better than that"... I remember thinking...my God I feel so safe with him in my corner.. that very day I knew I would treasure my friendship with him for a lifetime... he was one of the most selfless man I have ever known and this world lost an angel yesterday... Toby I love you dearly and will always look back at our friendship with a smile on my face and peace in my heart... I will also keep my promise to you that I will look out for Gina (even though I live in Argentina) as you looked out for me... LOVE ALWAYS Milva Lombardo



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**Milva Lombardo** - February 26, 2019 at 10:48 PM