



Tony Smothers

February 6, 1955 - March 1, 2024

We lost Tony unexpectedly on March 1, 2024. Though he was battling cancer, he was undeterred, optimistic and fully expected to recover his health. We may never know why, but God had other plans.

Tony was born on February 6, 1955, in Reidsville, North Carolina, to Donald and Dorothy Smothers. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his niece Elizabeth, his stepfather Cal and recently his big sister, Patsy Cucinella in September 2023. He was devastated by the loss of each beloved family member and always told wonderful stories about each of them—how dear they were to him and how they enhanced his life. He had a special bond with his big sister and was so glad they met up in Charleston a few years ago, eating (and drinking) so many delicious things while catching up with each other in person.

Tony is survived by his devoted partner, Chrissy, his nephew Padraic Cucinella, his niece Sarah McDaniel, her husband Dave and their sons Elliott and Joel. Tony was immensely proud of his nieces, nephew and great-nephews. He bragged on their accomplishments and routinely told funny and touching stories about their childhood. If you're a friend reading this, chances are he had cherished stories about you that made everyone smile, too.

Tony was one of a kind and the kindest person you ever met. He conducted

both personal and business dealings with integrity, authenticity and good faith. A “Renaissance Man” by nature, his hobbies and interests were varied: architecture, astronomy, shooting pool, playing both golf and disc golf, telling corny jokes, photography, skiing, SCUBA diving, self-improvement, movies and matters of the soul. He was an accomplished drummer with a huge love for live music and an appreciation for talented artists of any stripe.

“Death ends a life, not a relationship. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on—in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here.” - Morrie Schwartz

Tony’s Celebration of Life will be on June 6th at Fairbanks Florist at 6:00 pm. There is nothing Tony enjoyed more than calling together people he loved and watching them connect with each other. That’s why this will be a gathering he’d have loved...a true celebration! There will be appetizers, beer and wine. If you plan to attend, please RSVP with Chrissy by May 30th.

Because so many generous friends have asked how they can help, we have set up a fundraising account to help cover the costs of final expenses and the Celebration of Life. Any receipts above expenses will be donated to a vetted veterans’ organization, as Tony was a staunch patriot and truly grateful for all who selflessly serve our country.

Click to contribute: <https://www.givesendgo.com/tonysmothers>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life and Reception

JUN 6. 6:00 PM (ET)

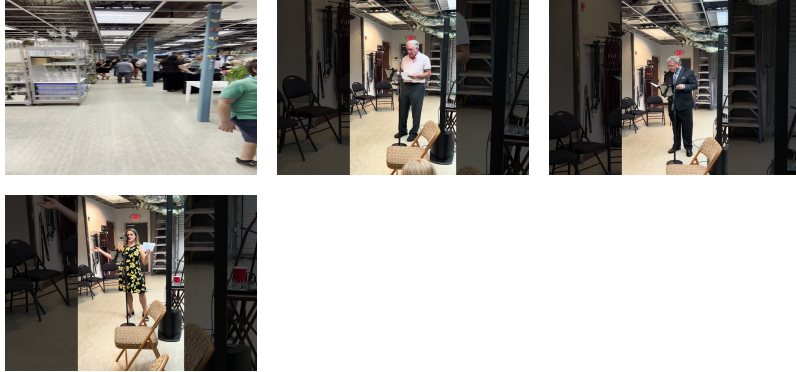
Fairbanks Florist
2814 Silver Star Road, Suite D
Orlando, FL 32808

Fairbanks Florist is on the 1st floor of the Sherwin Williams building. The entrance and parking are on the right.

Tribute Wall

CM

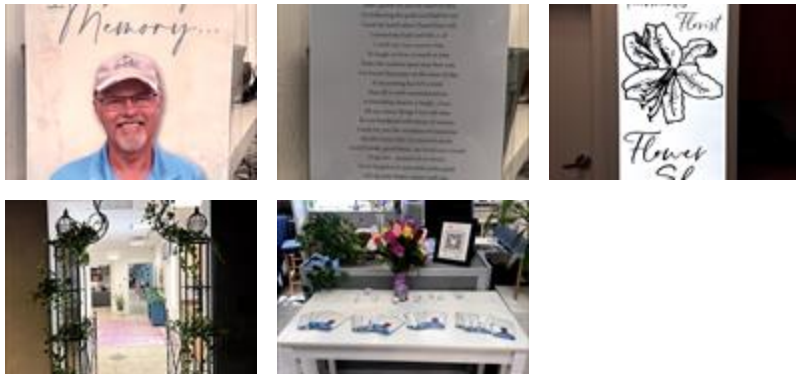
“ 4 files added to the album Videos from the Celebration



Chrissy M - June 11, 2024 at 02:46 PM

CM

“ 38 files added to the album Pics from the Celebration



Chrissy M - June 09, 2024 at 12:56 PM

CM

“ 1 file added to the album *Videos from the Celebration*



Chrissy M - June 09, 2024 at 09:57 AM

CN

“ It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our dear friend, Tony. I had the privilege of a 35-year friendship with Tony, which began at WCPX Channel 6.

Over the years, we shared countless memories and moments together. I cherish our annual dinners with Tony and Chrissy, along with my husband Dean, at our Vistana timeshare—a visit we eagerly anticipated each year, and hope to continue with Chrissy.

On the morning of his passing, at 10 AM, I sent a text to Tony: “Thinking about you this weekend, and praying you are having continued relief from the pain.” Little did I know, God had already answered this prayer as Tony had passed peacefully at 5:30 AM, finally free from the terrible pain he had endured for the past year. Tony died a believer, and while this gives me peace, it does not diminish the profound sense of loss I feel. He was one of the kindest, most creative, and optimistic people I have ever known. His unwavering loyalty and fun-loving spirit touched everyone who knew him. Tony's memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to call him a friend. We find comfort in knowing he is no longer suffering and is now at peace.

A heartfelt “thanks” to Chrissy for throwing such a “Tony” celebration complete with many of the things Tony loved—healthy food, wine, music, reconnection, laughter, friends, and family. I felt his presence all around us during your beautiful words describing Tony as kind, compassionate, and authentic—so true! Tony, we will keep you with us in our hearts and through our memories until our souls are reunited.

With deepest sympathy, Carolyn

Carolyn Navarra - June 08, 2024 at 07:53 AM

TC

“Already Tony is sorely missed by friends and family and of course Chrissy, who was such a tremendous support for Tony in more ways than we can imagine. If I had to sum up Tony in just a few words, “kindness, integrity, generosity, loyalty and positivity” is what comes to mind. He was the consummate professional, always adhering to the highest standards both creatively and ethically. If in difficult situations we’re ever looking for guidance, we’ll invariably make the right decision by considering “What would Tony do?” Let that be his legacy. RIP friend.

Tony Clark - June 05, 2024 at 09:50 PM

LD

“There were no “strangers” to Tony Smothers. He was a kin to humanity. Everyone felt comfortable in his presence, always with a welcoming smile and a gift for listening. My fond memories of Tony include his barbecuing chicken for family gatherings. The BBQ grill was one of his happy places. From the Tanner Family, we send our condolences, and pray for peace for those loved ones Tony has left behind.

Lee Anne Tanner Denney - May 24, 2024 at 12:22 PM

LG

“ I meet Tony when we worked together in 1982. I was a 14 year old kid and Tony was 27.

Sometimes in your life you connect with people who make your life better. Tony was that guy. He always brought his positivity to each day and I remember something he mentioned to me in the last few years. It was doing things which made you feel alive.

While you have moved on from the present - you left many with great memories we shared.

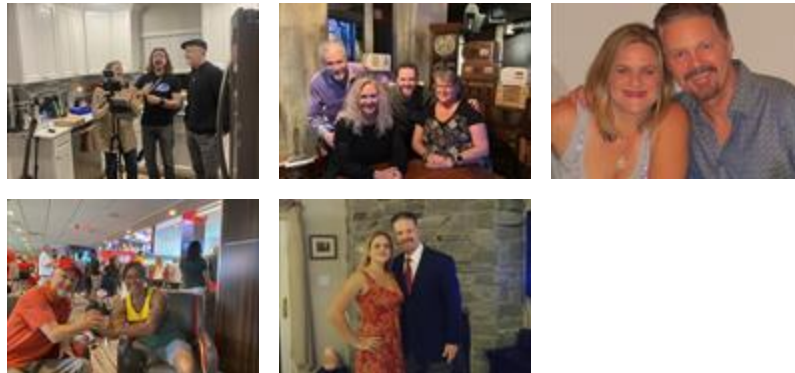
RIP my friend.

Les G.

les G - May 19, 2024 at 04:33 PM

CM

“ 10 files added to the album Memories



Chrissy M - May 17, 2024 at 03:10 PM

CM

“ 1 file added to the album *Early Days*



Chrissy M - May 17, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Tony was such a good man. I am so honored to have called him a friend. He was wise, funny, engaging and such a great listening ear. I will never forget a conversation I was having one night while visiting about a struggle I was having with my teenage son and as I shared, he began to cry. He held my hand and shared how much he wished he could be there for my son to impart his insights and experience to encourage him on his journey... if only he wasn't so exhausted from his treatments. This was the heart Tony had. And my son will miss him too because he knew Tony truly cared and was one of the good ones out there. He was a true gentleman and a beautiful soul in this world. I know we will see you again one day, my friend.*

Neli Acosta - May 14, 2024 at 10:00 PM

CM

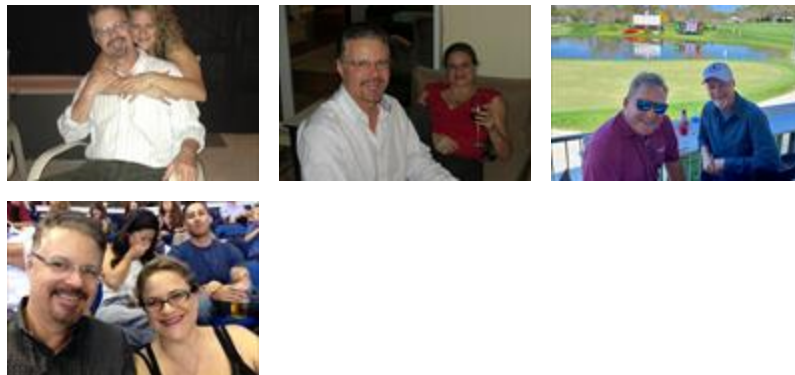
“ 4 files added to the album *Early Days*



Chrissy M - May 09, 2024 at 10:44 PM

CM

“ 4 files added to the album *Memories*



Chrissy M - May 08, 2024 at 11:16 PM

RG

“ *Randall Greene lit a candle in memory of Tony Smothers*



Randall Greene - May 02, 2024 at 12:42 PM

RG

“ Tony Smothers was indeed an amazing human. Tony was like a brother from another mother to me. Life will just not be the same without him. We shared so many fun times, started a business together with friends, golfed, cooked, scuba dived, enjoyed live music and played music together for many years. We shared a great group of friends together that now have a hole in their hearts. I had the pleasure of meeting Tony's mother, step father, and sister Patsy, who all preceded him in passing. Tony loved his family and often talked about his niece and nephew and great nephews. I am so blessed to have visited Tony in December as we had not seen each other for over a year although we talked and texted almost weekly. Tony shared with me that he believed in Jesus Christ as his personal savior. We often spoke about our spiritual lives. I carry 29 years of great memories to reflect upon and share among friends. Wishing Chrissy, Sarah, Padarich, and Nancy healing and God's blessings in your great loss. Godspeed my dear friend. Until we meet again.

Randall Greene - May 02, 2024 at 11:51 AM

CN

Thanks for sharing. Beautiful!

carolyn navarra - May 05, 2024 at 11:10 AM



Beautiful

Neli Acosta - May 14, 2024 at 10:16 PM

KC

“ Tony was such an amazing man. I met him through Crissy and they were a match for the ages. I got an invite to dinner and they proceeded to feed me amazing food, tell me hilarious stories and finish each other's sentences. Although a virtual stranger, Tony offered me information and assistance with any resources he had. So very selfless and kind. He will be missed so very much. ~ Kristen Clark

Kristen Clark - May 01, 2024 at 04:16 PM



Yes... ❤️❤️ this was definitely his way. And their way together. ❤️

Neli Acosta - May 14, 2024 at 10:17 PM

BK

I may be late to the memorial but I just found out today that my fraternity brother and roommate in college has passed away and I was unaware until informed by Chrissy via Facebook. Tony showed up on the campus of UNCC as a freshman in the fall of 1973 and we immediately hit it. Tony roomed with me the next year as we loved music and were both born in Reidsville, NC. His sophomore year I think his father passed away and immediately Tony thought of how to support his mother in such a sudden passing. He was always looking for ways to help other people, even staying late in Architecture labs (always all-nighters) to help another student. The Architecture major at UNCC in Charlotte was a bear of a program but Tony stuck it out. He had an eye for detail and a flair for design. We saw each other a few times over the years when I was visiting Orlando on business, and the last time I was with Tony was when he came to Charlotte for our 40 Year Fraternity Reunion. Needless to say the folks in attendance were thrilled to see Tony. We knew he had made it big by working in the media industry, a desire of his for as long as I can remember. I will always cherish our friendship as we were kindred spirits. Last story: In 1975 the fraternity went to Myrtle Beach for Spring Break and Tony and I went to nightclub to hear a band called Hydra out of Atlanta (a southern rock band with a few albums). During the break Tony and I were talking with the band outside, and Tony mentioned he could play drums (and he could). The Hydra drummer said "hey, I need to take a little longer break, why don't you play drums on the first few songs of the second set". I'm pretty sure that was one of Tony's prouder moments, he played in a rock & roll band and he did quite well. He got a standing ovation from the crowd and sat back down like nothing special had happened. That was Tony Smothers, even keel with a smile on his face. Mr. Smothers, you've run the good race and now its time to gather your crowns in heaven.

Bill Kincaid - August 29, 2024 at 11:22 PM