



Thomas E. Johnson Jr.

August 24, 2014

Thomas (Tom) E. Johnson, Jr. 51 years of age passed away on Aug. 24, 2014 following a two and a half year battle with cancer. His mother and father, Gailya Johnson and Thomas E. Johnson predeceased Tom. He was born in Portsmouth Va. and lived in Chesapeake Va.

Tom is survived by his family, loving sister Kim Wagner, and husband Wayne Wagner, his loving niece Kimi Sanford, his loving nephew Robbie Wagner and his love Shannon, and the apple of his eye, his little buddy Colton Jacob Sanford. He leaves an untold number of friends and associates along with his Hilton and Neptune families. Tom cherished his dearest and special friend Nancy Beach.

Tom's career in the hospitality industry spanning over 30 years began as a teenager when he established his own business, "Tom Johnson and Company Catering". Tom also worked in the family business, Johnson-Atwell Opticians, and opened two gourmet food and gift shops. His expertise, creativity, and commitment allowed him to have the opportunity to work at many hotels in Hampton Roads and Williamsburg. In 2004 he joined The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel serving as Director of Catering, Special Events and Convention Services where he remained to the present time. Tom's dedication and belief in the value of hard work was acquired from his parents. His standards were exacting, his creativity unceasing and his commitment to excellence unwavering. His clients and staff quickly learned to trust his advice and attention to every detail. He loved his Hilton Family.

As he built his professional life, he also grew his service to the community, believing it was an obligation to return something of value to the place where one called home. The organizations, which benefitted from his efforts for many of which he served as chairman covers several pages. They ranged from nonprofit charities such as American Diabetes Association, Food Bank of Hampton Roads, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, and Operation Smile to the Educational Institutes of Tidewater including Tidewater Community College and Norfolk State University along with numerous fundraisers he planned and produced.

Tom was an active member of ISES, The International Special Event Society, where he served as President. He was also a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Neptune Festival serving as a Triton in the 38th Court of King Neptune. Throughout his career Tom has received numerous awards and recognitions from National Organizations, both industry and nonprofit as well as area and local.

Tom and his family wish to express their deepest gratitude and compassion to Dr. Thomas Alberico and his amazing team at Virginia Oncology Associates as well as Dr. Lance Enderson and the wonderful, compassionate and loving staff of 2 South Oncology Unit at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital. A celebration of Tom's life will take place at The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel at 31st St. and Atlantic Avenue in Virginia Beach on Friday September 5th, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel will be receiving flowers, other condolences may be sent to Kim's home or to Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel. Online condolences may be made at www.lovingfuneralhome.com. Memorial contributions may be made to Cancer Care Foundation of Tidewater, P.O. Box 12693 Norfolk Va. 23541 or to the American Diabetes Association.

The family wishes to express their love to everyone who has been a part of Tom's life. He will be dearly missed but will live on forever in our hearts with all the fond memories he gave us.

Previous Events

Tony's gathering at home in Chesapeake

SEP 5. 4:00 PM.

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Tom touched so many lives in such a meaningful way, including my life. As a staff member for ADA and as a mother of a child with Type 1 diabetes. Tom 'moved mountains' and had a profound effect on our local ADA efforts. He accomplished more in his 51 years than most people would ever dream of doing. Tom had great compassion and worked tirelessly to make others' dreams come true. A few years ago, he told me that he was working on a book, as part of his legacy called, "3,000 Weddings". That was in 2010, and I hope that he was able to finish it while he was here. I can imagine Tom in heaven still using his gifts to be a most valuable angel. I will miss him forever, but I am so grateful to have known him and to have called him my friend.



Marianne Patterson - September 07, 2014 at 10:07 PM

TL

“ The White Family, Nancy, Dick, & Lori purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas E. Johnson Jr..



The White Family, Nancy, Dick, & Lori - September 04, 2014 at 09:49 PM



“ Tom was a great guy. He was very loyal to his friends. I met Tom when we were still in our twenties when he became my boss at the Cavalier hotel. He was also a room mate with me and my future wife. Tom served as our meeting planner and was also one of my groomsmen. That was one excellent party. Tom is the best event planner I ever knew and he will certainly be missed. Tidewater was lucky to have someone with his great talent stay here at home.
Mike Mcqueeney

Anne Hart - September 01, 2014 at 05:30 PM



“ Laughter was never far behind whenever you came around, Tom; your comedic spin on life will be missed, dear friend, neighbor, & honored Mayor.
Mary Ewer & family



Mary - September 01, 2014 at 12:10 PM



“ what a wonderful man. He could always make you smile. He was a most beloved son to Gail and Tom Johnson. Even though we had not seen each other for a few years. He was some one that stayed with you forever. Tommy T. You will be greatly missed.

patricia vass - August 31, 2014 at 05:52 PM



“ Please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of Tommy. Our hearts go out to the entire family. May you find some comfort in knowing that he is no longer suffering and gather happy memories to get you through this difficult time.
Mike and Karen Branson

Karen Branson - August 31, 2014 at 01:02 PM