



Alan John Ashley

November 7, 1942 - December 28, 2023

Alan John Ashley, revered husband, father, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away early morning on Thursday, December 28, 2023. A full-hearted, hardworking, and headstrong man, he did so on his terms—quietly, bravely, and with what I can only imagine was a soul considerably at peace and full of love for friends and family here and those he is surely with now.

Alan was born in Burlington, Vermont on November 7, 1942 as the second child in a family of boys. As a child, his family escaped the cold to make Jacksonville, Florida their home. He was unashamedly himself in all respects, with much of who he was as a man borne of his childhood interests. He used to chase birds around the yard of his home—a hobby that eventually led to his being named (by himself) as Southwest Georgia's greatest birdwatching athlete. His competitive brothers, Garth, Dwayne, Kim, and Keith, contributed to his lifelong love of sports. He fiercely dedicated that love to the Braves, Bulldogs, and the youth and college teams of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Alan met Peggy in Jacksonville. They have since been married for 57 years, standing as a powerful testament to true love and the devotion that two people can and should have for one another. From his early days of anxiously waiting for

Peggy to get out of nursing school for the day, to a late evening dance they shared in the kitchen on the eve of their fiftieth anniversary, Alan remained committed to the type of storybook romance that reminds the rest of us that real happiness is something that is found most abundantly in the arms of the person you love. They had four children, Paula, Christine, Scott, and John. Alan was as committed a father as he was a husband, believing deeply in the importance of involved parenthood and being a strong father figure in the lives of his children. He encouraged his kids to pursue knowledge, experience, athleticism, and a love of family. Alan was always the best thing a father and a husband can be—enthusiastically present and deeply proud. His commitment to family was infectious, making him the pillar of a large, close, and loving family of four children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Every person in his life knows him well, has their own stories to share about him, and maintains a vast network of treasured memories of him—a testament to the care he took to be an immeasurable part of his extended family.

Alan retired after serving in the United States Navy and as a contractor at the Albany Marine

Corps Logistics Base. Unwilling to slow down, he hit his stride in life post-retirement. He traveled the world to visit family and search for birds to check off his carefully maintained life list. He was a loved and active member of St. Teresa's Catholic Church, The Albany Audubon Society, and the YMCA, as well as a frequent volunteer at the Flint Riverquarium aviary. He could be found, more often than not, down a muddy road in a backwoods wildlife refuge checking on Prothonotary warbler houses or calling out for owls. Many of his movements could be timed by the spring and fall migration, and he seldom missed an opportunity to share his love for the outdoors with anyone.

Alan was a man who rarely took himself seriously. Most people might know him better for his quirks than anything else. If you were lucky enough to come over for dinner, you may have seen his collection of self-preserved bird skins

which he enjoyed proudly displaying for unsuspecting guests at the dinner table. He spoke his own language—an amalgamation of French, gibberish, and lines from nonsensical poems he memorized. Sarcasm and wit were his love languages, and even those who knew him best often couldn't tell if he was serious or not unless he expressed his sincerity with the ever important, "Incum dinkum." Alan was surely either the funniest or the most uncomfortable stranger you could ever meet on the birding trail or at the local Krispy Kreme. Most importantly, if you did meet him, he would be sure to remember your name and make you feel like you were the best of friends the next time he ran into you.

Alan's passing leaves behind a monumental legacy of love, laughter, and goodwill in the hearts of more people than even he could ever imagine. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, their four children, and his brothers, Dwayne, Kim, and Kieth, who are forever grateful for the example he set of faith, fatherhood, marriage, and commitment to the people he loved.

For those who would like to pay their respects, a Wake Service for Alan will be held on Monday, January 1st at 6:00 p.m. at Kimbrell-Stern in Albany Georgia, and a funeral Mass will be held at St. Teresa's Catholic Church on Tuesday, January 2nd at 11:00 a.m. An interment service will be held at Greenlawn Cemetery in Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, January 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

4300 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Previous Events

Wake Service

JAN 1. 6:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Memorial Mass

JAN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Teresa's Catholic Church
421 Edgewood Ln
Albany, GA 31707-3910
(229) 439-2302

Interment Service

JAN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greenlawn Cemetery
4300 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207

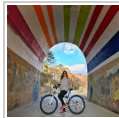
Tribute Wall

KE

“ Some folks have a lasting impact on your life- Alan definitely left his mark on me. He willingly shared his knowledge, expertise and joy for birding with me. His enthusiasm was infectious and goofy at times. Alan's wonderful sense of humor was not lost with me- as we had quite a playful banter to our conversations. His kindness was ever present. Alan's birding knowledge far surpassed any birding book I own. He was always eager to teach me and often shared sightings of birds in the area. It was not unusual for me to find a text on my phone informing me that there is a spoonbill, snow goose, wood duck... located off a dirt road in some pond. When I traveled he would always ask what I saw, and if I took any photos. Alan freely shared his warm embraces with friends and family. As I sit at the kitchen table, writing this message I counted eighteen cardinals on my crepe myrtles, and can't help but wonder if he is sending a greeting. Thank you to the Ashley family for sharing him with me. I feel fortunate to be mentored by him and will miss him.- Kathie Entz



KATHLEEN ENTZ - January 12, 2024 at 01:08 PM



Thanks so much for sharing your thoughts & memories here. My grandfather was a special person in so many ways - Heidi

Heidi Wallace - January 29, 2024 at 02:16 AM

DP

“ Working at MCLB it was a pleasure to know Alan. He was a co-worker we all respected.
Asking the Lord's Blessings of Peace and Comfort for Alan's Family.
Dianne w. Pitts

Dianne E. Pitts - January 08, 2024 at 12:20 PM

GM

“ Dear Peggy, Alan called me a few days before the new year. So good to hear his voice. I will miss him as many others will. Loved birding with him and all Albany birders. Love , Glenda Merrill

Glenda Merrill - January 06, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Alans passing. It's been years since I've seen him, but often he is thought of— his ability to identify so many birds, especially unseen owls, just by their sounds. I met him as many did - at an Audubon meeting. It sounds like he was as focused on family as he was on birds!

May God bless you as you learn to live without his physical presence. May you treasure the memories and sense his presence through his many lasting influences.

Linda Appleman - January 04, 2024 at 10:31 AM

KJ

“ Karen J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alan John Ashley.

Karen J. - January 04, 2024 at 09:15 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.*



January 02, 2024 at 04:13 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.*



January 01, 2024 at 11:37 PM



“ *Alan was one of the first people I met in Albany 4 years ago .I said that's a Canadian goose, he gave me a strange expression and stated Verna that goose has never been to Canada. He invited me to an Audubon meeting. I showed up months latter and he took my hand like I was his long lost sister, so glad I came.I could see his spirit shine behind his eyes, he is a most rare soul. Sorry for your loss. Verna LaFollette Davis.*

verna davis - January 01, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ *Thomas H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alan John Ashley.*

Thomas H. - January 01, 2024 at 02:04 PM

DW

“ I remember Alan from working with the publications section at MCLB, Albany GA. He was always a gentlemen and he did have an unusual quirkness about him. But he really loved his job.



Dollie Jones Whiting - January 01, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.



January 01, 2024 at 09:01 AM

PS

“ Deepest sympathy to Peggy and family in the loss of Alan. We knew him from Albany Audubon and always have been amazed at his expertise in "all things birds." From identification by sight, sound, or habitat, Alan was a storehouse of information, which he graciously shared with all. He will be greatly missed and has left a huge void in our organization. Pat and Ron Simpson

Pat Simpson - December 31, 2023 at 07:35 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.



December 31, 2023 at 02:23 PM

SP

“ Peggy, I am so sorry for your loss. My heart breaks for you and your family. Please know that I will be keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything you need, anything I can do for you, I'm just a phone call away.

Sheila Payne - December 31, 2023 at 02:18 PM

NL

“ Alan was a gentle soul and we always loved seeing him at Church. Eternal rest grant to him and prayers for his family.
Thomas & Nancy Long

Nancy Marie Long - December 31, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Roy Cohutta - December 31, 2023 at 08:23 AM



Photo: Alan Ashley at St. George Island 16 April 2010.

Roy Cohutta - December 31, 2023 at 08:25 AM

SM

“ Dear Peggy, I was so sad to hear of the passing of your lifelong love Alan. You shared such a lovely life together and enjoyed each other's company and your family so much, I know this loss is so painful for you. Please know of my prayers for you and all your family as you go through these difficult days ahead.

Sandy McCorvey - December 30, 2023 at 09:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Alan John Ashley.

December 30, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.



December 30, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ Jason and Melissa Hammock planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alan John Ashley.

Jason and Melissa Hammock - December 30, 2023 at 04:31 PM



“ Jason and Melissa Hammock purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Alan John Ashley.



Jason and Melissa Hammock - December 30, 2023 at 04:31 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.*



December 30, 2023 at 04:10 PM



“ *Dear Peggy,
Lou and I are so sorry to hear about Alan's passing. You both have had a romance and marriage that has been heaven sent and stands as an example for all. Our loving care goes out to you and your family. Prayers for all.
Jan Janczewski*

Jan Janczewski - December 30, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Peggy so sorry to hear of Alan's passing. My prayers for you and your family.
Eugenia Lane*

Eugenia Lane - December 30, 2023 at 11:26 AM



“ *Peggy, I am so sorry for your loss. Anyone who saw you and Alan together could see the love story the two of you shared. Praying God's Peace and Comfort surrounds you and your family. Much love.*

Debra Knight - December 30, 2023 at 10:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alan John Ashley.*



December 30, 2023 at 12:10 AM



“ *Matt and Amy Corriere planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alan John Ashley.*

Matt and Amy Corriere - December 29, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ *Matt and Amy Corriere purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Alan John Ashley.*



Matt and Amy Corriere - December 29, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ *Alan Ashley was the best of the best. So sad for your loss and have so many fond memories of him from school, church, the YMCA, cub scouts, vacations, and on and on. He had a wonderful sense of humor, did some of the worst dancing I have ever witnessed at John and Kelly's wedding, and was loved by everyone who knew him. Our prayers are with the Ashley family as you mourn his passing and celebrate his life.*

Matt Corriere - December 29, 2023 at 07:27 PM

BW

“ *Peggy & Family=Our prayers are with all!
Both Danny & I enjoyed knowing Alan!
Brenda Gail & Danny Wall (Leesburg, GA.)*



Brenda Gail & Danny Wall - December 29, 2023 at 06:23 PM