



Mr. Gordon Van Presley Obituary

December 19, 1951 - August 7, 2014

A Memorial Service for Gordon Van Presley, known to his friends as "Van", will be held at Kimbrell Stern Chapel, Saturday, August 23 at 3:00. Visitation will be Friday night at 6:00 at 1112 Glenview Road and at Kimbrell Stern an hour before the service.

Mr. Presley died Thursday, August 7 at Willson Hospice House, following a lengthy illness. He was born in Hempstead, NY to an Air Force family that moved many times. His father was Maj. James Boyd Presley, Jr. of Scottsboro, Ala., and his mother was Margaret Corbett Presley of Deridder, La. He is survived by his wife, Nancy J. Presley of Albany, sons Asa Nathan Leffer and Forrest Elias Leffer of Athens, formerly of Albany, and Corbett Marks Presley, Albany; brothers James Boyd Presley III of Huntsville Ala., Jeff Corbett Presley of Albany, and sister Vivian Presley Gunter of Huntsville; brothers-in-law Chuck Jones of Albany, Elliott Jones of Atlanta, Bill Willson of Atlanta, George Bancroft of Alpharetta; sisters-in-law Bonnie Presley of Huntsville, Susan Willson of Atlanta, Jody Bancroft of Alpharetta, Amy Jones of Albany and Melissa Thurmond of Atlanta; Mother-in-law Jo Elliott Jones, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Presley graduated from Westover High School in 1971, worked odd jobs to make enough money to drive an old car to Humbolt County, Ca. to study Transcendental Meditation with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He was a strong believer in the teachings of Jesus and practiced TM daily the rest of his life. He settled in Albany and worked variously as a garbage man, a butcher, a dog

obedience trainer, a land surveyor, a piano technician and a high school math teacher and soccer coach. His brother, Jim, bought Zoellner Music Company and subsequently sold it to Van, who renamed it Albany Keyboard Specialist. Van could singlehandedly move your grandmother's piano out of your attic down three flights of stairs and restore it inside and out. He tuned pianos for many local churches, piano teachers, pianists and visiting stars.

He graduated from Darton and earned a degree in Math from Albany State, graduating with the highest grade point average in the department. He went on to earn a Masters Degree in Math Education from Georgia Southwestern and taught math at Dougherty and Westover High Schools, coaching soccer at both schools.

A life-long Do-it-Yourselfer, endurance athlete and adventurer, Van Presley was a triathlete, kayaker and a long-distance bicyclist, specializing in centuries (100-mile rides). He was an active member of the Pecan City Pedalers.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Albany Community Hospice, in gratitude for their kindness and service. We particularly appreciate the home hospice nurses, and our own Leslie Sellers.

A life is not measured by its length.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Gordon Van Presley Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. Gordon Van Presley Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Nancy, I am so sorry to learn of your loss. I pray that God will comfort you and your family and give you strength to face each new day.*

May God bless you, comfort you, and hold you in His arms.

Penny

penny p. embryo - suwanee, GA - childhood friend - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Van was a wonderful man and you were lucky to have him if only for the time that you did. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Adalyn Smith Watts - Atlanta, GA - friend - August 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ I'm afraid I don't have many memories of my Uncle in his later years.

My memories of Uncle Van go back to when I was under six.

My family was over at my Granny's house, all my cousins were there.

Margret, Kyle, my younger brother Seth and I were all in the back yard playing and having a great time. " We were having a great time because "Uncle Dan" (some of us couldn't pronounce our v's yet) the kiddy man was playing with us.

Silly Uncle Dan was running around with us, and whipping all the young ones into a frenzy.

He would grab our hands and twirl us around so fast our feet would lift the ground.

He would bring the dogs over to sit in our laps. He would make funny faces to get us to laugh.

At one point, one of the young boys was using a stick to hit my Granny's tree.

Most grown ups would have started to yell at the child.

Uncle Van started laughing and saying, "Yes, kill Granny's tree. Kill Granny's three!" The boy got the message and stopped what he was doing.

It was always fun when Uncle Van was around, we thought he was like one of us.

So much energy, so funny, so happy. And always willing to play with the crazy kids!

Sydney Presley Jowski - Madison , AL - niece - August 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ Nancy,

I'm so sorry to hear about Van and didn't realize it in yoga class or I would have said something. While I only met him a few times, he was a fascinating person and I wish we could have talked more. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.
Whit

Whit Duskin - August 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ Aunt Nancy:

I am very sorry for your loss, I am thinking of you.
Fiona

Fiona Thérèse - Tallahassee, FL - relative - August 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FN

“ Nancy, a beautiful person whom I would love to have at least met. God be with all of you and share each other's comfort.

Frani Boberg - Farmville, NC - Acquaintance of Nancy - August 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Nancy,

We were so saddened to hear of Van's passing. You and your family continue to be in our thoughts. I just hope you're all able to find some comfort in each other and knowing Van is at peace. Take care of each other.

Sarah Bancroft Bearse and family - Lawrenceville, GA - August 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Condolences to you and your family Nancy. ??

Dana Gaskin Wenig - Shoreline, WA - Friend - August 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Mr. Presley Happened To Be Funniest Teacher At Westover High School Yes He Was A Math Teacher. But You Could Actually Tell He Cared About The Well Being Of His Student, Because Of Him I'am Better In My Math lol I Thank You Again ..

Jillian Wilson - Albany, GA - Student - August 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I'm so sad to hear of Van's passing but so happy to know that he was such a good husband and father. His life story serves to inspire. We all are lucky to have known him, and of his accomplishments. I offer a prayer of peace, love and comfort to all of the family.

Mike Tassone - New Hyde Park, NY - Friend of the family - August 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I have some very happy that you two found each other. You had a relationship to celebrate and cherish and that will never end. My love is with you.

sandra moran - Kennesaw, GA - friend - August 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Nancy, Our thoughts and prayers are with you,

Tom and Marge - Blairsville, PA - friend - August 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WN

“ *Even though I can't be there, my warmest wishes and deepest sentiment are with you all through this time.*

William Hinely - Madison, AL - Nephew - August 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *I am so sorry to hear of this loss, but it sounds like he lived every single day of his life to the fullest and blessed many people richly. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time.*

Sally Warrener - Leesburg, GA - Friend - August 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Nancy:*

We grieve for your loss of this fine man, your husband. Van was a very interesting man, according to this short and honest obit. Wish I had the privilege to have known him. Dont know how he could do so many things so well, and those are the kinds of people in this world worth sitting on the porch and talking with. I believe we would have shared a lot of similar thoughts and ideas.

Its been great getting re-connected with you and your family through Facebook, if only as a vicarious experience. Also enjoyed seeing you and Van riding bicycles, kayaking, and enjoying your famiy. Best wishes to your family and all the Jones from the McKemies. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Gordon McKemie
Anchorage, KY*

Gordon and Evelyn McKemie - Anchorage, KY - friends of the Jones family - August 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Van will always be with you.*

Brenda & Larry McLeod - Albany, GA - friend - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *Dear Nancy and family of Van.*

I am saddened by the passing of Van, a long time friend.

My sincere sympathy to you and all the Presley family.

I send prayers up for the soul of Van and love and blessings for all of you..

He fought a long and painful battle, one that he could not have done without your love and support.

Rest in peace Van, we love you.

Nancy Spanfelner and family

Nancy Spanfelner - Albany, GA - Friend - August 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Dear Nancy,
I am saddened to hear of Van's passing. May God give you and all of the family strength and peace during this very difficult time.
With Love, Diane*

Diane (Dremel) Lamb - Leesburg, GA - Friend - August 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM