



Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell

December 8, 1954 - April 26, 2024

Anthony (Tony) Ray Mitchell – Born December 8, 1954, and passed away suddenly on April 26, 2024.

Tony would be considered as a real “Renaissance” Man. Tony was a life-long learner and he had a wonderful way of sharing his knowledge with us, most often through his storytelling. His all-encompassing knowledge of topics ranging from music, local history, and pop culture made Tony the best of partners to have during a trivia game.

Tony was born to Mary Lou and Dick Mitchell 69 years ago in Bloomington and no matter where his adventures took him, Tony was always happiest when he was back in his hometown. Tony was the oldest of two brothers, Rick and Nick, as well as many unofficial friends turned brothers-for-life who were always welcome in the Mitchell household.

One of Tony’s strongest passions was his involvement with the Boy Scouts. Scouting was a life-long love of Tony’s from the time he joined as a young boy until his passing; Tony remained a registered scout to this day. Tony met some of his best friends through Scouts and remained close to them throughout the rest of their lives. Tony so strongly believed in the Scouts that he continued to serve as a leader in their program, lending his knowledge and guidance to young men and women.

Tony was awarded several honors through the Scouts- the most recent were the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award, recognizing the distinguished and dedicated service Tony had provided to countless young Scouts.

Tony felt a calling to serve his country and joined the Army towards the end of the Vietnam War. Tony graduated at the top of his military class and served with honor and integrity as a Military Policeman. He was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal. Tony was given many opportunities while in the Army and especially enjoyed his travels throughout Europe while he was stationed in Germany. Tony was proud of his service and demonstrated his great love of country and camaraderie by volunteering for the United Service Organization. On weekends, Tony could be found at Camp Atterbury spending time and sharing stories with the servicemen and women there.

After his service, Tony pursued his Bachelor's degree in Education from Indiana University and graduated in '83. Tony taught on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. Tony moved back to Bloomington after his time teaching but retained a fondness for the West and made many trips out there with friends and family. Tony also developed a love of Native American artwork and many wonderful pieces can be found in the home he shared with his wife, Patty.

Upon his return to Bloomington, Tony began his career at Cook Medical in 1992 as their Archivist. Tony was perfectly suited for his role as Archivist as it allowed him to combine his love of history with the love he had for his hometown. Tony retired from Cook Medical in January of 2019 and was celebrated with a wonderful retirement party that many friends, family members, and coworkers attended.

Following his retirement, Tony pursued his passion of traveling with his wife, Patty. In recent years, they have taken cruises to the Bahamas, Aruba, Jamaica, Belize, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. Those are only a few locations that they visited but as you can see, Tony and Patty shared a passion for visiting warm, tropical locales to get away from typical Indiana weather. Tony and Patty enjoyed cross-country trips in their camper to both the West and East coasts where they explored many historical sites and caught up with friends across the country.

When Tony was not traveling, he enjoyed spending time at home, relaxing with his beloved dogs Ryder and Bella while catching up on IU's sports teams. In the last few years, Tony began seriously pursuing his passion for art, becoming a prolific painter. He had a home studio built where he proudly worked and displayed his work. (While at the service, please take some time to look around today and view just a few of the wonderful pieces that Tony painted).

Tony was known for his love of gathering friends and family, so his home was always open. Visitors were greeted with a delicious, home cooked meal from Tony and Patty no matter if they were hosting one friend or ten.

Tony will be remembered by many people for his outgoing spirit, his generosity and willingness to assist others, as well as his loyalty to his family and friends through the deep love he bore them.

Let us remember Tony for the many things he was: a lover of Jimmy Buffett, a collector of art, and a man with a no-filter sense of humor.

Tony was most importantly a loving brother, father, husband, grandfather, and friend. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Tony was born to his late mother, Mary Lou Tartaglia Mitchell and his father Richard (Dick) Mitchell - 69 years ago. He is survived by his wife Patricia "Patty" Caruso-Mitchell, his son Matthew (Deb) Mitchell, daughter Megan (Nathan) Caruso-Ashworth and son Michael (Rayna) Caruso, IV. He is survived by his brothers Rick (Val) Mitchell and Nick (Lynae) Mitchell. He is also survived by the most precious loves of his life – his grandchildren Pepper Owen, Corbin Ashworth, Landon Caruso and Milo Caruso.

Funeral services for Tony will held at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Allen Funeral Home 4155 S. Old State Rd 37 Bloomington, IN with military rites provided by the Monroe County Honor Guard.

The family will receive friends on Thursday from 5-8 PM and on Friday from 12 PM until the time of service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be given to Boy Scouts of America Hoosier Trails Council <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/145/appeal/6379>

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Visitation

MAY 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

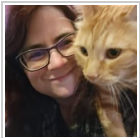
Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
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<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

KA

“ One of my favorite people I've known in all my 66, and that's a lot of people. I love you Tone, it's still very hard to write and think about this. I'm thankful for Patty, that makes it a little easier. A small gift to your favorite cause, the Boy Scouts Hoosier Trails Council. From all the comments here and on Facebook, and from what I know personally, you mean so much to so many.

Karen - May 06, 2024 at 08:26 PM



“ I knew Tony from work at Cook Medical. We ate lunch together nearly every day for a couple of years. I always looked forward to his stories and quirky sense of humor. He had an infectious laugh! I have so many memories I could share, but there is one thing he told me I'd like to share here. We were talking about how many hours I was working at the time. He said when he was sick he never looked back at his time on earth and thought he should have worked more. I will carry him in my heart forever.

Shelly Kennedy - May 02, 2024 at 10:37 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.



May 01, 2024 at 05:11 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.



May 01, 2024 at 01:45 PM



“ Jen & Bill McDonald purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.



Jen & Bill McDonald - May 01, 2024 at 11:59 AM



“ Jen & Bill McDonald planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.

Jen & Bill McDonald - May 01, 2024 at 11:59 AM



“ Kathy,Donavon and Jason Phillips purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.



Kathy,Donavon and Jason Phillips - May 01, 2024 at 11:27 AM

KP

“ Kathy,Donavon and Jason Phillips planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.

Kathy,Donavon and Jason Phillips - May 01, 2024 at 11:27 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.



May 01, 2024 at 06:47 AM

PF

“ Paige Martino and McGuire families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.

Paige Martino and McGuire families - May 01, 2024 at 06:47 AM

KA

“ Rest in peace. Love Kamren and Sam

kamren - April 30, 2024 at 08:53 PM

TP

“ The love of painting purchased the Full Heart for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.



The love of painting - April 30, 2024 at 01:00 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.*



April 29, 2024 at 09:14 PM



“ *Condolences to Patty, all the family, and friends. If I could have a wish, I would wish that you all had more time with Tony. He will forever be missed.*

Tony was a father figure and a friend. I have many great memories with Tony but there are two that stand out the most. When standing with him and Matt on the battlefield of Gettysburg during a vacation trip. Tony was such a history enthusiast, that memory really stands out. The second being Tony officiating my wedding. He did a wonderful job that day and there was no one more fitting than Tony to perform the service. The storyteller gave us stories to tell.

Wherever we go in the afterlife, may Tony's have the best Jimmy Buffett concert. May the concert have no rain nor cold.

Ray Brozell - April 29, 2024 at 07:04 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.*



April 29, 2024 at 06:39 PM

RH

“ *Randi & Jenny Harris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.*

Randi & Jenny Harris - April 29, 2024 at 06:39 PM

KM

“ *Not sure how anyone puts into words what Tony means to a person lucky enough to have met him, but I was mentored by him as a stepdad. Took any woman I really was fond of to meet Tony, and was proud to introduce them to each other. He brought a true family to the household and never let us down. Man, Tony, I hope you and your mom/Grandma T. are laughing it up and enjoying the fruits of a lives well lived.*

Kristopher Mayo - April 29, 2024 at 05:36 PM

LP

“ *My thoughts go out to Tony's family- He was one of my favorite people to talk with at Cook. He had a smile and always brought a positive attitude*

Larry Price - April 29, 2024 at 03:58 PM

CM

“ *Our condolences to all of Tony's family and had the privilege of meeting him. In addition. Tony worked briefly with my son, Steven at Scouts (Troop 148)*

Chris Miller - April 29, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JG

“ *Heaven's gain is our loss. Tony was the best. My wife and I took ballroom dancing at IU years, decades ago. He and a gal friend were there and we had a blast. You didn't care if you looked goofy. It was just fun. Many other times swapping jokes and stories. He will be truly missed. Jeff Grossnickle*

Jeff Grossnickle - April 29, 2024 at 02:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Anthony "Tony" Ray Mitchell.*



April 29, 2024 at 01:33 PM

JT

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Tony's passing. Prayers for his family! Thinking of you Rick and Vall!*

Jackie Tate - April 29, 2024 at 12:05 PM

PS

“ *To Tony's family, my most deepest sympathy for your loss. I worked with Tony before his retirement and always loved sitting and chatting with him on occasion. About a month ago, I had the chance to chat with him and his wife while we waited in an area hospital. I was so happy to see them and have that chance to visit. He was his usual happy, friendly self as always. Those of us who knew him, no matter how or for how long will certainly miss him. My best to you all. Pam Summerville*



Pam Summerville - April 29, 2024 at 09:23 AM

BO

“ Tony was one of the kindest men I knew. Patty you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Barbara Spence Orsolits - April 29, 2024 at 07:41 AM

TH

“ Patty, Matthew, Rick, Nick & all that loved him,
Tony always had a smile, a kind word, a bit of trivia to share. He will be missed. I know your hearts are shattered, but allow your memories carry you forward with love & peace
Tara Woods Hardwick ~BHSS '73



Tara Lynn Hardwick - April 28, 2024 at 10:36 PM