



Jeff S. Kithianis

June 17, 1968 - June 25, 2019

On Tuesday, June 25, 2019, Jeff Kithianis, a loving husband and father of five children passed away at his home in Myrtle Beach at the age of 51. Jeff was born on June 17, 1968, in Charlotte N.C. to Betty and Stavros Kithianis. Mr. Kithianis was a 1991 graduate of the University of South Carolina-Coastal Carolina College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and held various positions throughout the years he worked. Jeff dedicated over 20 years of his life to the food service industry in his family's restaurants, as well as over five years to the pest control management industry at Lane's Professional Pest Elimination.

For the entirety of his 51 years on this earth, Jeff was an educator; he taught writing camps at Abiding Village, tutored in the Avid program at Conway High School and substituted at many local schools, including Coastal Leadership Academy and Bridgewater Academy. Jeff loved sharing his wealth of eclectic information and complex opinions to everyone he came in contact with; however, his deepest passions and innermost thoughts lay in the countless leather-bound Moleskine journals that he carried with him everywhere he went. Even days before he left us, he wrote about everything, including his 14 month battle with the nefarious beast named cancer. Jeff was killed when he rushed into a burning orphanage in Russia to save a group of adorable children. Or maybe when his liver failed. Or maybe not. We all know how he liked to tell stories. "More on that later..."

In many entries, Jeff wrote about his experience with pancreatic cancer. On May 26, 2019, he wrote, "The cancer has spread to my liver. This is bad. It's about the worst thing that could happen. But my team is proceeding without pause. It's bad, but not a death sentence. So we're moving on. It's gonna be a hot and uncomfortable summer... what fun."

Jeff never lost his spirit, even when faced with the prospect of death, his essence remained un-weathered, witty, dry, but always hopeful. His faith carried him through many rough days. His love of music carried him through others. He touched the lives of

numerous people. He loved his entire family with his whole heart. He was a Christ follower and wrote much about faith. He loved every child he met. His friends were just as important as family. He was a superhero. That is why the memory of his life will be cherished and remembered forever.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents, Stavros and Betty; and his first wife, Andrea Carden Kithianis. He is survived by his adored wife, Deb of Myrtle Beach; his amazing five children, Coralie, Stavros, and Trinity all of Myrtle Beach, Thomas of Wisconsin, and Jourdahn (Brian) of Myrtle Beach, his beloved first granddaughter, Esmeralda Rose of Myrtle Beach; his incomparable brother, George (Thomas) of Mt. Pleasant; his sister and best friend, Carrie (Mikell Anne) of Charleston; and several cousins, nieces and a nephew.

And we were blessed to learn many valuable lessons from him. Hebrews 12:1 and 2

The family will receive friends at Christ United Church, 2901 Fantasy Way, Myrtle Beach on Friday, July 5, 2019 from 4:00-4:45 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 5:00 p.m. officiated by Rev. Jeff Dunn to celebrate his life. A reception will follow at the church.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Carolina Forest Chapel, is serving the family.

Events

JUL **Visitation** 04:00PM - 04:45PM

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Christ United Church

2901 Fantasy Way, Myrtle Beach, SC, US, 29579

JUL **Memorial Service** 05:00PM - 06:00PM

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Christ United Church

2901 Fantasy Way, Myrtle Beach, SC, US, 29579

Comments



“ First I must add a little back story...I met Drea (Jeffs first wife) in 1996 scheduling their pest control over the phone...she was new to the area. We clicked and talked here and there about me being a mommy and her wanting to be. We never met in person until 1999 when I again had called to schedule their pest control and she said “come over”...Stavros was almost six months old when we finally got our schedules together. We went through MS diagnosis, autism diagnosis, adhd diagnosis, my divorce, iep's. We had some good times, some great times and the usual silly friend arguments, but she was my person. When Greys Anatomy started we fell in love with the show and we watched it together on our phones regularly. That last season we watched it every night either on the phone or me at their house sitting on the bed with her because by then they had moved less than two miles away from me so I could help if her MS flared up. Honestly I barely knew Jeff, he was this guy in the background who would constantly write in a journal, stuck in his head. The day Jeff called me and told me, “She’s gone”, was what I thought the worst day of my life. I felt that way when my Dad died in 2010 and again when my Grandfather passed away A few years later. But June 4th and the days that led up to June 25th of this year were by far the ugliest and most beautiful days of my life. June 25th has been by far the worst day and July 5th the hardest day ever. So here’s a little story from our past that I wanted to share...

I’ll never forget I had just gotten out of the hospital in May 2007 and Eileen Cyrus had sent me a card. Jeff was my ride home, he had silently slid into Dreas space as my best friend and I hadn’t even realized it. We were talking and out of the blue he said “What do you think if in 2 or 3 years we get married?” (I think I choked on my drink). I said, “Well, it has crossed my mind”. That was it for the moment, we were at CVS picking up my prescription and I was still feeling pretty icky. As we got back in the car I decided I should call Eileen at Habitat for Humanity and let her know that I had been discharged. Eileen mentioned that they would be breaking ground on my house in February of 2008; that was a surprise as I thought I’d be waiting a lot longer; I hesitantly asked her, “ What happens if I get married”? “You wait until you get your house”, she said. “Well”, knowing they house was going to be a small three bedroom and I had Jourdahn and Thomas I said “what if he has three children”? Eileen chuckled and said, “You’ll need to get married before we break ground to get a bigger house and he’ll need to come in and apply very soon”! I’m sure there was more to the conversation, but that’s what stands out most. I remember closing my phone; flip phones haha, and slowly lowering it considering marriage. So I told Jeff what Eileen had said and I’ve never forgotten his response, “Well...(long, thoughtful pause)...whether we get married now or a few years from now I believe the outcome will be the same”. We got engaged mid-morning May 11, 2007 at Huntington Beach on the dunes and the roller coaster began. We were married in Jamaica December 31st, 2007 to make sure we would be married in time for the groundbreaking which actually didn’t happen until May 2008 and in July we moved in. Things weren’t always perfect, we definitely weren’t perfect but the journey was worth it.

The last six months of Jeffs life he made sure I knew how much he loved me and they were perfect.

Christmas Day will be six months. New Years Eve would have been 12 years and will

never be the same.

Bahbalou I'll keep holding on, defy gravity, breathe in and out, and wait for your love again one day in heaven.



Deb Kithianis - November 22 at 06:02 AM



“ My first time ever meeting Jeff I was literally stuck with a flat tire on the side of the road at night with my daughter just so happened he helped and he made sure after struggling for a long time to help me that I was not stuck on the side of the road made sure I got home. Did i mention it was a Volkswagen with a lock on the durn bolts. He was determined to make sure me and my daughter was okay. God bless you Jeff. Until this day me and my daughter remember well the frustration of being stuck and literally not knowing what we was going to do until you came I wish I still lived close by I would love to show my respect to you and your wonderful wife deb :)

Kayla Reid - July 05 at 08:14 AM



“ I am so sorry I cannot be present at Jeff's funeral, due to my work schedule...Jeff and I met when Coralie was in Kindergarten...I so wish I could give her and other members of Jeff's family a loving hug today...What I can say, knowing Jeff is in Heaven, as my parents are, is that he is only "a breath away", and you will experience "signs" and "awarenesses" of his spiritual presence, which will warm and comfort your hearts...I love you Coralie...Praying for God to shower you and your family with His loving peace and grace...Eileen Gillespie xox

Eileen Gillespie - July 05 at 08:02 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jeff S. Kithianis.



July 03 at 02:48 PM



“ My husband Jordan and I first met Jeff at Christ United several years ago. Something that always made an impression on me was that Jeff never failed to be INTERESTED. In a world full of superficial thought, words and relationships, Jeff stood out as someone who gave the gift of thought to everything and everyone he encountered. He cared about the people he met. He learned something unique about each one. He sought to understand the everyday mysteries of life. Rather than being a slave to public opinion, Jeff was committed to using the mind God gave him to examine the world and then choose the best path for himself. Theologian Richard Foster said that there is a growing need in our world for deep people. I know that Jeff inspired many others to take that road - it's a good thing because we have lost a beautifully deep person. Our prayers remain with Deb and the whole family.

Joan Matejceck - July 03 at 10:48 AM



“ My favorite memory off Jeff is the way met at Christ United. Stavros and Trinity befriended Elizabeth and our families became instant friends. My second favorite is from the Wal Mart trip when Jeff and Deb had both Makenzi and Elizabeth. We all learned that day that tomatoes and toilet paper are two very different items.

I love all of you



Tami Frasier - July 02 at 08:49 PM



“ I met Jeff at the College of Charleston through Sigma Nu Fraternity. We were fraternity brothers and later roommates at 326 Stinson Drive, Charleston. He was a philosopher of life then and always had time to talk about anything on your mind. I was in his first wedding in Chicago. This is where he introduced me and others to 5 Way Chili. Any time i was in MB, I would almost always see him no matter what he was up to. From Dairy Queen to Pancake house, Jeff was a perfect host and always had some smug, yet friendly, thing to say to me. Heck, he and I used to eats sacks and sacks of Krystal burgers together back in the 1990's. I miss him being in the world. God speed.



Scott Adams - July 02 at 04:56 PM



“ I met Jeff at Myrtle Beach High School. We were in the same English Class. (Mrs. Wallace). He was always a good friend. He helped those School Days be brighter.

Tina Smith Lewis - July 02 at 12:52 PM



“ My memory of Mr. Jeff, as my Samuel calls him, is how he was always right there through all the Christmas choir performances. Lifting, tugging, helping in so many ways and especially behind the scenes. Never once did we hear a groan or word of complaint uttered from his lips. His love and devotion for Ms Deb was so profound and it showed through in all of his efforts. I've never in my life seen a man so dedicated to whatever his wife was doing than Jeff!

Staci Cooper-hoffmann - July 02 at 08:07 AM



“ So many memories, I miss you.-Deb



Deb Raines-Kithianis - July 02 at 05:46 AM



“ I was in Jeff's writing class at abiding village and he inspired me to write some really goofy poetry like I once wrote one about rats lmao. I do still write and I always think of how much he encouraged me to write anything no matter how funny, or serious.

Alyss Rose - July 01 at 01:14 PM



“ Although a single memory could not even begin to explain the complexities of who my Dad was I believe that each memory touches on an increment of the whole impact he has already pressed into my soul forever. I'd like to share one of my very first recollections as a child. I was very young, probably 5 or 6 and my Dad took Stavros, Trinity, and I to Myrtle Waves for the very first time. This was a huge deal and I was EXCITED. Albeit, it would not be a walk in the park for me or my Dad. First, we went to Walmart and bought swimsuits before heading to the park. When I say I was excited, I truly mean that I could not contain how ready I was to be inside the park. With that being said, Stavros, Trinity, and I gave my Dad the honor of being royal pains in the a**es. Nevertheless, he marched us along while also rolling with whatever tantrums we would pitch along the way. Once inside, we reached the kiddy water playground featuring this 'giant-water-dumping-volcano' on top of the contraption. I was hooked. I knew immediately I had to reap the benefits of this and go wherever the water being poured out of this device. I ventured toward where all the kids were waiting. I was playing at the bottom while my Dad took S & T on the slides. I heard his voice so I knew he was near but I was hoping to jump right back before he noticed. Finally, after waiting for the 'volcano' to fill up... it drenched everyone in sight! Since I was satisfied I went back to get my Dad (chasing butterflies along the way, of course). Needless to say, when I reached the top everyone was gone and out of sight completely. I remember thinking he had actually forgotten about me. It was one of the scariest 15 minutes I had ever lived at that point. A very long 15 minutes later, I saw him in the distance, terrified and scanning the crowds. When he saw me, I ran to him. He grasped me and embraced me into his arms and said "I love you so much, I don't want to lose you like that ever again" and I was so happy.

For me, Jeff was the quintessential father; he was tough yet so loving, thoughtful, encouraging and never arrogant. I am so thankful for him and who has helped me become. One day I hope I can emulate a fraction of the wisdom he granted me. .



Coralie Kithianis - June 30 at 11:41 PM



“ Much love. I send my sincerest I will do my best to attend visitation if I can. I'm always here if you need someone. He lives in you

Cameron - July 01 at 02:14 PM



“ Our prayers are with you all. May Heaven's peace bring you comfort and know that Jeff--and 'Drea--are watching and caring from that place. We celebrate his life and mourn his death. Sometimes the "Circle of Life" is hard to bear, but Jeff leaves many beautiful memories behind.

Marion Martin - June 29 at 03:33 PM



“ Remember when I tried to cook fried pickles in your house and failed? I almost burned the house down but you opened all the doors to clear the smoke out and saved the day. I love you Jeff.



Kali Daniels - June 29 at 01:00 PM