



# Joshua Heath Franklin

NOV 28, 1983 - DEC 13, 2025



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# Joshua Heath Franklin

NOV 28, 1983 - DEC 13, 2025

**J**oshua Heath Franklin, 42, of Fort Myers, Florida, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Josh was born on November 28, 1983, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the son of Joseph E. Franklin Jr. and Melissa Renee (Forrester) Hiatt. He was raised in Winston-Salem and attended R.J. Reynolds High School before later relocating to Fort Myers, Florida, where he made his home.

Josh had a deep love for the outdoors and found peace in nature, often capturing its beauty through photography. He proudly shared his work through his YouTube channel, Florida Grown, where he promoted his photography and creativity. A true music enthusiast, Josh was an accomplished bass player who found joy and expression through music.

Known for his quick wit and infectious sense of humor, Josh always had a joke ready and could easily bring a smile to those around him. Above all, family meant everything to him. He was a devoted father, son, brother, and friend, and he lived his life guided by his faith as a believer in Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his beloved daughter, Zelda Michelle; his mother, Renee Hiatt of Fort Myers, Florida; his father, Joseph (Myra) Franklin Jr. of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; his siblings, John Jolly of Fort Myers, Florida, Amy Marshall of Naples, Florida, Melissa Vernon of Cape Coral, Florida, and Courtney Franklin of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and his paternal grandmother, Louise Franklin of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and nieces who will cherish his memory.

Josh was preceded in death by his sister, Joy Kathleen Jolly; his maternal grandparents, Tom and Joyce Forrester; and his paternal grandfather, Joseph E. Franklin Sr.



## Obituary

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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A visitation will be held on Friday, December 19, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens, 1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33907. A graveside service will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting <https://www.fortmyersmemorial.com>.

Josh will be remembered for his loving heart, creative spirit, unwavering faith, and the laughter he shared so freely with others. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."



# Events

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

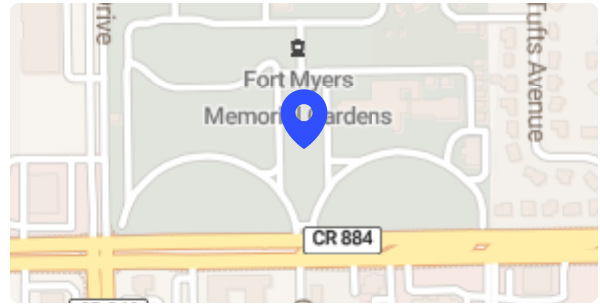
NOV 28, 1983 - DEC 13, 2025

## Visitation

**Friday**, December 19, 2025

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

**Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home**  
1589 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers FL 33907

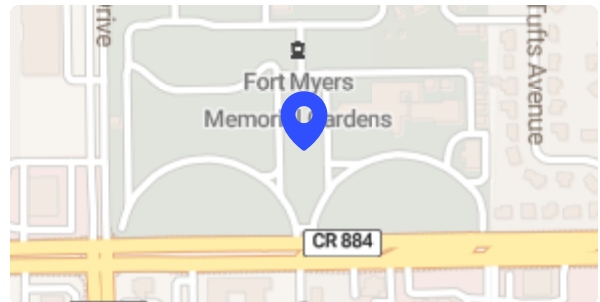


## Graveside Service

**Friday**, December 19, 2025

11:00 AM ET

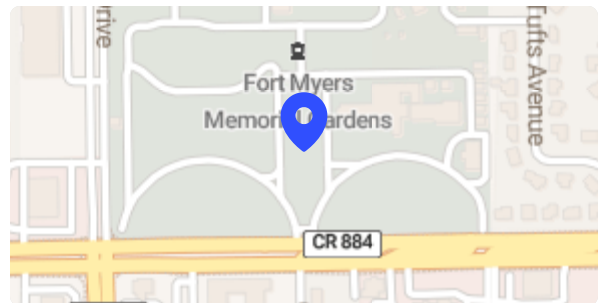
**Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Cemetery**  
1589 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers FL 33907



## Cemetery Details

**Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Cemetery**  
1589 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers FL 33907

**(239) 243-0014**





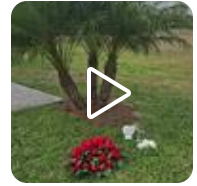
# Tribute Wall

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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**Renee' Hiatt** shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.



January 25 at 3:58 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

He was so handsome! Love his smile and beautiful blue eyes! ❤️



January 22 at 9:15 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I took this photo of Josh on Ft Myers Beach! One of my favorites! We miss him so much! ❤️

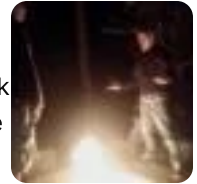


January 22 at 9:13 PM



**Brooke Palazzolo** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

i remember him showing me the angel in the fire of this picture, he helped me get back onto a path following Christ, he shared with me all of his favorite songs and artists, we reminded each other of ourselves in different bodies i couldn't be more grateful to have had the opportunity to have Josh in my life even though it was a brief friendship i could never forget him he brought so much good into this world and he will forever live through me and every else whose heart he has touched. Rest in peace Josh.



January 17 at 9:38 AM



**Jake Jacob** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.

Jake Jacob lit a candle in memory of Joshua Franklin



January 10 at 1:23 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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**Jake Jacob** posted:

Josh and me was like brothers I am gonna miss him so much. Please someone from family call me (336)9045659

January 10 at 1:22 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** January 13 at 11:49 PM

Brothers for sure! 😭❤️



**Love, Brooke** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joshua.



January 2 at 6:21 AM



**Renee' Hiatt** January 2 at 11:33 PM

Thank you so much Brooke! I'm sure Josh would love knowing we planted trees in his honor! 🍷



**Love, Brooke** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Franklin family.



January 2 at 6:21 AM



**Renee' Hiatt** January 2 at 11:42 PM

Brooke...I received this beautiful arrangement today. I was at work when it arrived. My son John and daughter Amy went after it and brought it to his home! They love it as well! I brought it to my home tonight. The white roses are so beautiful! The cross is perfect. Josh would love that! 🍷



**Brooke Palazzolo** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.

I love you Josh



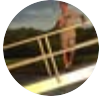
January 2 at 5:54 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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**Lori Aaron** shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My dear Josh, it breaks my heart that you are gone way to soon. We shar ed many good times together throughout your life. You always had a big smile on your face and helped me so much when I was in need. We had a great day when you helped me move in my home in 1988, I took you to Wet and Wild Water park where wore out the slides and the wave pool. I remember at Christmas you loaded up your plate with Mash's world famous Jewel Dessert. The world is missing a kind young man that still had a lot of living to do. You will be forever in my heart.I love youSee you on the other side Aunt Lori aka "lefty"



December 17 at 3:05 PM



**Melissa R.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joshua.



December 24 at 9:48 AM



**Renee' Hiatt** December 24 at 9:55 AM

Your Christmas gift from Mom! I can't wait until we are spending eternity together! Give Joy a big hug and kiss from me! I love you with all heart! 🍷🍷



**Renee' Hiatt** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.

Renee' Hiatt lit a candle in memory of Joshua Franklin



December 24 at 9:42 AM



**Renee' Hiatt** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



December 24 at 9:41 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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**Carol Reavis** posted:

My dear sweet nephew Joshua. My heart is so broken. I just can't find the words to say. I love you so much and you loved your aunt curry powder as you used to call me. We would have so much fun playing Uno. You said you were the king and I was the queen, and that was that. I loved coming to see you and your dad. When you lived in Nashville. When you were really young, you felt like one of mine. I will miss you all of my life. I will always love you. Aunt Carol

December 22 at 3:02 PM



**Reagan Homma** posted:

I'm so sad to hear about your passing but I know you are safe in heaven. You were taken too soon but you were loved and will be missed. Rest in peace cuz. Love ya ❤️

December 21 at 11:04 AM



**Joe Franklin** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.



My dear son Josh. I cherish the memories of watching you grow up. The Christmases at Mash's and Pash's in the 80's and 90's were the best. You got all the best toys and gadgets of those decades. We shared so many memories when living in Nashville TN and here in NC. You had the kindest personality and sweetest smile. Your blue eyes made your face light up. You were kind to family, friends, and strangers. Your little sister Courtney adored you. When you walked into the room she got so excited to hear your soft voice. You were the light of her life. We had fun sharing funny stuff on YouTube and keeping in touch with each other. I enjoyed your posts on your YouTube channel and the message along with some of them. I will miss you. You will be forever in my heart Josh. Your loving Dad

December 20 at 5:48 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** December 24 at 9:33 AM

Our son was a gift from God. Now he rest in his arms till we are reunited once again. 🍷



**John Jolly** December 23 at 11:08 PM

☐ miss him



# Tribute Wall

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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MF

**Myra Franklin** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.

Josh, I am heartbroken over losing you. You were always a sweet, caring soul. I have so many memories that I will never forget. Your dad loved you so much and would have done anything to see you get well. Courtney, your sister always loved seeing you and you made her so happy. The only comfort we have is knowing that you are now at peace and in the hands of Jesus. You will always be in our hearts. I love you Josh!StepmomMyra



December 20 at 4:39 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** December 24 at 9:36 AM

Thank you for being a wonderful other Mom to Josh. He loves you. 🍷

TB

**Tara Barton** posted:

Oh my dear Josh how you passing has broken my heart! I will forever cherish all the memories and laughs we shared sweet friend! My fondest being Saturday night karaoke at Cue and Spirits where you always made sure to sing "People are Strange"! Rest easy sweet friend! I love you!

December 18 at 2:45 PM

EJ

**Erica Johnson** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.

I will never forget the times we shared. The long talks and ugly cries. The singing and dancing. The amount of milk you can consume! I love you so much. There is so much left to say. Im thankful that I have all your messages. I keep rereading them. Ill see you on the other side my friend....



December 18 at 2:18 PM

EJ

**Erica Johnson** posted:

There is so much I haven't said... Ill miss our talks and dancing through the kitchen. Your infectious smile and amazing energy. I love you Josh

December 18 at 1:32 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Jeannine Beehler** lit a candle in honor of Joshua.

We remember Josh as a sweet, playful little boy with an easy laugh. Hugs to all of you, Renee, John, Amy and Melissa from Skip and Jeannine.

December 17 at 7:04 PM



**From Skip And Jeannine Beehler** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joshua.

December 17 at 3:05 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** January 2 at 11:25 PM

Skip and Jeannine, Thank you so much! Josh would love knowing you did that for him! 🍷



**From Skip And Jeannine Beehler** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Franklin family.

December 17 at 3:05 PM



**Renee' Hiatt** January 2 at 11:22 PM

Skip and Jeannine, We all (John, Amy, Melissa and I) have loved the flowers you sent! Josh would have loved them! So beautiful! Thank you! 🍷



# Media

**Joshua Heath Franklin**

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Renee' Hiatt shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 25 at 3:58 PM





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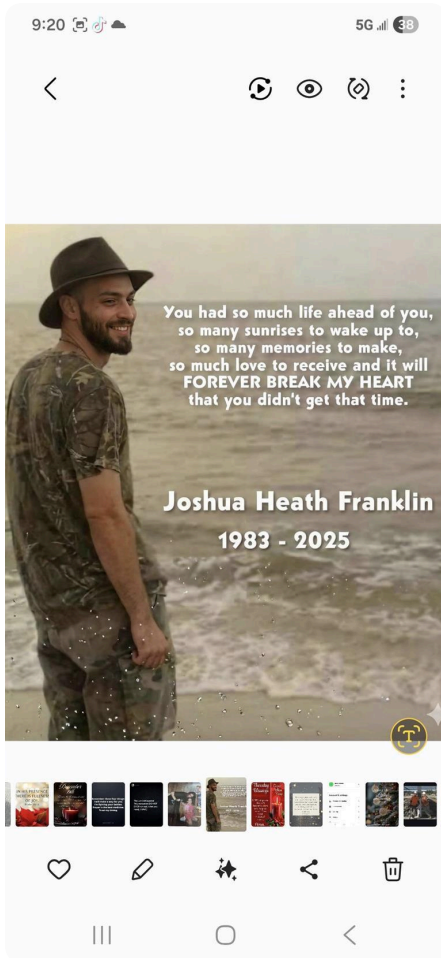
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December 24 at 9:41 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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