



Derek Michael Denhard

August 22, 1960 - July 5, 2015

Derek Michael Denhard, 54, passed away suddenly early in the morning Sunday, July 5th of a heart attack in the comfort of his own home.

Derek was born on August 22, 1960 in El Paso, Texas and spent many of his early years travelling with his family before settling in Savannah, Georgia. His current residence was in Woodstock, Georgia with his wife, Debbie; son, Collin and daughter, Sarah. His career spanned numerous years in the financial industry including First Union, Wachovia, Wells Fargo, and SunTrust. His most recent position was with Synovus Securities with Bank of North Georgia as the Vice President of Investments and as a Financial Consultant in the private wealth management team. He was a devoted father and husband who so loved and cherished all of the time he spent with his family. Derek was an avid lover of music and always enjoyed sharing this love with all who he was surrounded by. A lover of water, Derek always enjoyed days on the boat, especially fishing with his closest family and friends. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Derek is survived by his mother, Shirley J. Denhard of Savannah; wife, Debbie, and their two children, Collin Thomas Denhard and Sarah Raichlen F. Denhard; sister, Dr. Suzanne M. Edenfield and her husband, Johnny of Savannah; brother, David Denhard and his wife, Linda of Savannah; along with several nieces and nephews of Savannah. Along with his beloved dog, Stella. Derek is preceded in death by his father, Retired Army Lt. Col. C. F. Rai Denhard; uncle, Michael Everett Collins; grandfather, Louis Denhard; grandmother, Alva Denhard; grandfather, Earnest Clyde; and grandmother, Juanita Collins.

A visitation will be held Tuesday, July 7th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Bethesda Home for Boys at 9520 Ferguson Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406.

www.mayeswarddobbins.com

770-428-1511

Cemetery

Bonaventure Cemetery

330 Bonaventure Road
Thunderbolt, GA, 31404

Events

JUL **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

7

Historic Marietta Chapel

180 Church Street NE, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

Comments



“ Just heard about Derek's passing a few months after... Im here in Asia now working and dont always stay up to date. Last time Derek and I chatted was on FB back in May. I knew Derek at SCPS going back to about the 7th grade for me, age 13, and about the 8th grade for him, since he was a year older. So we came of age together... To Derek's family, he was a great, wonderland guy and I will miss him tremendously.

Tim Daiss

Tim Daiss - September 09, 2015 at 05:28 AM



“ I loved getting to know your family during basketball at NCCS. I'm sure Collin will carry on and be just like his father, he always had a great smile and a kind word. Our prayers are with you. Love Renee, Desiree, and Michael Bamba

Renee Bamba - July 08, 2015 at 03:32 PM



“ I cannot think of a more positive legacy to leave behind than that which Derek gave to us. He had a smile always, a word of encouragement regularly, and a positive outlook on all he did. He loved his family and it showed and he would eagerly share positive moments. He was an excellent partner and this is a personal and professional loss to us all. He is missed by everyone already.

Phyllis Murdock

Phyllis Murdock - July 07, 2015 at 03:31 PM



“ Derek and Debbie were our first real Neighbors. Derek was the Perfect neighbor-- showing my husband how to and why to aerate our lawn, how to prepare grilled flank steak, okra and tomatoes-- and fresh peach ice cream. We shared dinners, took care of each other's dogs and jumped in when in a "tight fix". He was wonderful to our little girls-- and a dedicated, loving Partner to Debbie. We've watched him become a father-- and have seen him loving every second. Derek will be terribly missed, but Bill and I feel so fortunate to have shared some of Derek's time and talent on this earth. A truly wonderful man. Our love and condolences to Debbie, Collin, and Sarah. Bill and Robin Ernest

Robin Ernest - July 07, 2015 at 02:52 PM



“ The short time that I worked with Derek will be cherished forever. Derek always took the time to stop by and say hello when he walked into the office. He was one of those truly gracious individuals who made life so much more pleasant for everyone around him. He spoke highly of his family, and lived life to the fullest based on the many stories that he shared about his family vacations.

May the love of family and friends, and the many special memories help you through this difficult time. Derek will be missed.

Marie McLester

Marie McLester - July 07, 2015 at 01:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



donna kain - July 07, 2015 at 01:01 PM



“ 29 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - July 07, 2015 at 12:01 PM



“ I only saw Derek in passing in the breakroom at work. The impact of those 60 second interactions will continue to encourage me to keep my spirits up & being happy is about being grateful. I want to thank his family for sharing him with us. God Bless you all.

Nichol - July 07, 2015 at 11:20 AM



“ Not too long ago a young teenager named Collin, penned a tribute to his father in a Father's Day contest. I remember voting for this tribute to his daddy. Now this was not a tribute from a young boy of 7 or 8. All young boys think their daddy's are heroes. This was from a teenage boy. The norm for teenagers is to loathe their parents. But not Collin. This is telling. I speaks to the basic understanding of Derick as a father. He was not an ok dad or a good dad, Derick was superb dad. So Derick, rest in God's loving arms knowing you married a strong women, you laid a solid foundation for your children and they will continue to make you and the Denhard name proud with the way the live their lives and the great things they will surely accomplish. God Bless the Denhard family.

Deb Loche

Deb Loche - July 07, 2015 at 10:35 AM



“ Matthew 25:21 "well done thy good and faithful servant...
enter into the joy of the Lord"
Forever in our hearts!
Gran
Joyce Thomas

Joyce Thomas - July 07, 2015 at 10:19 AM



“ Joyce Thomas lit a candle in memory of Derek Michael Denhard



Joyce Thomas - July 07, 2015 at 10:05 AM



“ To Debbie, Collin, Sarah, and Mrs. Denhard as well as the extended Denhard family. Our deepest sympathies are with you. I was fortunate to call Derek a friend from high school until now. Our daughters became friends and Derek and I reunited at a father-daughter dance. Derek always lifted your spirits when we bumped into each other around the neighborhood sharing old times, stories and a lot of laughter. He cherished Debbie and was so proud of both Collin and Sarah. We will all miss his laid back style and candid humor. His passing leaves us all broken hearted.
J.J. Davis 79', Lisa and Lindsey.

J.J. Davis - July 07, 2015 at 09:24 AM



“ 89 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - July 07, 2015 at 09:06 AM



“ Dear David and to the rest of the Denhard Family, our deepest sympathies on the loss of Derek. As a fellow Kensington Park Hood rat, we all played together and hung out at the pool. I did not know Derek as well because he was younger, but my husband, Steve did and we are both so sorry for your loss. We moved to Cape Coral a year ago or we would be there. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.
Crystal Anestos Nelson and Steve Nelson

Crystal Nelson - July 07, 2015 at 07:35 AM



“ Debbie, Collin, and Sarah,
My heart is heavy and the tears flow down my face as I write this note. Your familys friendship, love, and support over the years has been a great blessing in my life. After Joe's passing, Debbies suggestion that Derek help me with the finances was a true gift. He walked me through the entire process with patience, caring, understanding and humor. Our "financial" meetings lasted twice as long as the business required, as Derek always inquired about the kids and how we all were doing, and the two of us spent time catching up on the activities of our families. A week ago Saturday was our last meeting, at my kitchen table, where once again I heard my favorite words from Derek "you're good Patty." He will forever be my "Magic Money Man" and I will miss him dearly.
Love to you all,
Patty, Brett, & Mackenzie Bonk

Patty Bonk - July 07, 2015 at 07:01 AM



“ Dear Debbie, Collin, Sarah & the Denhard Family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I like so many others are shocked and saddened by Derek's passing. The short time I have worked with Derek has been a pleasure.

Derek has been a huge impact on our Atlanta team and will be missed by all. He was always positive hardworking and a true Southern gentleman. Derek never missed a moment to teach and assist others.

Derek made me laugh everyday. The day I met him we immediately hit it off talking about SEC football, Bouviers and Savannah. I recall how his face lit up the room when speaking about his family. His love for all of you was tremendous.

I shall miss his "You Rock"! emails thanking me everyday for handling his administrative business. Derek made work fun and always treated me with respect and kindness.

On Sunday God made the decision Derek's work here on earth was done. Heaven is a better place with Derek watching over us. Peace be with you all.

Teresa Ann Eidson-Hand



Teresa Ann Eidson-Hand - July 07, 2015 at 06:09 AM



“ Charles "Zip" Zimmerman purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of Derek Michael Denhard.



Charles "Zip" Zimmerman - July 06, 2015 at 07:05 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Denhard, Debbie, Sarah, Collin, David, and family,

I can't tell you how terribly sorry I am for your loss. Derek was a beloved friend and teammate of mine at Savannah Christian School in the 70's. We shared many great times together through triumph and travail, on the playing field, in the classroom, and away from school. I will always remember the sharpness of his wit, the generosity of his kindness, and the constancy of his devotion to his friends. Derek was a true Southern gentleman, uniformly courteous and polite to all and genuinely considerate of others. Derek's name and fame will always be very dear to me, and I know that I shall carry to my own grave nothing but the fondest recollections of him, along with a grateful appreciation for the tremendous blessing that his life was to mine.

Peace, love, and blessings of comfort to you all,

Charles "Zip" Zimmerman

Charles "Zip" Zimmerman - July 06, 2015 at 05:44 PM



“ A great guy. He always had a smile and a warm greeting. He will be missed. - Craig Gradick, SCS class of '79

craig gradick - July 06, 2015 at 05:17 PM



“ May God care for you with the angels and bless your family with peace and strength in this sudden and tragic loss.

Rev. Billy Wassner

Bill Wassner - July 06, 2015 at 03:15 PM



“ God bless you Derek. You were such a great friend and though we have lost touch over the years..I still have many fond memories of the past. I will never forget one night Derek was my "DD", as he,Sally Bruckner,David Hester and I cruised River Street. As Derek parked my car, I asked "are sure it's OK to park here?"..he reassured me that it was. Apparently not..as we came back later and my car was gone! We all went to retrieve it from some sketchy parking garage in downtown Savannah (to where it had been towed) at about 2 AM.We each chipped in to pay ..ultimately even David Hester...after Sally demanded that he take that hidden money out of his shoe! We all loved Derek and I will cherish those memories of our youth. He has left us way too young. God bless Derek's family and friends.

Sandy Ulmer

Sandy Ulmer - July 06, 2015 at 02:53 PM



“ We have known the Denhard family for years. We know him from our neighborhood and business, but my heart will always be touched because he was so patient and kind to my mother. After my father's passing - Derek helped my mom with all her financial matters at Suntrust. She was not the person in her household that normally handled all the financial matters - she was nervous. Derek made her feel comfortable by telling her he was treating her the same way he would his own mother. Thank you Derek, for making that transition easier for her. I have always appreciated your kindness. Janet and Dan O'Brien

janet - July 06, 2015 at 01:56 PM



“ We lived across the driveway from Derek and Debbie for 21 years. Recently, just before we moved, I was getting the mail from my mailbox and could not open it because someone had crashed into it. I looked around and noticed Derek walking toward me purposely, with a hammer. He banged the mailbox ONCE, turned to me and said " it's all good" and walked away. He had fixed it! He also made me laugh for days!
Derek, you will always make us smile.
Love,
Maria and Andres Downs

Maria Downs - July 06, 2015 at 01:06 PM



“ Uncle Derek was a great father and uncle to my family. There wasn't one bad thing to say about him, he was always happy as can be. He always made everyone laugh no matter what he did. He will be loved and missed by everyone. Love you Uncle Derek
Love Tyler

tyler thomas - July 06, 2015 at 12:38 PM



“ Derek was a great father, husband, and brother in law. He was always the life of the party! He was always making people laugh and smile! He will be dearly missed! I send my love to Deb, Collin, and Sarah.

Spencer

Spencer - July 06, 2015 at 12:22 PM



“ A great father, husband, and friend. He will be greatly missed by all. I would love to thank him for being a great husband to my sister and a great father to their kids. We spent a lot of good times together over their many years of marriage. I wish we could have spent more time together. He always loved to fish when he came to Savannah. He loved spending time with all of his nieces and nephews. My kids always loved joking around with him when they got together. My kids will really miss those times. One of my best memories I have was a guy trip we took in the Keys. It was a long time ago, but we had a great time. Debbie and the kids were blessed to have someone that loved them as much as he did. RIP Derek. See you again one day.

Troy Thomas

Troy Thomas - July 06, 2015 at 10:36 AM