



John "Tommy" Kerkeles

OCT 7, 2012



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John "Tommy" Kerkeles

OCT 7, 2012

Tommy Kerkeles, age 85 of Nashville, TN. October 7, 2012. Survived by his loving wife of 62 yrs, Barbara Kerkeles and their children, Jean Musgrove, Mary Jane Payne, and Ken (Julie) Kerkeles; grandchildren, Angie (Jon) Janicek, Stephen Tidwell, Kathryn (Justin) Strong, Wes (Katie) Payne, Melissa Payne, Kara Kerkeles, Shannon (Jeremy) Billingsly, and Kristin Kerkeles; and a host of 12 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Pete and Bessie Kerkeles; brother, Kenneth Kerkeles; sister, Marie Phillips; daughters, Linda and Lori Kerkeles; and son-in-law, Barry Payne. Tommy was born and raised in Nashville, TN. He attended East High School until he enlisted in the US Army. Upon his return, 2 yrs later, he attended and graduated from Father Ryan High School. If you ever met Tommy, he never forgot you and the next time you saw him he would probably say something like, "Hey Baabay". He was a man of many talents and had numerous jobs in life; it's hard to name all of them so here are a few. At the top of the list, Tommy was a Tennessee Walking Horse enthusiast and was a member of WHOA. He loved his horses; everything from owning, breeding, riding, showing, and even judging them. Through this arena, he met some of his best friends and brought laughter and entertainment everywhere he went. In the 1950's he was a law enforcement officer for Davidson County and attained the position of Chief Investigator. After that he managed a booking agency for grand stand acts at county and state fairs all over the US. Some will say that Tommy had a "larger than life" personality and could be heard from anywhere, but he truly loved people and loved them well. In his 50's he worked for Ronnie Millsap in the Country Music Industry for 10 years, which led into his retirement. Sports played a major role in his life, everything from the love of playing golf to cheering on Vanderbilt and the TN Titans. All of these things were great achievements but nothing compared to how he loved his family and his church. He was a member of Dalewood Baptist Church when he lived in Nashville



Obituary

John "Tommy" Kerkeles




and then just recently became a member of First Baptist Church Hendersonville. The family will receive friends from 4-8pm Thurs, Oct.11 and 2-8pm on Fri, Oct. 12 at Spring Hill Funeral Home. The celebration service will be held at 10am Sat, Oct 13 at First Baptist Church Hendersonville Chapel with Dr. Bruce Chesser officiating. Active Pall Bearers: Robert Phillips, Scott Hughes, Jim Gilbert, Jay Cox, Dub Hoover, and George Connors. Honorary Pall Bearers: TN Walking Horse friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Gideons and First Baptist Church Hendersonville Missions Fund. FBC Hendersonville, 106 Bluegrass Commons Blvd Hendersonville, TN 37075

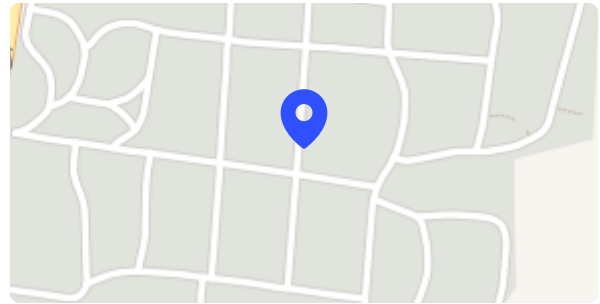


Events


John "Tommy" Kerkeles

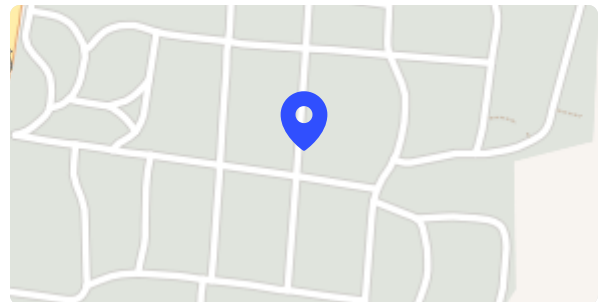
Visitation

-  **Thursday**, October 11, 2012
-  4:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
-  **Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216





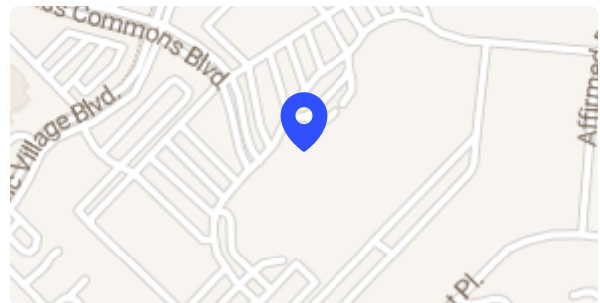
Visitation

-  **Friday**, October 12, 2012
-  2:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
-  **Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



Funeral Service

-  **Saturday**, October 13, 2012
-  **First Baptist Church of Hendersonville**
106 Bluegrass Commons Blvd, Hendersonville
TN 37075





Tribute Wall

John "Tommy" Kerkeles



Anonymous posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of loss. Tommy will be greatly missed. Jeff Givens

October 12 at 7:08 PM



Anonymous posted:

Barbara, How I hated to see this announcement. Had to write and share how much I still appreciate all the help Tommy gave me during my tragedy. Not many people I know would have done all the things he just did. What a heart and you were always there in Linda Everett Garrard

October 11 at 8:02 PM



Anonymous posted:

Tommy Kerkeles...what a man. What a character. Never met a stranger. Always had something witty to say that made people laugh. We think the mold was broken after you were born! He loved his friends and family especially his loving wife. Ms. Barbara know t Sherry & Barry Frizzell

October 10 at 9:49 AM



Anonymous posted:

Tommy was one of a kind! He took in my mom, my friends, and I in his box at the Celebration every year. He always had entertaining stories to tell us that always made us laugh. We loved going to visit him. He loved the horses and all of the horse people. Stephanie Rose

October 10 at 8:23 AM



Anonymous posted:

Tommy was a good friend. We will greatly miss all the confrontations, conversations, and good times we all had with him at the horse shows even when he ran through the center ring at the Celebration that year. His laughter and comments are irreplaceable DouglasAnn McGovern

October 9 at 2:37 PM



Tribute Wall

John "Tommy" Kerkeles



Anonymous posted:

One of the nicest southern gentleman you would encounter in life. Always a friend, always with humor and exuberance. Love his horses, loved his family and especially his wife. I will miss the days in his box at the Celebration and Waffle House after th Matt McWilliams

October 9 at 2:08 PM



Anonymous posted:

Tommy will be remembered as a good friend and great horse lover. Jerry W. Harris

October 9 at 1:32 PM



Anonymous posted:

To Family & Friends: May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead. Adam Marsh

October 8 at 6:32 PM



Anonymous posted:

My uncle. Irreplaceable. I miss you so much already. Amy

October 7 at 12:07 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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