



## Melvin Clifford Mounts

May 13, 1941 - March 28, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Melvin Clifford Mounts announces his passing after battling a long-term illness, on Saturday, March 28, 2020, at the age of 78 years, at his home in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

Born on May 13, 1941 in Washington, Pennsylvania to Clifford Melvin and Wilma Mounts, Mel was a 1959 graduate of Trinity High School and a 1963 graduate of Franklin & Marshall College (Lancaster, PA), where he excelled both academically and on the varsity wrestling squad. He was a proud brother of the Phi Psi fraternity.

Beginning in 1963, and continuing for over seventeen years, Mel rose through the academic and administrative ranks of Syracuse University – culminating in the position of Vice-President of Student Affairs. Among his many duties was oversight of the SU Athletic Department. During this period, he navigated the tumultuous student-faculty reaction to the Vietnam War, spearheaded the controversial rebranding of the university mascot, and oversaw the development and construction of the Carrier Dome.

Following his time at SU, Mel spent over twenty years as VP of Human Resources for Crown Uniform & Linen Service in Fall River, MA and Nashua, NH. These years were dedicated to improving relations between labor and management, supporting the overall wellbeing of the workforce, and developing best practices for all Crown operations.

Mel was an avid golfer, swimmer and tennis player and rarely started a day without completing at least one crossword puzzle. He loved athletics, was a lifelong fan of all three professional Pittsburgh sports franchises and was passionate about the Syracuse basketball program. In addition, Mel spent over a decade working on the board of the Northern Ballet Theatre, and assisting in the annual performance of The Nutcracker. A pragmatist to the end, he always enjoyed finding solutions to everyday problems he encountered in work and life.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Patti Lavoie; his children, Hillery (John) McNeill, Suzanne Morrissey, and Brian Mounts, from his first marriage to Johnna Tonkin (nee Reynolds); and his stepdaughter, Michelle Lavoie. Mel will also be fondly remembered by his six grandchildren, John Hugh McNeill III (Jack), Madelaine Morrissey (Maddy), Annie McNeill, Jacob Pribilsky, Meghan & Dylan Mounts; three step-grandchildren, Jordan, Kayleigh & Michael; and by his sister, Marlene (Robert) Finch and

her children.

A memorial service in remembrance of Mel has not been scheduled at this time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in memory of Mel Mounts to the 'Cuse Athletics Opportunity Fund. Donations may be sent to Syracuse University, 640 Skytop Road, 2nd Floor, Syracuse, NY 13244. Online donations can be made at [givetosu.syr.edu](http://givetosu.syr.edu).

# Comments

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“ Hello Patti and family,

We just learned of Mel's passing and are very sorry for your loss. Mel was a great guy, a kind mentor in business, and a good friend. I have many fond memories of Mel. When you all left NH for SC he kept up, sending a cheerful message and always talked of happiness with Patti in SC. We will always remember Mel's smile and generous, kind way. Please accept our condolences,

Nancie and Craig Jacobson, NH

**Nancie Jacobson** - June 24 at 07:53 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin Clifford Mounts.



April 03 at 09:44 AM

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“ Patti,

It has been an honor to know and work with Mel (and you) over the past 10 years, and I am deeply saddened by his passing. He was a remarkable man, always knowledgeable, but such a warm heart. Although he was often the smartest guy in the room, he would never act to impress, or diminish others. We had some good laughs about Syracuse Football and my favorite team Clemson which amongst the other things we talked about I am truly going to miss.

Although we all will miss him, we know that it can't compare to your loss. Treasure all the memories as I'm sure there are many to get you through this difficult period.

Warmest regards,  
Frank Vumbaco

**frank vumbaco** - April 01 at 10:52 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Suzanne Morrissey** - March 31 at 07:33 PM

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“ Dear Patti, We're sending our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Mel was a fantastic guy! It was easy to feel you were a friend with his magnetic smile! I remember our Nutcracker seasons and how it brought us altogether as a family. Those were some amazing times. Mel was always there to lend a hand to you and his sister-in-law Doreen! Rolling up the Marley floor & the restoration of the "Christmas tree" were all part of the fun. Brian also thought Mel was a great guy...As they got to know each other during the ballet season. Our family is thankful that we met him and he will be missed. Our thoughts are with you and your family, Patti.

**Vickie McAlpine** - March 31 at 01:44 PM

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“ Mr. Mounts was a very helpful man when we were coaching at Barrington high school with his son Brian.

**W. Griffin** - March 31 at 10:30 AM

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“ Late night dancing to the Ronnettes in an old farmhouse by the lake, shared family holidays when children were little, Syracuse, Skaneateles, watching Hilary, Suzanne and Brian grow up, losing touch as lives changed, but never forgetting our best friends.

**virginia amsler** - March 30 at 08:37 PM

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“ Working with Mel backstage at Northern Ballet Theatre was an absolute pleasure. A great man, he would do anything to help the ballet be successful. Contagious smile.

**Pat and John Cafarella** - March 30 at 07:56 PM