



Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.

APR 28, 1960 - APR 11, 2021



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Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.

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Benny Frank Hawkins, Jr. passed away on April 11, 2021, after a bravely fought illness. Benny (Ben or “Benji”) was born on April 28th, 1960, to Marie and Benny Hawkins at U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. He was born into a military family and spent his formative years traveling the world, living in England, California, and Alaska, amongst many other places. His family ultimately settled in Iowa City Iowa.

Ben received his Bachelor’s degree from New College in Sarasota, Florida. He received his MBA from University of South Florida. He also graduated from The University of Iowa with a Juris Doctorate.

Ben was a music lover and loved the beach and the sunshine. He was a wonderful and loving husband, father, son, brother and grandpa. Ben worked many jobs in his lifetime, but most recently worked for over 18 years at Tampa Morgan and Morgan, where he met his wife, Beth. Ben was known as a relaxed, calm, funny and fun-loving man and well-loved by anyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Beth, of Brandon, FL. His daughter, Rachel Reis (Jim) and grandsons, Benton and Tyson of Adel, IA. His father, Benny Sr., (Lucille) of Coralville, IA. A brother, Chris (Stan), of Arlington, TX. Bonus daughter, Kristin Segreto (Tom), bonus grandson, Nicholas of Lakeland, FL. Bonus son, Nick Meyer (Kim) and bonus grandchildren, Shay and Zachary of Tampa, FL. Ben was preceded in death by his loving mother, Marie.

Ben and Beth were prepared to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary this May. Ben loved the beach and the warm Florida sunshine. He loved to vacation in the Keys, which is where Ben and Beth spent their honeymoon. Ben and Beth loved to travel and spent many holidays traveling to and from Iowa to be with family, sometimes attending Iowa homecoming festivities. Ben loved most music, but especially blues, rock and roll, reggae and hip hop. One of their favorite things as



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a couple was to attend concerts and listen to live music. Ben also loved playing his Fender Telecaster, watching football, especially the Iowa Hawkeyes, USF Bulls and the Bucs.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Ben's Life will be held at the Brandon Elks lodge, 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon, FL 33510, on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:30. Reception to follow.

Instead of flowers, donations in Benny Hawkins, Jr.'s name can be made to the Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon, FL 33510 or the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, 3607 N. Armenia Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607.



Events


Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.

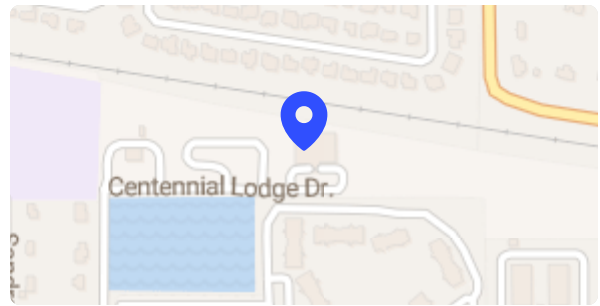
APR 28, 1960 - APR 11, 2021

Celebration of Life

 **Sunday**, May 2, 2021

 2:00 PM ET

 **Brandon Elks Lodge 2383**
800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon FL 33510





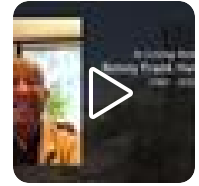
Tribute Wall

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Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes shared a **Video**.



April 25 at 8:29 AM



Dee posted:

Marie, was my dad's sister Sidney Jordan, she had 9 Siblings, two remaining. Her parents are Addie Bell Leopold - Dillard, of Louisiana. And Sidney Jordan of Tennessee. Condolences.

July 19 at 1:59 PM



Cathy Leskowics lit a candle in honor of Benny.



April 29 at 2:07 PM



Manuel H Rodriguez May 2 at 8:02 AM

Ben was like a brother to me. I will surely miss him 🙏



Anonymous sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the Hawkins family.



April 29 at 9:10 AM



Christine Rodriguez posted:

Ben lit up a room by just walking in! My prayers to Beth and family. He is certainly in a better place now and in no pain!Chris Rodriguez

April 28 at 12:07 PM



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MB

Mary Barton posted:

I will always remember Ben with a smile. I am always going to see him when I walk into the break room in the office and see him having his "pre-lunch". He is going to be missed but certainly will not be forgotten.

April 28 at 7:24 AM

TL

Tina Lafoe posted:

It's hard to believe that someone as happy, loving and friendly as Ben could be gone from this world so soon. I worked with Ben closely for most of my time at M&M, and cannot remember him ever being angry or upset. He always had a kind word or a funny joke for anyone. His laugh was infectious. My heartfelt love and support go out to Beth, Kristen, and the entire Hawkins family. My heart hurts so much for you right now. I look forward to celebrating Ben this weekend.

April 27 at 11:32 AM

DC

David Carter posted:

Ben was such a nice, easygoing guy. I really enjoyed working with him. When I first started working with him, he went out of his way to provide valuable advice and help. He will be missed.

April 26 at 11:27 AM

SK

Sumeet Kaul posted:

I had the great pleasure to work side by side with Ben for many years. His smile was contagious & his fun loving spirit was everlasting. I affectionately nicknamed him "Big Money Ben," because he helped settle cases for exceptional values. I will always remember the joy he expressed after beating me in many of our firm's bowling outings. He may have even done a victory dance :) Those were some of the best memories! In addition to work, we both loved barbecue, music & guitars & often discussed them. I can't express how much I miss & love him!! Rest in peace Ben. Love, Sumeet Kaul

April 26 at 6:33 AM

DZ

Devon Zukoski lit a candle in honor of Benny.

Ben had such an infectious sense of humor. He always made me laugh and smile when I saw him. Even when he was having a bad day. My heart hurts that he is gone.



April 26 at 3:32 AM



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Manuel H Rodriguez sent a virtual gift in honor of Benny.



April 24 at 4:56 PM



Caitlyn Mosher posted:

Ben loved being outside, sunshine, music, and good company. Anytime I was with him, we were doing at least one of these things. Ben lived life the way he loved it and that's what all of us should strive for. Rest easy in love Ben.

April 22 at 10:27 PM



Mary Goff posted:

I only met Ben once, at our 30th TBT Reunion. The best weekend ever for the class of 1973. You, and I became close as committee members/planners. The night of our '73 night function...I almost peed my bell bottoms when Ben walked in... MOD SQUAD..at least a two foot wide Afro. He was the hit. I laughed and hugged him so tight. He was a complete joy to be around. I went through the pics of that night in our magazine of that weekend, and that pic is a little dark, but I still remember his laugh and meeting up in your room and later in the hospitality suite.He was a real gentleman whom lite up every room. You were certainly blessed to have loved and be loved by this man. Love 🙏 Mary Henke Goff

April 22 at 2:50 PM



Gena Malone Evans posted:

Ben will be greatly missed...my prayers are with Beth and family.

April 22 at 2:36 PM



Sherry posted:

Ben's smile and laugh could brighten anyone's day. He loved his family and loved life. He will be missed...great memories 🙏❤️

April 22 at 10:27 AM



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Tara Torrens posted:

I am so glad that I got to meet you and spend time with you and Beth and Kristen. I always enjoyed being around you, especially at concerts. You will be missed by so many.

April 21 at 3:14 PM



John Morgan posted:

A beautiful man. I always saw him happy.....john Morgan

April 20 at 4:25 PM



Robin Hujar posted:

We feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to become friends with Ben and get to spend time with Ben and Beth together as a couple. They were always having fun together, which is an inspiration to others. Beth, you and your family are in our prayers and we are here for you if you need anything.

April 20 at 1:16 PM



Manuel H Rodriguez April 22 at 5:49 AM

Ben was like a brother to me. He filled a void in my heart and soul. When ever I got together with Ben and Beth they made me feel loved and part of the family ❤️



Kelli Barnett lit a candle in honor of Benny.

Ben was always smiling and joking, I cannot remember a time that he was upset. He was always making others laugh. And always eating all the time, he will be missed.

April 20 at 1:02 PM



Todd Whitley posted:

I will always remember his great smile and kind demeanor. He will be missed.

April 20 at 11:19 AM



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Todd Whitley posted:

I will always remember his great smile and kind demeanor. Ben will be missed.

April 20 at 11:17 AM



Michelle Gramling lit a candle in honor of Benny.

Ben was always smiling or eating. It was refreshing to see the love he and Beth had. We will forever miss Ben. Love and hugs to Beth and family 🙏🙏👍

April 20 at 9:43 AM



Chad shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

The two things I love most about Ben: how much he loves Beth, evidenced by how close they were every day at M&M, walking together, eating together, being together. And how much he loves music, loved to talk about it, loved to share his and Beth's live music experiences. I will carry those memories of his unique goodness always.

April 20 at 9:32 AM



Doreece Harp lit a candle in honor of Benny.

Ben was a strong and kind person. My thoughts to you Beth and family.

April 20 at 8:58 AM



Jamie Wells lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 8:40 AM





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CC

Caron Cook lit a candle in honor of Benny.



April 20 at 8:33 AM

CC

Caron Cook April 20 at 8:38 AM

Benny had a great smile and wonderful laugh and I will miss him very much. Love to Beth and family.

JG

Julissa Garrido lit a candle in honor of Benny.



April 20 at 8:29 AM

NL

Natasha Lopez lit a candle in honor of Benny.



April 20 at 8:26 AM

NL

Natasha Lopez April 20 at 8:32 AM

Beth and Family , i'm so sorry for your loss. Ben was such a great person, always smiling and always positive. I will miss him dearly.

MB

Myia Basham lit a candle in honor of Benny.



April 20 at 8:24 AM

AG

Abigail Gonzalez posted:

Dear Beth and family. So sorry for your lost! My condolences to you and your family. Abby Gonzalez

April 20 at 8:14 AM



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Tara Austin lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 8:09 AM



Brooke Manchesi lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 8:07 AM



Ruye H. Hawkins posted:

My Dad, Charles (Bunchie) Hawkins, Uncle Benny Franks Brother, really took time and poured into Benji. Daddy took a special interest in Benji. It's easy to see why. Benji has always been a great guy. I've always felt Daddy saw himself in Benji. He was so proud when Benji got his degrees and began working in the law. Growing up, I still remember Benji playing Joan Jett and the Blackhearts records (yes vinyl) and his love of rock music. Benji was cool before Lenny Kravitz ever thought about it!! Rest In Peace Cousin Benj. 🙏❤️ Ruyē and Charles Hawkins

April 20 at 8:03 AM



Janae Martinez lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 8:02 AM



Janae Martinez April 20 at 8:10 AM

Beth you and the entire family are in my prayers. My deepest condolences on your loss. I will never forget his smile and his amazing spirit. I know he is an angel up in heaven.



Sarai Galarza lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 8:01 AM





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KF

Katie Frehr posted:

Ben is the kind of person that leaves a positive impression on everyone he comes across. He is unforgettable and so loved. He is forever in our hearts.

April 20 at 8:00 AM

LS

Lizeth Sosa lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:58 AM



CN

Colleen Neumann lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:58 AM



CL

Cheryl L Louis posted:

Beth: I am so sad for you and your family to have lost this wonderful man. He fought hard. I love you and wish you and your family peace!

April 20 at 7:57 AM

KW

Karla Whittemore lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:56 AM



LP

Laura Parada lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:56 AM





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CL

Cheryl L Louis lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:55 AM



BJ

Brooke Jimenez lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:55 AM



LW

Leeya Woolfson lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:54 AM



KF

Katie Frehr lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:52 AM



BH

Beth Hawkins lit a candle in honor of Benny.

April 20 at 7:43 AM





Media

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Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes shared a Video.

April 25 at 8:29 AM





Media

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Chad shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 20 at 9:32 AM



A shared love: GMF, Feel Good Music



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Benny by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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