



## Benjamin Bright Shellhaas

December 2, 1997 - December 31, 2021

Benjamin Bright Shellhaas, 23, of Athens, Georgia passed away suddenly and unexpectedly yet peacefully while asleep Monday afternoon, November 29th, 2021 in Athens, Georgia.

Ben was born December 2, 1997 and grew up in Albany, Georgia. He was a forestry student at The Warnell School of Forestry at The University of Georgia. He loved attending classes in one of his favorite places in Athens, Whitehall Forest. While at UGA, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Order and the SAF Forestry Club. Ben also attended ABAC his freshman year where he was named to the President's List. He graduated from Deerfield-Windsor School in Albany in 2016 where he made many lifelong friends. Ben was a member of Porterfield United Methodist Church and attended YoungLife Albany. Ben was scheduled to graduate from UGA in December 2022 and had recently been accepted to UGA Study Abroad South Pacific program.

Ben worked as the Youth Director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in 2018. Ben continued to counsel youth at Dogwood Acres Summer Camp in Chipley, Florida for two years which further led to his fascination and love of Forestry. Ben was an athlete and loved playing golf. While in high school he excelled in soccer and basketball and he ran cross country. He especially enjoyed any opportunity to coach younger kids.

As a child, Ben had a unique ability to think outside the box and his natural curiosity about all things was a source of great pride to his parents. Ben was a big thinker and lover of life. Ben passionately continued to play golf as often

as he could. His favorite golf partner was his twin brother Ethan and the frequent battle for the lowest score was always fought for. He also enjoyed golfing with his older brother Sam, his Father, his cousins, and his friends. Ben has, inarguably, the best golf swing in the family. Ben was a joy to be around and made the most insightful comments on any given topic; he always had a surprisingly well thought out opinion that was deep and textured for someone so young. We will mourn him with our whole hearts and every fiber of our bodies and souls. His curiosity at the complex miracle of the sciences and nature coupled with his faith in God reminds us of the many interesting conversations he was known for in "The Shellhaas Clan". Ben was a unique soul and a friend to all, his eyes were bright with sincerity and kindness. His energy and humor would light up a room just by walking in with his "laid back" infectious presence. Ben was always so present and intentional when having a conversation which is a rare trait to have in this world. Ben's best friend was his younger twin brother Ethan. The love shared between them was a source of deep happiness for almost 24 years. They will always be best friends and brothers. He loved his parents well, he loved and laughed with his sister and brothers in a sincere and passionate way that only he was capable of. The love he showed his "GiGi" was a true gift to her from God. Ben was so passionate about life and love and if he loved you, you knew it. Ben was adventurous in life, bold yet faithful in spirit and those who loved him were all blessed when he was near.

Ben loved the seven cats and two dogs he grew up with. Ben thoroughly enjoyed eating, especially spaghetti, Mexican food and The Red Bar. He loved sea kayaking and would paddle so far out that you lost sight of him. He loved watching The Office and Marvel Movies. Ben and his sister Sarah enjoyed a passion for music, especially the saxophone. We have many fond family memories of skiing, rafting and so many trips to Santa Rosa Beach. We were fortunate to have just spent six glorious days at the beach over Thanksgiving with our Baltimore family where he proved to be a master charades player. We were graced and blessed by his presence, his humor and his always famous

pumpkin pies.

Ben is survived by his parents, Steve and Patti Shellhaas, his siblings, Sarah, Sam and Ethan, grandmothers Lee Don and Carolyn Shellhaas, aunts and uncles Cindy (Chris) Dyer, Baltimore, MD Scott (Ann) Shellhaas, Atlanta, GA, Andrew Cox, Denver, CO and Lori (Greg) Battle and his cousins Will and Colin Dyer (Baltimore, MD), Nathan, Matthew and Noah Shellhaas (Atlanta, GA) and Kyle Law (Savannah, GA). He was preceded in death by his Grandfathers, Donald Dale Shellhaas, George Dale Don, James Lee Cox (Boulder, CO) and his great Grandmother and namesake, Vernell Bright Garrett (Andersonville, TN).

A memorial service will be held Monday, January 10th, 2021 at 5:00 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Dr. William Dr. "Biff" Coker and the Reverend Dr. Sam Henderson will officiate. The family will receive friends from 4:00 - 5:00 PM at the church. Those desiring may make donations in Ben's memory to Whiz Kids Georgia, Inc., Whitehall Forest at the Warnell School of Forestry at UGA, Dogwood Acres Retreat (Chipley, FL), YoungLife Albany or a charity of choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 10. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2126 W. Edgewater Dr.  
Albany, GA 31707

## Memorial Service

JAN 10. 5:00 PM (ET)

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2216 W. Edgewater Dr.  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Linda and I are saddened to hear about the loss of Benjamin. Wishing you memories that ease your loss and love that helps to heal your sadness. We will continue to pray for the entire family.

Joe and Linda Shellhaas

Joseph W Shellhaas - January 24, 2022 at 02:20 PM

JS

“ Linda and I are saddened to hear about the loss of Benjamin. Wishing you memories that ease your loss and love that helps to heal your sadness. We will continue to pray for the entire family.

Joe and Linda Shellhaas

Joseph W Shellhaas - January 24, 2022 at 02:19 PM

LS

“ So sorry to hear of Ben's passing. We just saw this online. Debbie was searching for something. Please know that we are praying for your family. I am so sorry. Lee shellhaas

lee shellhaas - January 23, 2022 at 09:00 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Benjamin Bright Shellhaas.



January 17, 2022 at 04:03 PM

KB

“ I remember Ben from our playgroup days. The four Shellhaas kids were always so fun and I loved watching them play with my daughters and all the other children. Our deepest sympathy to the whole family, and all who knew him. May all your wonderful memories sustain you during this most difficult time. Love from Karen and Randy Buss, and daughters Heather and Lydia.

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**Karen Buss** - January 12, 2022 at 11:32 AM

MB

“ I've known Ben since the beginning of high school through playing soccer and running cross country together. I always looked up to him as a role model, and he was always someone who could make me laugh until my stomach hurt. I was deeply saddened to hear the news. He was a joy to everyone around him and I know he will be watching over all of us from Heaven. Rest easy Ben, we love you.

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**Mason Brown** - January 10, 2022 at 03:19 PM

PB

“ We are so thankful to have known Ben and watched him grow up. We have so many good memories of he and Mason being friends and playing sports together. All of those soccer games and cross country meets were some of the very best days! We are heartbroken along with your family for the loss of Ben. Please know that we will continue to hold you close in our thoughts and prayers in the days to come. Ben was a joy to those around him and he will be forever missed.

*Love, Paula & J.I. Brown*

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**Paula Brown** - January 10, 2022 at 03:16 PM

PG

“ I am very thankful that UGA brought Ben into my life and it was a pleasure getting to know him over the years. Whether it was talking golf or our favorite movie quotes, he was truly a joy to be around. I will never forget the memories we shared and will always hold them close. Rest easy, Shelly.

Patrick Gunnels - January 10, 2022 at 01:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin Bright Shellhaas.



January 10, 2022 at 06:47 AM

JM

“ We were saddened to hear about Ben. It was a joy to see the twins running around together when they were little cheering on Sam and Sarah at their events. The Shellhaas family always showed their love for one another. All our thoughts and prayers are will all of you.

Love,  
Paul, Julie, Michael, Chris and Nick Michas

Julie Michas - January 09, 2022 at 07:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin Bright Shellhaas.



January 08, 2022 at 06:52 PM

ES

“ *I met Ben when I first got to UGA. He was instantly one of the nicest and most caring guys I had met and always had a way to brighten any room he was in. There will always be a void that will never be filled. You will be severely missed, Shelly. Rest In Peace.*

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**Elliott Stroud** - January 08, 2022 at 10:24 AM

“ Ben was one of my best friends ever since I met him freshman year at UGA, and I quickly learned that he was one the most selfless people I have ever met. He is the type of person who would randomly call me if I had not seen him during Christmas break or Summer just to check-in and ask how I was doing. He would also call me anytime he was coming through Atlanta to see if I wanted to grab a bite to eat or golf.

Ben quickly introduced me to the game of golf and is the reason that my drives no longer go through house windows. Playing golf will never be the same for me again as Ben was the person who really introduced me to golf and instilled a passion in me for the game. I will never forget my first ever birdie because it was when just me and Ben were golfing. That is the only hole of golf that I have ever beat Ben in, which I vividly remember because I celebrated for about 20 minutes and held up everybody playing behind us. After that, Ben made sure never let me beat him in a hole of golf again. Although I don't think I ever came within 15 strokes of beating Ben in golf, I will cherish and always remember those memories of getting destroyed by him in golf.

Throughout the five years that I was blessed to know Ben, he taught me so many lessons and made me such a better person. I could go on for pages about the things that Ben taught me, but as I have thought more about Ben's legacy the last few weeks, I keep coming back to the word selfless, “concerned more with the needs and wishes of other than with one's own; unselfish.”

These were the values Ben lived by and a quality that I admired so much about him. Ben really did care about other people as I experienced and witnessed this countless times. Even if I tried to hide it, Ben was always the only one who could tell if I had had a bad day and would always go out of his way to cheer me up. No matter how bad of a day Ben had, it didn't matter, because his concern was always bringing happiness to others. It is a way that I strive to live because of the lessons Ben taught me.

*Ben also exemplified a hard worker and a self-made man. He usually took 18+ hours of classes (a lot more than a normal course load) while also working at Five Bar and as a door dash driver. He never complained about taking extra classes or working, and his hard work and motivation rubbed off on other people.*

*I will miss you forever Ben and will never forget the lessons you taught me.*

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**Cameron Self** - January 07, 2022 at 10:42 PM

MP

“ *To know Ben was to know joy and friendship. He was an incredible person and cared selflessly for other people. I will never forget the times we spent together. Rest easy Shelly I can't express how much you are missed.*

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**Michael Perrine** - January 07, 2022 at 07:46 PM

MW

“ *Ben was an incredible friend and the light of my day any time I was able to spend time with him. Rest In Peace Shelly you'll be sorely missed*

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**Max Wagner** - January 07, 2022 at 07:28 PM



“ *<a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518" target="\_blank">Memorial Trees</a> was purchased for the family of Benjamin Bright Shellhaas.*

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January 07, 2022 at 01:25 PM

DU

“ *You guys are in my heart, thoughts & prayers 🙏 Love, Duster 🌊*

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**Duster** - January 06, 2022 at 12:44 PM

KI

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



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**Kimbrell-Stern** - January 05, 2022 at 04:42 PM

DI

*Wow! Wonderful video....I feel like I know Ben, although I only met him as a baby. What great memories you have as an incredible family. Ben was so loved by so many and lived his life like we all wish we would. Sending love and prayers to all of you.  
Diane and Kevin Grierson*

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**Diane** - January 24, 2022 at 01:16 PM

JM

“ *We're so sorry. Ben and Ethan will always be etched in my mind being together. I hope the Shellhaas family knows the Murphy family has them in their prayers. We'll always remember the Shellhaas clan from Albany Dixie and Deerfield-Windsor. Ben is in a peaceful place now and God is watching over the Shellhaas family. Ya'll continue to let the good Lord shine his light on you.*

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**Jackson Murphy** - January 04, 2022 at 09:13 PM

HM

“ I remember Ben. He was in my fifth grade class at Deerfield. I was in my mid twenties then. He was so sweet and easy to be around. If I was out one day, it was Ben who asked about me and where I was. He liked to feel connected to the people around him. Ben will make a great guardian angel. He will be with all of us in this community. Love to all the Shellhaas family. And a big hug to Ethan.  
From Mrs. McLendon

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**Haley McLendon** - January 04, 2022 at 05:36 PM

TL

“ Each member of our family had the joy of being either a teammate, a coach, or a fan of Ben's through Dixie baseball, Upward & YMCA basketball, and YMCA & Deerfield soccer.  
He was the ideal teammate because he lightened everyone's load with his infectious smile and easy going manner.  
He was truly a reflection of his wonderfully close and loving family, and we will always miss him.

*Tommy & Virginia Langstaff and family*

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**Tommy Langstaff** - January 04, 2022 at 03:36 PM