



Michael Stephen Parnell

January 29, 2008

Michael Stephen Parnell, 44, of Conway, died Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at Conway Medical Center. Born in Dover, Delaware, he was the fifth, and youngest, child of William F. Bill and Catherine T. Kay Parnell. Undeniably garrulous, outgoing, and extremely creative in his youth, Michael, known simply as "Quest" to his close friends, was naturally, albeit somewhat serendipitously, drawn to a career in radio & communications. Despite his humble beginnings as an intern, simply filling in for a sick friend one day, he quickly worked his way up the proverbial food-chain, gaining so much popularity with his afternoon and evening audiences as to eventually become the host of several ingenious morning shows of his own intriguingly off-beat conception. Over the years, as his career advanced, he was soon named the Operations Manager and Program Director of several differently formatted, but all notably successful, FM radio stations along the Grand Strand, and he also garnered a mantle of awards for his creative efforts in the field of advertising. Perhaps it is only fitting that, as one "Quest" all-too abruptly ended, another quest immediately began -- but one that will last for all eternity, and who's path will lead only to God's boundless love, profound joy, and everlasting peace. Michael was pre-deceased by his sister, Cynthia M. Cindy Parnell; he is currently survived by Monica Parnell, the mother of his two beautiful children, Chandler Rane Parnell, 14, and Garrett Zane Parnell, 7; his parents, Bill and Kay Parnell; two sisters, Sharyn A. Clardy and Theresa L. Teri Young, all of Conway, SC; his one elder brother, William C. Billy Parnell, of Niceville,

Florida; a great many nieces and nephews, and a multitude of close, personal, and lifelong friends, who have come together and will help one another endure this grievous and untimely loss together. Michael was an extremely passionate man. He treasured good music, good friends, and good times. Above all, though, he cherished his family. He loved those close to him wholly and completely. Throughout his entire life, and especially over these past few days, people have spoken repeatedly of Michael's inherent "selfless nature" -- this innate and uncanny ability he possessed which allowed him to give of himself so freely and openly. People have said very nice things, like; "He'd give you the shirt off his back." Or, "He had the biggest heart of anyone I ever knew." But the truth? Well, what you've just read doesn't even come close to it. Because the truth is, this wasn't simply a man who maybe had an extra button-down Polo to lend you the day you forgot to pick up your dry cleaning; nor was he just a "really nice guy," with a slightly larger-than-normal aorta. No. This was a man who, if you were stuck with him at the South Pole, during winter, in a blizzard, he would rip the Gore-Tex snowsuit from off his own torso, wrap you in it, and stand in front of you to block the ice-laden, gale-force wind with his own body, just to make sure that you weren't feeling "a little chilly." And if you knew him, then you will know this is hardly an exaggeration at all. It's just the kind of man he was. The very, very best kind. Life can be hard, oftentimes -- almost unbearable, for some. And sometimes the universe can appear to be cruel, taking a seemingly endless toll on one's will to fight, to dream -- even to live. But Michael never gave up on his family -- not once, in his entire life. His family and friends, in-kind, never gave up on him, either. They will always keep him in their thoughts, their prayers -- and their hearts -- forever. A very wise man, Ernest Hemingway, once wrote, "The world is a fine place, and worth fighting for." And he was right... especially about the second part. Services will be held at 3 PM on Friday, February 1, 2008 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, with the Reverend Jerry Howell of

Tribute Wall



“ LOL! Rest in peace 😂

Michael - September 25, 2024 at 01:35 PM



“ When I worked at Cumulus from 2001 to 2002, I had the pleasure of meeting him and working with him. He was truly one of a kind. We worked together a bit closer when we changed 93.9 from Hot AC to Sports/Talk. I will miss his kind words and I will always cherish everything I learned from him. Thank you Michael, and May God bless your family and keep you safe until we all meet again. ~James Burlington, NC###imported-begin###James Clark###imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I also had the pleasure of working with Michael at Sunny 106.5 - he was a very funny and talented guy. I was a sales assistant at the time but sometimes he would need a female voice for a commercial, and he'd ask me to go in the production room and record - I had never worked in radio before and it was the most fun at a job I've ever had. I thought it was great that he would ask the "non pros" at the station to put our voices on the radio - My thoughts and prayers are with his family. He was a special spirit who brightened many others. Cathy Bradley Rehfuss###imported-begin###Cathy Bradley Rehfuss###imported-end##

April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the privelage to work with Michael at Cumulous in Myrtle Beach. He was a very talented individual and fun to be around. He struck up a friendship with my son Shawn, and was always very kind to him while he was visiting me at work. My son called him "Mr. Pink Shoes" because Michael had a pair of shoes that had faded to a dark pink color. Michael thought that was pretty funny. Michael always talked about his kids and it was obvious how much he cared for them. A really nice man who had some demons to fight, but loved his family and friends. This is how I will remember Michael. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Michael will be missed by many. Phyllis Fludine###imported-begin###phyllis fludine###imported-end###

April 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I would like to extend my condolences to the Family of Micheal Parnell. To Monica,Chandler,Garrett and Mother,Father,Aunts,Uncles,Nieces and Nephews, I'm tuly sorry for your loss. I considered Micheal a good friend.###imported-begin###David Orlando Hairston###imported-end###

February 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I taught Mike English at Conway High School. Even then, he had skills and interest in broadcasting. I will never forget a slideshow presentation he put together with music and his voice reading Emily Dickinson's poetry. This was before the age of computers, so he had much work to go through to reach his final presentation. We were both so proud of his creation. I will never forget the impact Mike had on my classroom. I regret that we did not stay in touch over the years, for he was one of my favorite students, a unique talent. My husband and Mike were also friends, and he and I both are saddened but also uplifted by sharing our memories of Mike. Our prayers are with all of his family. Ruthie and Kevin Warren###imported-begin###Ruthie Vaught Warren###imported-end##

February 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to the Parnell family. Joe and Sandra James###imported-begin###Joe James###imported-end##

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Kay, So sorry to read of the death of your son Micharl. My deapest sympathy to you and yor family. Carol Scott###imported-begin###carol scott###imported-end##

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a sad day in radio. I have known Michael since I was a "baby DJ" and throughout the years he taught me alot. Such a tremendous talent, and an incredible voice. I guess now we know when it thunder's, it's just Michael's booming voice from heaven. The strongest memory I have is on my 18th birthday, Tom Atkinson GM of Wave 104 at the time used Michael as an example of the most valuable person in the radio station. Michael had the ability to do everything in the station, from being on the air, to answering the phones, to producing a commercial, "that is what it takes" he said "to be in radio". Since then I have made it my mission to be that person, and have shared this story with many up and comers. You will live on Michael.##imported-begin##Temple Hancock##imported-end##*

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael Parnell let me stay at his home during Hurricane Hugo after I had to evacuate from my home at the Oceanfront and was not allowed to return for several days. Not only did Michael give me shelter, he let me borrow clothes as well due to I didn't pack anything during the evacuation. Who knew Hugo was going to be so devastating. Michael didn't stop with the shelter and clothing...Since we had no electricity, Michael emptied the freezer before the food went bad and we had a huge feast. I'm glad I made the trip to SC months ago to see you and even though it was tough to see my friend suffering, we still had a great laugh remembering all the fun times we had at Wave 104 in the 80's. Peace be with you and your family! You will be missed my brother!##imported-begin##Lloyd Hocutt aka Lloyd Maxwell, LA Lloyd##imported-end##*

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I am sad. Quest was truly a good soul. He was witty, creative, smart, and funny. I have a lot of memories that make me smile. The one that stands out the most is when my daughter cast his glasses into the pond. We both attended a cook out hosted by a mutual client & friend. There was a fishing contest during the cook out. Michael was helping Chandler & Meredith bait their hooks. Meredith cast her rod, hooked his glasses, while never touching his face. He had a Remote to go to, within the next 2 hours, with a 45 minute drive to get there. Everyone knows! Quest needed his glasses. We spent the next hour looking for the glasses, finally finding them near the edge. He made it to his remote, and Meredith went on to catch the biggest fish & win the contest. I will hold these memories near. My deepest sympathy is extended to Michael's family. My sadness is shared among his friends. We have truly lost a good soul.##imported-begin##Shelly Haynes##imported-end##

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



Hi Ms. Haynes! I don't know if you remember me, but I definitely remember this day somehow! I'm Chandler Parnell. Thank you so much for your kind words. He is definitely missed.

Chandler Parnell - September 17, 2011 at 09:56 PM



“ To my friend Michael GOD'S GARDEN Author Unknown God looked around His garden And found an empty place. He then looked upon the earth And saw your tired face. He put His arm around you And lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful He always takes the best. He knew that you were suffering. He knew you were in pain. He knew that you would never Get well on earth again. He saw the road was getting rough, And the hills were hard to climb. So He closed your eyelids, And whispered, "Peace be thine." It broke our hearts to lose you, But you didn't go alone. For part of us went with you The day God called you Home###imported-begin###Cee Cee Edwards###imported-end###

January 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Michael's passing. He made me laugh years ago and will always remember him fondly.###imported-begin###Nancy Causey###imported-end###

January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Michael. He grew up with my children and they often rode together to school in a tiny little car all squished together, happy, laughing and enjoying their youth. He was so pleasant to be around. We enjoyed hearing him on the radio and were so proud of him. He truly was a natural and We loved him. These fond memories will be with our family forever. Tessa, Chrystal E. Ball, Westley Edmondson###imported-begin###Tessa Edmondson###imported-end###

January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *All of us in the radio world are saddened by the loss of our brethren, a unique talent and accomplished broadcaster has been taken away, Michael's memory lives on forever at www.thatwasradio.com##imported-begin##Kahuna##imported-end##*

January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are in shock at the unexpected and untimely loss of Michael. We send sincere and heartfelt condolences to Monica and the family.##imported-begin##Robert and Vicki Blair##imported-end##*

January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM