



Christopher Joseph Henderson

June 8, 1971 - May 11, 2022

Chris was born on June 8, 1971, in Alexandria, Va., the 10th member of the house in Hayfield where he grew up.

It could get crowded, and Chris was known to nap in a dresser drawer or the wooden box his brother used for selling donuts. He fit in most places, sweet and funny, with a knack for keeping the family smiling.

He found a wider audience acting in musicals and plays with the Hayfield Secondary School drama community, and later turned a love of the stage into his first career. Chris performed in local theater, dinner theater, summers in the Outer Banks with The Lost Colony, and as part of a traveling improv troupe that taught kids about health and wellness.

He had an easy rapport with kids, and soon came his own, Georgia and Jake, the greatest source of the joy Chris wore so naturally. He settled outside of Charlottesville, VA., raising Georgia and Jake while working as an inventory control specialist at the Walmart distribution center in Zion Crossroads.

Chris was diagnosed with bladder cancer three years ago, the start of a chapter he faced each day with Heather, his girlfriend, by his side. Georgia and Jake kept things grounded, and Rosie the pup was a sweet diversion. The rest of us saw a bit less of Chris, but when we did we got the charm, wit,

and quiet sunshine he naturally carried.

Chris died on May 11, 2022, at age 50, a few days before Georgia graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a double-major in forensics and biology, and Jake from Fluvanna County High School enroute to Lincoln College of Technology. Chris was so proud of them, where they're headed, and the people they've become. His energy and focus was always on being Georgia and Jake's dad, the role he cherished most.

Chris is survived by Georgia, Jake, and Heather; his mom, Stella; brothers and sisters Mark, Lorraine, Tim, Greg, Fred, Diane, and Stella; nephews and nieces Sean, Ryan, Dominick, Ciana, Capri, Roman, Amelia, and Alexander; in-laws and such Pat, Toz, Paul, Juliana, Ann, Marietta, Brittany, Isaiah, Lucy, Bradley, and Brandon; lots of cousins; and many friends. He is preceded in death by his dad, Frederick.

In Chris's memory, please consider a donation to Camp Kesem (<https://donate.kesem.org/fundraiser/3537377>), which works with the children of parents with cancer. It's a group close to Georgia's heart, and where she has volunteered.

Family and friends are invited to gather at Jefferson Funeral Chapel on Wednesday, May 18, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (prayers are at 3), and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please view and sign the family guestbook.

Previous Events

Gathering

MAY 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Gathering

MAY 18. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
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info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Christopher Joseph Henderson*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *I knew Chris so long ago, when I was in 7th grade and he was a Junior, but I never forgot him. He was so amazing and kind. He was always cracking jokes, and he treated me like a little sister. I met him through drama, and in truth, i idolized him. He was a bright star in my world at the time! It's probably been 25 years since I last saw him. I use to go watch him perform; he was so talented!! I am so sad that Heaven has gained another angel. May he rest in peace! Till we meet again!*

Dara Johnson - June 11, 2022 at 11:11 PM



“ *When I think about Chris I think about my roommate, my friend, fishing buddy, cast mate and that green diesel Volkswagen Rabbit - but most of all I think about how kind, giving, trustworthy and awesome he was. Love you Chris.*

Marcus Lane - May 30, 2022 at 11:11 AM

RD

“ I met Chris in 1992 at a dinner theater in Northern Virginia. He was truly the big brother I never had. At a time when we were all growing up and finding ourselves, Chris was that solid kind presence that accepted everyone for who they were, where they were. Chris was the kind of guy who would show up if you called. There are so many fun memories I can wrap myself in when I reminisce about that time in my life and Chris was a significant part of what made some of those memories wonderful. I can still recall great moments at the OBX. I am so grateful to have been able to speak to him a few years ago. Though I wish I could have rekindled our friendship sooner, and seen him, I can say that I have nothing but love for Chris Henderson. He resides in our hearts. We truly have a great advocate on the other side now.

Ryan Duncan - May 30, 2022 at 10:43 AM

MG

“ My thoughts and prayers to Christopher's family. I remember Chris from our "West Side Story" musical at The Little Theater of Alexandria. Our friend from the show, Philip, told me about Chris. I remember Chris as a very talented young actor who was a joy to be around. Maria Gusmano (gusmanom@aol.com)

Maria Gusmano - May 28, 2022 at 11:38 AM

CM

“ My heart hurts for the Henderson family. Sending my love and prayers to all of you as you go through this difficult time. Love always,
Carole



Carole Mess - May 26, 2022 at 05:03 PM

CR

“ I knew Chris, or Topher as we called him, from Virginia’s dinner theaters. We performed together, we laughed daily, he was funny, loving, and gentle. We spent hours in groups at Denny’s, drinking coffee and talking about everything from fishing to dance rehearsal. I can still see him gliding up the stairs, balancing a tray of specialty drinks, smiling, and usually embarrassed because the teenage girls treated him like the newest teen idol. He was loved by many of us his family may not have known, including me. God speed good man, God speed.

Cynthia Richards - May 20, 2022 at 11:13 PM

JL

“ My condolences to the Henderson family. I was a class mate of Chris's at Hayfield class of 1989. I remember him always smiling and happy. Love, hugs, and prayers for all.

Jamie Lacy - May 20, 2022 at 06:18 PM

JA

“ Dear Stella and family,
I am so sorry for the loss of your precious Chris, please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.



Judy Lundy Avalos - May 20, 2022 at 03:54 PM

SW

“ Dear Stella and family,
I am so sorry to hear of the death of Chris! I am sorry too that I wasn't able to come to the funeral service. May God bless you all and comfort you! Sending love and sympathy.
Sue Winkler 💜🙏

Sue Winkler - May 18, 2022 at 10:12 PM

NC

“ My heart and prayers go out to the Henderson family. May fond memories of sweet Chris bring you comfort and peace during this time of sorrow.

Nancy Woodworth Carr - May 18, 2022 at 06:06 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.



May 18, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.



May 18, 2022 at 11:31 AM

SM

“ My heart is broken to think of the world without Chris Henderson's bright light in it. I loved every minute spent in his presence during high school. It's been over 30 years, and yet when I close my eyes I can still hear his voice and infectious laugh. Chris was a wonderful friend, actor and all around great human being. The pictures of him with his beautiful children indicate what a wonderful dad he must have been as well. Sending love and prayers of comfort for his entire family.

Sally Coombs Masri - May 17, 2022 at 09:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



May 17, 2022 at 09:41 PM



“ *Finest Farewell Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



May 17, 2022 at 07:54 PM



“ *My heart aches knowing such a bright light has left us! My friendship with Chris from our days doing theater at Hayfield was one I treasured. I still have his old Teddy bear he gave me when I left for college. He was an amazing person and a good friend. Prayers of comfort to his entire family.
Love, Theresa (Brunson) Bell*

Theresa (Brunson) Bell - May 17, 2022 at 05:06 PM

RF

“ *My sincerest condolences to the entire Henderson family. Chris was a tremendous individual and great friend. I always remember his charisma and passion for life in whatever endeavor he undertook. Seeing a number of pictures posted here has brought back a lot of great memories that genuinely bring a smile to my face. From sitting in his basement bedroom during high school with him introducing me to the likes of Elvis Costello, The Smiths and other indie bands on WHFS; to young adult hood making those amazing trips to OBX with him and his housemates at the time; and later years to watch him in "The Lost Colony" performances in OBX.*

*Prayers, and condolences,
Rob Feldner*

Rob Feldner - May 17, 2022 at 04:13 PM

CD

“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Chris for many years now. We worked together at the Walmart Distribution Center. Before I knew Chris's name, I would refer to him as the guy in QA who smiles all the time. There was never a doubt who I was talking about. You would always see Chris smiling as he greeted you in passing, you would hear him singing a song going down the dock, or just telling one of his amazing stories. In recent years our offices merged and I got to know Chris better. His history and love of theatre, stories of his family he loved so much, including his sweet puppy. The children that he adored and his face would light up when he spoke of them. He was a very proud dad. It was tough to watch Chris's first battle with cancer. As we were all so sad and praying, he was still smiling and saying that its all going to be ok. It was a blessing to see Chris return to work and back to his old self. When he was diagnosed the second time. Our hearts dropped and ached for him. But he was still his hopeful, smiling optimistic self. It has been heart breaking to lose him. A dear friend to many. To go through as much as he did and carry himself with such strength and courage is remarkable. The office will not be the same without you Chris. The halls will be a little dimmer without your smile, the dock a little quieter without your voice, but you will always have a piece of DC 7016. You are loved, admired, and respected. You will be truly missed.

My sincere condolences go out to his family...Mom, siblings, children, girlfriend Heather. My prayers are with you all.

Casie Diest

Casie Diest - May 17, 2022 at 04:01 PM

RA

“ Chris was such a gift to this world! His smile and positive outlook on life was a Blessing to anyone he came in contact with even as a young child. Our Prayers and Condolences for the entire family 🙏
Robin (Bones) and Scott Anderson

Robin Hardin Anderson - May 17, 2022 at 02:57 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



May 17, 2022 at 01:48 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



May 17, 2022 at 10:52 AM



“ *Trish O'Hara and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



Trish O'Hara and Family - May 17, 2022 at 10:37 AM



“ *Love and prayers to the Henderson family. Chris was a frequent visitor to our home through out his school days and was such a joy to be around.*
The Weiss Family

pat Weiss - May 17, 2022 at 09:54 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



May 17, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ *I remember Chris as a super funny guy in High School. I do not believe I ever saw him have a bad day. I will remember all the Laughs he gave to all of us. He will be missed.*



Sam Moore - May 17, 2022 at 09:19 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.*



May 16, 2022 at 10:48 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the entire Henderson family. May you find solace that he's in eternal peace.*

Cathi Mulroy - May 16, 2022 at 09:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.



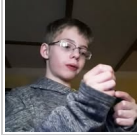
May 16, 2022 at 08:16 PM



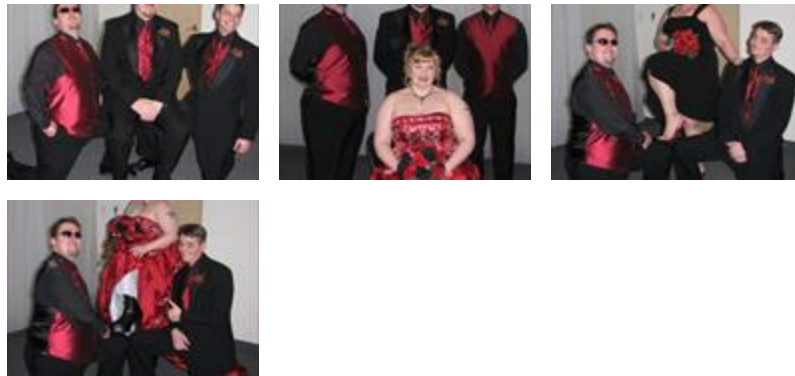
“ *The Watts family and friends* purchased the *Rainbow Reflections Basket* for the family of Christopher Joseph Henderson.



The Watts family and friends - May 16, 2022 at 07:28 PM



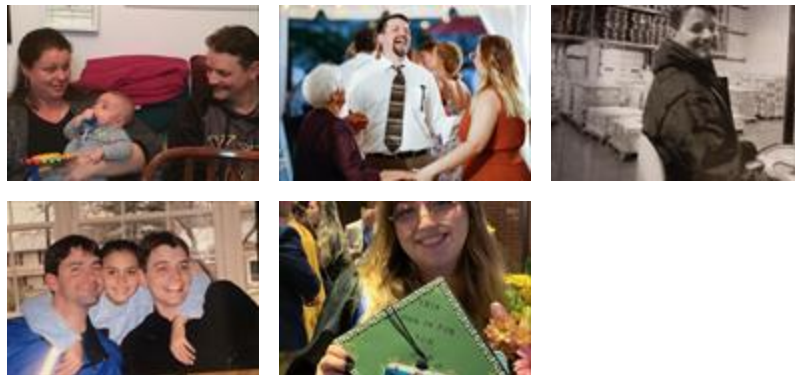
“ We met Chris 15 years ago. We grew to be great friends and he was the best man at our wedding. When we had our first child we made Chris and Heather the godparents. We chose them because we knew that if something ever happened to us that they would be the best people to raise our children. Chris and Heather have been there for us in so many ways. The most recent was May 2 years ago when our oldest got sick and passed away it was at the beginning of covid so only 1 parent could be there at a time and we had a time that they were allowed with us they got us food and made sure that we ate. Friends like this don't come around often, we will miss Chris.



Katherine Carpenter - May 16, 2022 at 12:19 PM



“ 21 files added to the album Chris



Greg Henderson - May 16, 2022 at 11:52 AM

CM

Such beautiful memories.

Cathi Mulroy - May 16, 2022 at 09:08 PM

BR

My prayers to the family

Buddy Rose - May 17, 2022 at 09:05 AM

JD

I considered Chris my best friend throughout elementary and middle school. I wish I could find the old pictures and yearbook excerpts of our adventures to share. Despite having such a large family, all were always welcome at the Henderson house, and I feel like I spent a huge swath of my life with my awesome friend and 2nd household. My heartfelt condolences to all that knew and loved Chris - I know there are many. Peace.

Jay Danielski

Jay Danielski - May 17, 2022 at 09:15 PM

JW

Stella and I awaited our sons Chris and Jimmy together and the boys were born two weeks apart. They were friends through high school. We were always delighted to see Chris in various plays and musicals. He was a beautiful addition to a much loved Hayfield family. We send our love to all at this sad time.

Judy Walsh

Judy Walsh - May 18, 2022 at 12:04 AM

JW

I am so sorry to hear of Chris' passing. He had such a great sense of humor and passion for life. I remember the week that he, Rob Feldner, and I spent in the Outer Banks the summer after high school as one of my favorite weeks ever. I am sending prayers and love to the whole Henderson family that you find solace during such a difficult time.

Jimmy Walsh

Jimmy Walsh - May 18, 2022 at 04:31 PM