



John Landis Speed

December 3, 1963 - June 5, 2021

John Landis Speed passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack on Saturday, June 5, 2021. John was a loving husband and father of two grown boys. After growing up in Connecticut, John moved to Nashville his junior year of high school and afterwards attended UT Knoxville. While attending UT he was a member and president of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, developing and showing his excellent leadership skills. During his college years he also began his career in the restaurant industry at the Copper Cellar. He loved the fast-paced atmosphere and soon found himself working as kitchen manager. (It was during his Copper Cellar days that he met and fell in love with Rhoni while she was working as a hostess.) He left the Copper Cellar to help re-open the Bistro at the Bijou, developing the menu and working as kitchen manager. When John's father-in-law passed away, John helped run Schriver's, the family's clothing business, until it closed in 1994. With a young family to raise, John found himself in a new career working in sales. He soon would find a home with Shoffner Mechanical Service where he enjoyed a long employment as sales manager and vice president of the service division. After several years at Shoffner, John joined the team at Interstate Mechanical Service in a leadership role, running and growing the service company as the general manager. He was most proud of seeing the growth in the company over the past 4 years and especially proud of the team members he worked with; striving to create an environment where everyone felt valued and appreciated. John's work was always very important to him and something he took great pride in no matter the position he held. John was a man who lit up a room with his infectious smile and dry-witted humor. He truly lived life in the moment and made the most of every day. This was evidenced by his enjoyment of good food, local beer, attending concerts – especially the Dave Matthews Band, playing Pickleball, bocce ball, being with friends, and riding his bike. Always open to new endeavors and taking pride in his work, John could also be found in his garden tending to his plants, riding his John Deere in pursuit of having the best lawn in the neighborhood, and most recently (his Covid hobby, he called it) painting abstract works of art. Those close to him knew that he was an early riser (way before the sun was up) and enjoyed that time reading books on WWII and sipping black coffee – soon after going into high gear until the end of the day, where you could find him on his deck with a cigar and scotch in hand. He was a perpetual optimist,

always seeing the good in every situation. Simply put, John was a good man that loved abundantly and was loved deeply. In their 33 years of marriage, John and his wife, Rhoni, focused on raising their two successful boys and growing their own careers. In recent times, empty-nesters John and Rhoni found enjoyment cooking delicious meals together, enjoying time with their grand-dogs, exploring new places, finding the best restaurants in the area but mostly having extra time to spend together as a couple. What John enjoyed the most however, was being surrounded by his children and wife while enjoying a good meal and laughs. John is survived by his loving wife, Rhoni Miller Speed, his son Sam Speed (Aimee Belt) and son Alex Speed (Brittany Speed), mother-in-law Judith Miller, his brother Rob Speed (JoAnne), niece Casey, nephew Rob, nephew Matt(Ben), sister Allison Jensen (Dave), niece Laura, niece Hannah (John), sister Andrea Wing (Tom), nephew Peter (Lisa), daughter Grace, niece Elizabeth, sister-in-law Melissa Feinbaum (Ron), niece Rachael, sister-in-law Erin Blankinship (Paul), nephew Miller, cousins Henry Landis (MaryEllen) and Emily Landis Walker, grand-dogs Lily, Jacks, Nimmy, George, countless friends and his co-workers at Interstate Mechanical Service. John was preceded in death by his mother, Pat Speed, father, Robert Speed, and father-in-law, Marvin Miller.

Donations may be made to The Bijou Theater, Joy of Music, Second Harvest, Mobile Meals, or any charity of your choosing. A Celebration of John's life will be held at 3:00 PM Friday, June 11, 2021 at Rose Funeral and Cremation Mann Chapel with the family receiving friends immediately following the service. Online condolences may be sent to <http://www.rosefuneraltn.com>. Arrangements provided Rose Funeral and Cremation Mann Chapel. Services will be streamed live at <http://www.facebook.com/RoseMannHeritage>.

Events

JUN **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

11

Rose Funeral & Cremation - Mann
6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Rose Mortuary - June 11 at 10:33 AM



“ I want to express my sympathy to Rhoni and her family about John's death.

I will pray for you and your family. Suzanne Lenhart

Suzanne Lenhart - June 30 at 06:04 PM



“ Both my husband, Larry, and I had the pleasure of meeting John and Rhoni not too long after they bought the gluten free bakery. We soon discovered our mutual affinity for food. It was a BONUS if it were grown local and prepared by a local chef! We feel extremely lucky that this mutual adoration flourished into countless meet ups for meals shared and ultimately developing into a cherished friendship.

I'd like to share a story about John that happened recently.

The four of us met up for dinner at a local pizza place just North of the Old City in Knoxville. That evening, they were hosting a “pop up” dinner prepared by super talented local chefs. The cuisine was Israeli and offered multiple courses of shared plates. Part of the first course was a salad which included spiced “beets”. We soon found out that John was not the biggest fan of them. That said, after we all took a bite we strongly encouraged him to try it. Being such a great sport he did try it. I can't remember his exact words but it was something like him proclaiming that “if he had to eat a beet, that was one great beet to eat”! Later on in the meal, when the third course arrived at our table it included a side of sweet “onion” stuffed with lentils and rice. Oh boy, Larry and I are not the biggest fans of onions! So, being the person he was, it was John's turn to start selling it and started to strongly encourage us to try it because he thought it was amazing. Happy to say, with his encouragement, we did try it and yes it was the best onion we ever tasted. Thank you John for that!!

John - You truly were an amazing person, loved by so so many. We are so freaky lucky to have known you. May you be at peace in the most amazing place ever, with a beer in hand! And, if you do have to eat beets, my hope is that they only serve the ones that taste yummy.

Rhoni, Sam, Alex and all of John's extended family - We feel your loss deeply. John will be missed.

Deb and Larry Fauver - June 11 at 02:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 11 at 10:52 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 11 at 09:47 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 11 at 07:51 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 10 at 10:53 PM



“ Thinking of your family. May John's memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

With great sympathy,
Tara Bain

Tara Bain - June 10 at 01:57 PM



“ 163 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - June 10 at 12:09 PM



“ Connie Millane in Madison, CT purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Landis Speed.



Connie Millane in Madison, CT - June 09 at 06:11 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 09 at 04:09 PM



“ I remember John Speed as a man of integrity, always available, upbeat and positive, quick to follow-up, and willing to answer my questions when he worked at Shoffner. He always put me at ease and delivered on his promises. My sincere condolences go out to his family during this difficult time.
Carolyn Gentry

Carolyn Gentry - June 09 at 03:04 PM



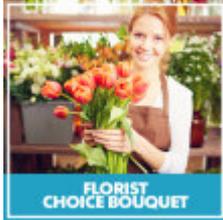
“ Words cannot express our sadness in learning of John's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Friends from Engert Mechanical

Donna Johnston - June 09 at 01:15 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 09 at 12:33 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 09 at 10:22 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 09 at 07:52 AM



“ I had the pleasure of getting to know John over the past few years at Interstate. John was an excellent leader in all ways. He demonstrated compassion, determination, joy, and love on a daily basis. John and I would share thoughts and ideas on how to “save the world” when no one else was looking. I would always walk away from a conversation with John enlightened, educated, and enthusiastic. In the professional world, he was one of the few and far between that understood that people come first. I absolutely loved that about him and he will be sorely missed by his co workers and friends at Interstate.

To his wife and children,
No words or actions can ever represent or demonstrate the understanding of your personal loss at this time. My family’s prayers are with all of you. You are all in our hearts.

Justin Hudson and Family

Justin Hudson - June 08 at 09:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 08 at 09:10 PM



“ Rhoni and Sons, I did not know John as I was a visitor at the pickleball tournament he participated in this past weekend. He was fighting to live and so sorry he was taken so suddenly. Everyone I spoke to had nothing but kind words on what a wonderful man, friend, husband and father he was. God has a new angel in heaven and watching over you all. My condolences and wish you the best through this difficult time.

lori - June 08 at 09:01 PM



“ Rhoni

I'm so sorry to hear about John's sudden passing. My thought are with you and the family.

Joni Hirschhaut

joni hirschhaut - June 08 at 06:06 PM



“ Oh, Roni I'm so very, very sorry! I know he will be greatly missed. If there is anything you need, please contact me. I'm here with a shoulder to cry on as I've just went through this too.

Pat Howell - June 08 at 05:17 PM



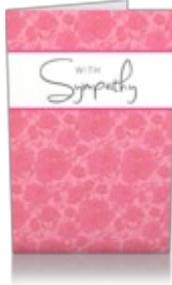
“ Rhoni, I am so sorry to hear of John's untimely passing and may his memory be for a blessing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!!

Susie Silber

Susie Silber - June 08 at 02:54 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 08 at 02:48 PM



“ John’s upbeat and positive personality was a joy to be around and his passion for the HVAC industry was immense. We had a common enjoyment for live music and loved sharing stories with him about Austin City Limits and hearing about his stories from Bonnaroo. I will miss seeing him at our Synergy meetings. Sending condolences to his family. - Kyle Pennington San Antonio, Tx

Kyle Pennington - June 08 at 02:42 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 08 at 01:03 PM



“ Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 08 at 11:50 AM



“ Keith Richards lit a candle in memory of John Landis Speed



Keith Richards - June 08 at 11:14 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 08 at 10:01 AM



“ One of my favorite memories of John happened when we worked at Elavon together. When he wasn't busy distracting me from my job daily (a welcome distraction - that job was terrible), one day, a ceiling tile crashed directly into my cubicle. John was in charge of getting that replaced and wrote "(name)'s ceiling tile" on it and had it installed. So, if you happen to find yourself 50 ft up in the ceiling at Elavon, there's one ceiling tile that's mine and only mine.

I think that completely sums up John's personality. Just a fun, goofy guy and I'm glad for all the time that I got to spend with him as a Gulf Park Senior Lady, at various weddings, and for that bonus year we got at Elavon because, frankly, I don't think either of us wanted to be there. He was larger than life and his presence will be truly missed. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Jason Hamrin

Jason Hamrin - June 08 at 08:33 AM



“ Chris and LeeLee Robinson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Landis Speed.



Chris and LeeLee Robinson - June 08 at 08:09 AM



“ Praying for strength during this tremendous loss. I was on the courts playing Rhoni and also praying the whole time for your dear John. What I read this morning in the obituary spoke volumes about John. I will continue to pray for the whole family !
Donna Reynolds

donna teynolds - June 08 at 08:04 AM



“ John took me under his wing at the Copper Cellar and soon convinced me to pledge Beta Theta Pi. We had many hard working nights in a high end kitchen, years of fellowship and camaraderie as brothers, and as my fraternity big brother, he "showed me the way". I remember feeling incredibly fortunate to have been a groomsman in John and Rhoni's wedding, both families were incredibly kind and open to John's friends. He was the real deal, a genuine, warm, intelligent man and a true friend. My deepest condolences to the speed and Miller family, he will be missed.

C.ROB -kai-

Chris Robinson - June 08 at 08:00 AM



“ John was most certainly a bright light and I always looked forward to seeing him at various professional and business events. He was quick witted and he always took time to visit with everyone. He will be greatly missed. Lifting prayers to the family for peace and comfort through!

Amy Mohr - June 08 at 07:20 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 08 at 12:24 AM



“ I met John via Pickleball about a year ago. I always enjoyed playing with him and talking in between games and at the end of the night. His sense of humor was infectious and he will be greatly missed. My condolences go out to Rhoni and the rest of his family. Cory Gerlach

Cory Gerlach - June 07 at 08:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 07 at 08:35 PM



“ To the Speed family, I was fortunate to work with John at Shoffner. He had boundless energy and was quick to make you laugh. I will truly miss his smiling face, and will keep you all in my prayers.

Brenda (Duff) Morrow

Brenda Morrow - June 07 at 07:34 PM



“ Rhoni,
I know no words can help at this time. You know the relationship John and I had and I will always cherish it. God speed to you, Alex, and Sam.

Jim Hopson - June 07 at 07:19 PM



“ Rhoni,

I hate to hear of Johns passing. I enjoyed my time working with John at Shoffner. And had nothing but the upmost respect for him. You and your family will be in our prayers.

David Best and Family.

David Best - June 07 at 06:38 PM



“ Rhoni, I am so sorry to hear of John's sudden passing. Jan and I will keep you and the boys in our prayers.
David and Jan Dugger

David Dugger - June 07 at 04:52 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of John Landis Speed.



June 07 at 04:11 PM



“ Rhoni...
I am so sorry to hear about Johns sudden passing! I pray for peace and understanding for you and the boys! Lots of love and prayers lifted for you!
Susan Hollingsworth

Susan Dew Hollingsworth - June 07 at 01:28 PM



“ Rhoni, so sorry to hear about the sudden loss of John. Will certainly keep you and family in our prayers! Michael and Ann Bales

michael bales - June 10 at 09:13 PM