

Mr. Jeffrey Whitfield Drake

April 28, 1956 - March 27, 2014

Mr. Jeffrey Whitfield Drake, 57, of Sanford, Florida passed away on Thursday March 27, 2014.

Mr. Drake was born in Garden City, New York on April 28, 1956.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 11:00am to 12:00 noon, followed by a Reception from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm at the DeGusipe Funeral Home in Sanford, Florida.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 905 Laurel Avenue, Sanford, Florida 32771. (407) 322-5131

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **12**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Sanford Chapel
905 Laurel Ave
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Reception

APR **12**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana Legare - April 17, 2014 at 08:48 AM



“ I met Jeff in the early 90's when we both worked on the Grand Romance. I was part of the wait staff and he was the drummer for the Sharon Rae Band and the Riverdaze Show. Although Jeff pursued his talents in music, photography and becoming a substitute teacher, he was (is) an amazing father to his daughter Lauren. That was truly his pride and joy. Out of his many talents, being a father was his number one priority. You did a great job Jeff, you raised a beautiful daughter and now you will live on through her and her memories of you. RIP, I will never forget our memories that we shared together! <3

Diana Legare - April 17, 2014 at 08:05 AM

BB

“ Bill and Debbie Bovell purchased the Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy for the family of Mr. Jeffrey Whitfield Drake.



Bill and Debbie Bovell - April 11, 2014 at 12:16 PM

DA

“ I met Jeff at the Lake Mary Tennis Center, we became friends and hit a ton of tennis balls together. I was sad to hear of his passing, my condolences to his daughter and his family. On behalf of all the guys at the tennis center, we will miss him deeply!


Danny Williamson

Danny - April 10, 2014 at 09:12 AM

MW

“ I do not remember how we met but I asked Jeff to take photos of my son and I when my son was 5 years old; my son will be 16 in July. Jeff took us to the wooden park in Sanford where he shot some really wonderful photos that I still show to people today. Then we went back to his house where he shot some more photos of my son at his drum kit. Jeff certainly loved music and was so talented. We reconnected at The Alley where Jeff loved to come and listen to music and play in the jams sometimes. We always had good conversations and it was always good to see him! He will be deeply missed!! ~ Melanie

Melanie Wargo - April 09, 2014 at 01:56 PM

 Diane Carman

“ 1 file added to the album Bands



Diane Carman - April 05, 2014 at 07:59 PM

JO

“ I met Jeff when we all started working on the Grand Romance, it was an exciting time. I remember him as quiet, gentle fellow with a quick wit. Enjoyed our talks, comparing/ commiserating what was happening in our lives. The world is less without Jeff, condolences to Lauren and the rest of Jeff's Family.

Julie Osborne - April 04, 2014 at 07:18 PM



“ From Peter Drake - Jeff's younger brother

It is with a broken heart that I announce the death of my dear brother Jeff Drake. (at age 57) He was the best brother I could have asked for and supported me at every turn. Jeff was a gentle man. He asked no more from his friends and family than that they treat him with love. If they did, they enjoyed a relationship that was full of fun, creativity and love returned in spades. He adored his parents, Bud and Audrey Drake and was a constant and loving presence in their lives.

Jeff was a classically trained percussionist who studied at The New England Conservatory of Music. He loved anything with a beat: jazz, reggae, funk and hard rock. As a small child he would walk around the house carrying a record just to be close to music. One of his happiest memories was the birthday when our parents hid a full drum kit in our attic with clues scattered around the house for him to solve in order to find it. By the time he was a teen Jeff could perfectly reproduce Gene Krupa's solo from "Sing, Sing, Sing."

Jeff loved broadcasting and spent many days bird-dogging our father at NBC to get a feel for the business. When he was still in Junior High Jeff and his three best friends set up an illegal, working radio station that broadcast WJWD to a select audience of mostly adoring neighborhood mothers.

Later in his life Jeff fell in love with photography and won many awards for his shots of his adopted state of Florida. He polished his skills shooting couples and families enjoying evenings on the "Romance" pleasure boat. His natural people-skills allowed him to capture clients at their best and most natural. He had a wonderful eye for composition that imbued his work with a somber romance.

Throughout his life Jeff shared his love of music by teaching percussion on every level. Of his teaching Jeff wrote, "I have been excited about playing music and drums ever since I can remember.

My first memories playing were in grade schools in the concert band. There were 12 drummers waiting to play with only 3 snare drums available and I couldn't wait to get my chance. My teaching consists of the same qualities, giving someone the chance to play music. There are few joys and experiences in life that compare to understanding and playing music with others."

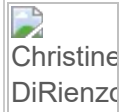
The greatest moment of Jeff's life was the birth of his daughter Lauren. She was the light of his life and nothing meant more to him than spending a weekend with her. Lauren has grown to be a strong, caring and accomplished young woman and she spent every waking moment with Jeff through the ordeal of his passing.

Jeff's many friends can take comfort in the knowledge that he fought as hard as he could and that in the end he was surrounded by his adoring family and the calming strains of Bill Evans, John Coltrane and Dave Brubeck.

Jeff is survived by his daughter Lauren Drake, his sister Ellen Dickinson, His brothers Al and Dave Dickinson, his brother Peter Drake, his sister-in-law Janice Faber, his nephews Scott and Ross Dickinson, his cousins and innumerable very lucky friends who might imagine him going beat for beat with Buddy Rich somewhere in jazz heaven.



Peter Drake - April 04, 2014 at 05:17 PM



Christine
DiRienzo

I met Jeff when we worked at Disney. We always laughed and had a great time and forged a longtime friendship. I miss picking up the phone to call him and hear him laugh. I feel such a void but think of him always with loving memories and a lasting friendship. I miss you, Jeff oxoxoxoxo

Christine DiRienzo - April 10, 2014 at 08:55 AM

JH

Oh Lord. I just found out about this. Jeff was great friends with me and Hexham Smith (a Disney colleague). So sad. My (very) belated condolences. John Hines, Northumberland, Pennsylvania.

John Hines - May 03, 2021 at 07:59 AM

JD

Hexie Smith called me recently and asked me if I'd heard this news, which I hadn't. I knew Peter when we were kids - he was always cheerful, optimistic and with his eyes on the horizon. I hadn't seen him for many years, but whenever I hear the name "Peter Drake", all I can do is smile. For many of use kids, he was kind of like a life "teacher". God bless, and RIP. Jim Denton.

James Denton - July 02, 2021 at 01:02 AM

SM

Oh look at them all in their knitted sweaters! So sweet. Life passes so quickly and is so precious. God bless you

Steph Miller - August 11, 2024 at 08:03 PM