



## Mr. Kevin Randall Tyjeski

July 4, 1959 - February 6, 2013

It must have been a curious sight watching Kevin Tyjeski take vacation photos.

Whether visiting friends in Wisconsin, a resort in Florida Panhandle or in-laws in South America, you'd find him shooting photos of sidewalks. Or landscaping. Or fences. Even enclosures for dumpsters.

Tyjeski, Orlando's deputy director of economic development, was always on the lookout for ideas to make the city more tidy and beautiful.

"The city was his passion," said his wife, Pat Tyjeski.

Family members returned home Wednesday night to find that Tyjeski, 53, had died while sitting in his favorite chair. His cause of death had not been determined Friday.

Tyjeski worked for Orlando for 18 years, mostly as a city planner. During that time, he played a role in virtually every development that came to Orlando, said the city's economic-development director, Brooke Bonnett. He helped decide how sections of land would be used and where homes and businesses should be located.

In 2011, he took over as deputy director of the Economic Development Department.

"You can actually see the results of his work in the city's skyline and in the city's neighborhoods and in every project that has ever developed over the past 18 years," Bonnett said. "That's just an amazing legacy for somebody."

He was best known for his work in Baldwin Park, helping transform an area where the old Naval Training Center once stood into an upscale community of about 7,600 people.

Residents and visitors have Tyjeski to thank for the layout and feel of the place, from the width of sidewalks to the look of the buildings to the placement of lights and trees.

"All those tiny details that people don't necessarily think about," said close friend Paul Lewis, the city's planning manager.

Tyjeski also helped shape the planning degrees at Rollins College, the University of Central Florida and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served on advisory committees for planning programs at those schools. For 10 years, he was an adjunct professor at Rollins.

The city has created a scholarship in his name for local students pursuing careers in city planning.

While Tyjeski's work with the city consumed much of his life, his wife said she and their two sons — Nico, 17, and Andres, 15 — remained his priority. He refused to miss Nico's cross-country running meets or either boy's piano recitals.

He took great joy in creating elaborate gourmet meals for family and friends. People often asked for his recipes. But he could not share them because he tended to improvise with his ingredients from dish to dish.

"He would not repeat the same recipe twice," said Pat Tyjeski, who met her husband when they were both working as planners for Ormond Beach. "He was not about making it easy. He was about making it fancy and tasty and beautiful."

Besides his wife and sons, Tyjeski is survived by his parents, Bernard and Irma Tyjeski of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; three brothers, Gene Tyjeski, Darnell Tyjeski and Brad Tyjeski, also of Wisconsin Rapids; and sister Allison Schmidt of Chaska, Minn.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kevin Tyjeski City Planning Scholarship Fund. Checks can be made out to Strengthen Orlando - Kevin Tyjeski City Planning Scholarship Fund, and mailed to: 400 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32802, attention: Brooke Bonnett, Economic Development Director.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751. (407) 695-CARE(2273).

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB **12**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church  
526 North Park Ave  
Winter Park, FL 32789

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ I just saw that Kevin had died, his father actually cut my hair when I was younger. Kevin was a very good student, and very straight laced.....I was more on the wild side, but we were friends in High School.....we always smiled, laughed and shared thoughts, we were as different as black and white...but there was a bond that we had...I am sad today to learn that he has died, I am proud of what he had done with his life. When I saw his facebook page I was going to contact him, to let him know the amazing path I had taken in life and share his stories.....I will not every be able to do that on earth, but we shall meet again someday and laugh as we once did....to his family, be blessed.....Randy 870-710-1779

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**randy** - June 14, 2014 at 05:34 AM

RE

“ Kevin,

*It was a pleasure to work with you. I learned so much and shared some great laughs. You truly loved what you did. I know you will be watching down from Heaven on us. You are a visionary and creator but most importantly a great person! Until we meet again.*

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**Roni Elias** - February 17, 2013 at 06:32 PM

SA

“ Please allow me to extend my deepest sympathy during this difficult time to your family. I know the pain of losing a someone close. The scriptures have really helped me and I wanted to share some with your family. Like, in knowing that Jehovah God loves us, he is near to those that are broken at heart and those that are crushed in spirit he saves - Psalms 34:18; Psalms 83:18. One day soon, "no resident will say: I am sick" - Isaiah 33:24. John 5:28,29 gives hope of a future resurrection and Revelation 21:3,4 speaks of a time when death, mourning, or pain will be no more. Jesus at John 11:11 said to his disciples, "Lazarus our friend has gone to rest, but I am journeying there to awaken him from sleep." We can have faith in these promises. I had also personally wondered why God has temporarily allowed the suffering and death that surrounds us. I found the answers in the bible. It can bring much comfort to know the answers. If you don't have a copy of the bible you can find an online bible and other comforting information at [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org). Keeping you in my prayers. Shellye --- [Chefshellye@juno.com](mailto:Chefshellye@juno.com)

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**Shellye Andrus** - February 16, 2013 at 09:51 AM

JS

“ Jeanine Schiavoni lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kevin Randall Tyjeski



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**Jeanine Schiavoni** - February 13, 2013 at 12:24 PM

JS

*Dear Pat,*

*I am so very sorry to hear about your husband. I can't imagine the sadness that you must feel. May God be with you during this time and give you and your boys comfort. Prayers and love coming your way.*

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**Jeanine Schiavoni** - February 13, 2013 at 12:26 PM

KC

“ Dear Tyjeski Family -

*Our community has suffered a devastating loss with Kevin's untimely passing. While you and your family know what a treasure he was, you should know how many people enjoyed and respected him. He was a delight to be around and work with. Whenever I spoke with him, his eyes sparkled when he talked about you. There are so many people throughout our community that are deeply saddened by this loss and are wishing you strength during this time.*

*Kelly Cohen*

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**Kelly Cohen** - February 11, 2013 at 02:37 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Kevin Randall Tyjeski.*



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February 11, 2013 at 09:18 AM

JJ

“ *Pat,*  
*Jim Tew shared this sad news with me over the weekend. I am so sorry to hear this news. You have our deepest sympathies and condolences. Many fond and good memories of you and Kevin from our time together in Ormond Beach many years ago. Words cannot express my sense of your loss of Kevin. May God bless you and your family as you go forward through this time. You will be in our hearts and prayers.*

*Joe and Karon Jaynes, Ormond Beach*

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**Joe Jaynes** - February 11, 2013 at 07:36 AM

PA

“ *I know Words cannot heal the pain of losing someone so dear. You're in our hearts, thoughts and prayers as God receives his newest angel..*

*Our Deepest Sympathies for your loss.*

XOXOXO

*Pam Moses Ayers*

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**Pamela Moses Ayers** - February 10, 2013 at 10:27 PM

KA

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss, Pat. I just couldn't believe it when my mom told me the news Friday. My heart goes out to you, Nico, and Andres. You all have been in my thoughts all weekend. Kevin was such a wonderful friend to my dad - especially during those times when he really needed one - and I know he, like so many others, will miss him terribly. We were all lucky to have been touched by Kevin's kind spirit and presence in our lives.*

*Katherine Unger*

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**Katherine** - February 10, 2013 at 10:20 PM

TD

“ *I am so saddened to have seen such a vibrant life cut short. Kevin was a professional and a gentleman. His family is in my prayers.*

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**Terry Delahunty** - February 10, 2013 at 06:32 PM

NA

“ Dear Tyjeski Family,

*We will miss seeing Kevin in all the familiar places, it's still so very hard to understand his passing. We were all so blessed to have him as our friend, to share our lives as neighbors, as parents, and as cheerleaders for our kids. Kevin was and will always be one of the "good guys." We do not know God's plan for any of us, but take comfort knowing with absolute certainty that Kevin is with God. We love you all.*

*Nick, Tina, Matthew and Samantha Alenius*

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**Nick Alenius** - February 10, 2013 at 08:19 AM

DA

“ Sorry for the loss. Certainly he will be remembered.

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**Don O'Donniley, AICP** - February 09, 2013 at 04:00 PM

MB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to all. May you find peace and strength through faith and family. Kevin will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Forever Peace... Michele

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**michele brennan** - February 09, 2013 at 03:44 PM



“ Pat, this is a most difficult time and our thoughts and prayers are with you, Nico and Andres. Not to tell you anything that you didn't know much more than any of us, Kevin was an inspiration to everyone that ever came in contact with him. His devotion to you and the boys was admired by all and I hope this gives you comfort as you go forward. Kevin's commitment to his profession and Orlando in particular has resulted in a community that is a true tribute to him. Orlando is a much greater community than it would have been without Kevin's knowledge and determination. It goes without saying that he will be missed by those that knew him but he will be missed by all those that will never have the opportunity to benefit from his inspirational community leadership. Kevin was a strong role model for the boys and all of us to emulate and I know you will build on his and your strength to move forward in his legacy. Rick and Linda Bernhardt



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**Rick Bernhardt** - February 09, 2013 at 10:23 AM



“ Dear Tyjeski Family,

*Please accept my sincere condolence. May you find comfort thru the Word of God. "Jehovah is near to those that are broken at heart, and those who are crushed in spirit he saves."-Ps.34:18*

*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Washington*

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**Washington** - February 08, 2013 at 01:11 PM