



Randall (Randy) John Darnell

JAN 11, 1951 - JAN 14, 2017



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Randall (Randy) John Darnell

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Randall (Randy) John Darnell, 66, passed away suddenly at his home in Fort Myers, FL, on Jan. 14, 2017. He was born in Martin, TN, on Jan. 11, 1951. He graduated high school in Bartlett, TN, and obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from Memphis State University. While in college, Randy was in the ROTC program and upon graduation was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and stationed in Blytheville, AR. Randy began his career in the jewelry business by becoming a store manager in Altamonte Springs, FL, and, later, in Jackson, TN. He was then promoted to Stiffts Jewelers in Little Rock, AR, and he worked as manager there for almost twenty years. After this, Randy built a career as a traveling sales representative for various jewelry lines. Known as "Pappy Randy" to his grandsons, he would play tirelessly with them during his visits. He also loved his dogs Daisy (deceased) and Cassie. His outgoing and energetic personality made him a friend to everyone and a success in his sales career. He was a member of Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples, FL, where he sometimes worked the cameras. Randy was a beloved son, husband, father, and grandfather who was deeply devoted to his family. He is survived by his wife of twenty years, Dr. Jeanie Darnell; son, Dr. Scott Darnell (Natalie); mother, Maxine Darnell; siblings, Richard Darnell (Candace) and Lori Cothron (Jim); and grandchildren, Owen, Henry, and Benjamin Darnell. He was preceded in death by his father, John Darnell. Visitation will be held at Moorings Presbyterian Church of Naples, FL, on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 9:00 a.m. for family and 9:30 a.m. for friends. A memorial service will follow at 11:00 a.m. and will conclude with lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Donations in honor of Randy can be made to the Annual Fund at The Anthony School in Little Rock, AR, the Bearded Collie Society of Florida, or the Fort Myers-Humane Society. Arrangements are by Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home and Cemetery. They can be contacted at 1-877-936-0555 or on their website www.fortmyersmemorial.com.



Tribute Wall

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LH

Lee Holt posted:

I was so sorry to learn that Randy died. I worked with him years ago and have not seen him in ages, but think often of the time and people from my years working at Stiff's. He was full of spirit and enthusiasm. Losing him will certainly leave an empty place in the hearts and lives of his family. My sincere condolences in your loss.

January 23 at 5:23 AM

CB

Clay Bolton posted:

Dear Maxine, I'm fairly positive that you will not remember me; however, Randy was kind enough to invite me to your home in Bartlett sometime around 1974-75 for a weekend. We were stationed together at Blytheville AFB and as a fellow junior officer with about two years of service at the time I sort of took him "under my wing" and showed him the intricacies of the AF and how things were done at this particular base. In any event, the friendship that Randy and I developed lasted even after we both left the service. In the late 70s (would have been around the end of '78 or '79) after he had moved to Little Rock with his family (if I recall correctly Scott had just been born) he and I reconnected when we found ourselves attending the same Presbyterian church. Our friendship was rekindled and fortunately my mom and dad and me (I was still single at the time) were able to repay some of your family's earlier kindness with our brand of "southern charm" and hospitality. I know my mom and dad considered all of his family group a part of our own extended family. Unfortunately after they eventually moved out of state (was it Colorado?) a few years later we lost touch. It was certainly with great sadness and regret that I learned of Randy's passing in one of this past week's editions of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Very sobering for me to realize that Randy and I being the same age were once so close and yet at a far too young an age he is no longer with us. I profoundly share your sense of loss and have some understanding of your grief. Wishing you and your family God's true strength and comfort. May you find some sense of peace that while he was most certainly taken far too soon, Randy is with those who have gone before; he awaits in joy for the day when all he held most dear will rejoin him in eternal rejoicing. Sincerely and Warmly, Clay Bolton Little Rock, Arkansas

January 19 at 10:45 AM

KW

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk posted:

Joe and I share happy memories of Thanksgiving 2000 in our tiny apartment in Westminster, CO with you and Randy and 11 others...wonderful meals at your home and ours the past few years... catching Randy for a quick meal when he was on the road near Birmingham. He was always kind, funny, and had the gift of gab. How we loved to visit with him. He will be missed by us and so many others. Our hearts are with you as you grieve his loss, Jeanie. We love you.

January 22 at 4:12 AM



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VF

Vickie O'fallon posted:

Randy, joined our family over 21 years ago when he married my sister, Jeanie. We are a small close family, and Randy was loved by us all. His kind heart and lively personality made it such a pleasure to be around him. He was always positive and encouraging. He loved my sister unconditionally. We will miss him so much. I still can't believe he is gone. Enjoy riding with the angels Randy on that heavenly bike. His grandsons will certainly have a guardian looking out for them..

January 20 at 5:11 PM

PL

Phillip Long posted:

Randy and I worked together in Memphis in 1972 at Brodnax Jewelers and we both later wound up in Florida with the same company... me in Tampa... he in Orlando In 1978 I was transferred back to Little Rock for the Stiffts Jewelers acquisition and I needed a good hard working manager for our University Mall store so I requested the company try to move Randy to Little Rock also...He accepted and worked with me there until I opened my own business in 1980...He stayed on and had a very successful operation...He worked too hard as we all did then but that what good guys do....work hard and provide for our families....I'm very sad for his passing....I'm also very glad I knew him when we were young....so I will just say "Randy... save me a table in the afterlife..."Phillip LongLittle Rock,Ar

January 20 at 12:13 PM

KS

Ken Shelton posted:

I was 22 years old in 1984 when I was given my first job in the jewelry business by Randy. He was a mentor, a friend and an inspiration for me throughout my 32 years in this business. I was shocked and saddened to hear of his sudden passing. I will continue to think of him as a guiding force in my life and will always appreciate his kind and careful guidance throughout my career. It's so hard to believe he's gone. God Bless you Randy.

January 19 at 10:45 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Randall by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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