



## Wade Burleson Otey

July 27, 1955 - December 2, 2020

Wade passed away at home in Alexandria, VA on December 2, 2020 surrounded by loved ones. His peaceful passing was a gracious end to a long and heroic battle with cancer. Wade is survived by his wife of 40 years, Margaret “Peggy” Patten Otey, children, Leigh Otey Faha (Chris) and Tommy Otey (Zoe), grandson, Wade William Faha, and brother Kirkwood Otey III (Carol Lee), and many beloved nieces and nephews. While leaving us, he is reuniting with his mother, Mary Leigh Burleson Otey, father, Kirkwood Otey II, and sister Leigh Otey Cortez.

Raised in Charlotte, NC, Wade graduated from East Carolina University in 1979 and embarked on a career in medical equipment sales and equipment planning. Wade’s ‘other’, and perhaps more defining career began in the Spring of 1975 when he picked up, and almost certainly knocked on, his first rugby ball. The community that Wade built through his years with the Charlotte Rugby Football Club (CRFC) surrounded him through his final days and will continue to keep his memory alive.

Wade’s greatest joy came from supporting his children’s endeavors. From cheering loudly at Country Day Buccaneer football games to moving them across the country for school or work, his love took many forms.

Long after hanging up his rugby boots when he and Peggy were empty nesters, Wade discovered cycling. Never being able to do anything halfway, Wade’s cycling adventures started with early morning and weekend rides, but quickly evolved into long distance bike touring. His cycling career culminated in an 81 day cross county trip from Anacortes, WA to Bar Harbor, ME. His passion for life behind the handlebars led him to pursue a position as a Tour Leader with the Adventure Cycling Association before cancer put an early end to his mileage.

Wade’s crowning achievement is undoubtedly the family that he leaves behind. The love that surrounded him in his final moments is a testament to that.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Charlotte, NC. Since moving to Alexandria, Virginia, Wade considered the Browne Academy community family and was comforted in knowing that Peggy will have the warm embrace of this incredible community in the months to come. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Wade may be made to the Browne Academy Endowment Fund online at <http://www.browneacademy.org>, checks ma

de out to Browne Academy can be mailed to Browne Academy, Advancement Office, 5917  
Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22309.

# Comments

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“ What comes to mind when I think of Wade is Genuine Kindness and a Zest for Life. I am grateful that our paths crossed. My deepest condolences to you Peggy and your family. may you be able to Hold the Love and goodness that he shared in your heart forever.

Cathy Miller

**Cathy Miller** - December 13, 2020 at 11:09 AM

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“ I played rugby for CRFC and was privileged to have played a good few games with Wade. If I were to sum him up in as few words as possible they would be:- Happy, Considerate Humorous, and Friendly. My thoughts are with you Peggy and family, bless you all.

Dave Telford

**Dave Telford** - December 13, 2020 at 04:26 AM

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“ If you ever had the privilege to meet Wade, you would have never forgotten him. Such a friendly and kind man. Our thoughts and prayers goes out to Peggy and family.

**Maggie Avate** - December 11, 2020 at 02:53 PM

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“ So long my friend. From our days playing for the Pirates of ECU, followed by the Charlotte Olde Originals, you have always been an inspiration. Your serious attitude before the game was always followed by a grateful and happy attitude afterward. I try to emulate your PMA (Positive Mental Attitude), in my daily life. You will be missed.

Scott

**Scott Van Der Linden** - December 11, 2020 at 02:21 PM

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“ Rest In Peace Wade!!! It was truly a privilege to get to spend great moments together in and off of the pitch... A large man in so many ways... Mostly loving life and friends and obviously family... SOMF

**Jim Beaver** - December 11, 2020 at 11:20 AM

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“ We have lost a truly amazing man in Wade....so many great memories from over the years with him. A very generous guy who would help anyone. Proud to have known Wade and honored to have had him as a rugby teammate & friend. Our thoughts and prayers to Peggy, Leigh and Tommy. Rest in Peace Wade.....

**Tom Dever** - December 11, 2020 at 09:56 AM

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“ Wonderful teammate , fine gentleman , loving father and husband .

Will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him

Rest in peace .

Ken

**Ken Peterson** - December 11, 2020 at 09:50 AM

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“ Wade, what a wonderful, bigger than life example you have been for all of us. You are missed and always remembered by so many.

**Jim Shannonhouse** - December 11, 2020 at 09:50 AM

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“ Rest in peace and love Big Man!

**OJ** - December 11, 2020 at 09:20 AM

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“ Thinking of you all at this time with love from Ireland to our beloved member of the CRFC! Hugs and Kisses Peggy and Family!

**eric mangiardi** - December 11, 2020 at 04:29 AM

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“ Laughs, laughs, laughs and more laughs till your whole body hurt for more is one thing I will remember of him. Wade took place in a bike run several times that went on the road that I drive on when I leave my house daily and that David Crockett cut to get to Asheville in 1816. Not a day will go by that I will not think of him at least twice a day with a tear and a chuckle. Cheers my brother Wade.

**Dean Butckovitz** - December 10, 2020 at 09:00 PM

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“ I am in tears reading this. What a beautiful tribute. A beautiful man. A beautiful family. A beautiful love story. Thank you Wade! Thank you Peggy. Joey N

**Joseph Nelis** - December 10, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ Taller than life itself Wade's infectious smile and his laugh from down deep and you know he was loving life.  
Terrific teammate friend Father and husband.  
Enjoyed every minute with him on the pitch our memories with Wade are our gifts from him to us all.  
RIP Big Guy

**Jay Henderson** - December 12, 2020 at 04:08 PM