



Robert Woodside Kaley

September 21, 1947 - September 16, 2016

Robert Woodside Kaley passed away on Friday, September 16, 2016 at Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville.

Robert was born to Marian Woodside Kaley and Robert Harwin Kaley on September 21, 1947 in Buffalo, New York. Bob graduated from high school in Vestal, New York. He studied at The University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. He was awarded an Associate's Degree from Broome Technical College in Binghamton, New York (now SUNY Broome Community College).

Bob earned the rank of Eagle Scout with The Boy Scouts of America and was a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Bob was a talented artist, photographer, and musician. He participated in the Orchestra at Johnson City High School and was a member of several bands that originated in the Binghamton/Johnson City Area of upstate New York, including The Shadows, Flesh and Blood and Jacob's Ladder. Bob played trumpet, harmonica, and guitar. He also had skill on piano and the organ. Later in life he became interested in country music and was practicing the steel guitar.

During the majority of Bob's career, he enjoyed working in sales and marketing management in the hospitality industry. This path began in

Nashville, Tennessee when he came to work with Eli White, (one of his former band-mates) at a prominent hotel. Bob continued on this path in the Atlanta, Georgia area, including ten years with The Stone Mountain Memorial Association, where he experienced the excitement of the “Park’s”, hosting eight different venues during the 1996 Olympic Games.

Bob is survived by Mary Palmer Kaley, his wife of 37 years; daughter Samantha Evans and son-in-law Todd Evans; Sister: Carole Anne (Kaley) Stanley, Sisters-in-Law: Kathy Kaley, Brenda Diane Thompson Wright, Becky Jester Thompson, Kat Wellens Baranski Thompson. Brothers-in-law: James Culmer Wright, John Robert Thompson and Howard Stinson Thompson.

Nieces: Tricia Stanley Hitchcock (Trent Hitchcock), Corinne Stanley, Elizabeth Thompson, Duncan, Shannon Thompson, Gini Lynn Thompson, Jordan Wright

Nephews: Jonathan Stanley, Jared Wright, Bradley Wright, Robert Scott Thompson, Matthew Thompson, Dustin Thompson

And the precious children of a number of the nieces and nephews listed above.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, John (Jack) Myrle Kaley.

An important scripture for Bob is Psalms 91. Family legend has it that Christian Kaley was a personal aide to Napoleon Bonaparte, and during one battle he was mortally wounded. The legend reports that the aide requested Psalms 91 be read to him continually, without ceasing, until after he drew his last breath. The particulars of the number of days and hours Christian Kaley lived to hear the Psalm has been lost with Bob’s passing, but Bob’s intent was to have Psalms 91 read during his funeral service.

The service was already held in Georgia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent in Bob's memory to the charity where he often volunteered his time, The Salvation Army.

Bob volunteered for the Salvation Army of Metropolitan Atlanta, at the Lawrenceville, Georgia location on Sugarloaf Parkway, in Lawrenceville, Georgia (when he was able). He received a special letter from the President for his volunteer hours. Bob especially loved the Angel Tree program prior to Christmas each year, and the music program for their talented young people.

Flowers are welcome - If you choose,
Donations in lieu of flowers to The Salvation Army, Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter, specifically the Angel Tree Program or the Youth Music Ministry Program, would also be welcome if you choose.

https://give.salvationarmyusa.org/site/SPageNavigator/national_memorial_for_m.html

By mail (In memory of Bob Kaley in the memo):

Salvation Army 3455 Sugarloaf Parkway Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

OCT 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall

“Like Brian and Doug before me on this page, Bob and I met through music. It was around 1965 when I was hanging around with the Sorber's and eventually joining them in the Shadows when Bob and I became life long friends. I can remember many venues when we shared a stage together. One stage in particular that stands out was the Jacinta Lounge atop an Endicott bowling alley. We were playing a Paul Revere tune and back in those days we thought it was cool for the three guitars to move from side to side in unison to the beat. In the middle of this tune, when looking to the right, Bob was gone but we could still hear him. He had fallen off the stage and was laying on his back on the floor still playing. Fortunately he survived and we finished the song. This was not unusual, he was always either tripping while getting on the stage or coming off.

In later years after returning from active duty in the Navy, I was reunited with the guys when we formed Jacob's Ladder Band. It was a struggle since we practiced for three months before embarking on our first gig. After giving it a go for three more months, I chose to leave and return to my hometown of Nashville. After a couple of years in retail I entered the hotel business at the Sheraton Nashville. It wasn't long after I was there that Bob joined me in Nashville at the Sheraton. I left for Hyatt and Bob remained and eventually ended up in the Atlanta hotel market. We both had decided that music was to unpredictable financially and we needed to find jobs that actually paid us.

Over the years we always stayed in touch and on occasions gathered to play at special events. Brian mentioned Bob's Fiat earlier. One day with the top down, Bob and I had been out toward Owego near the Devil's Elbow where the band played frequently. On our way home as we descended the hill I quickly found out why they call it the Devil's Elbow. With my speed demon friend behind the wheel, he wanted to show me how well the Fiat handled. As we approached the bottom of the hill at a speed well beyond a sane level, he chose to make a quick jerk to the left only to realize it was an S turn and had to quickly adjust for the second bend in the turn.

Needless to say we made it and he proved the Fiat could handle well and that was the last time he ever had the opportunity to be able to show me with me in the car.

Bob was always our fashion guru when it came to band attire. I remember one trip he and I went to NY City to check out the latest clothing for the stage. We ended up with some very fashionable bell bottoms and fluffy sleeve shirts with scarfs around our necks straight out of Greenwich Village. Boy were we cool! Seriously, Bob was always Mr. Dapper with everything coordinated.

It is impossible to capture 50+ years of friendship and stories we all shared through out the decades in one writing but suffice it to say, it has been quite a journey and Bob will be missed. We are fortunate to have been able to share many experiences together with Tom, Brian and Bob. Many good times at the Sorber's lake, or in their basement where we practiced and in recent years in Raleigh when Bob and I were both there at Brian's. He visited me in Pensacola and slept in my RV on one of his trips and visited us in Tampa. Throughout the years God bless Mary for taking him under her wing and keeping him from falling off stages or taking corners too fast in his car.

Now we have the memories to reflect on that will always keep Bob in our hearts. It was indeed a special time and a very special friend. Rest my friend, you have earned it.



Eli (Buddy) White - October 25, 2016 at 09:37 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Doug Brucher - October 08, 2016 at 04:34 PM

DB

“ I met Bob in 65 when I joined the Shadows. We played local gigs together until I moved and had to leave the band in 1967. Those were the greatest times for me playing music with the Sorber Brother's band. I remember Bob as a special guy who always marched to his own drummer. He showed up to our gig one night wearing a one piece jump suit and playing a brand new 12 string guitar. He was too cool for school at the time with that hip jingle jangle 12 string rock sound - I was so impressed I'll never forget it.

I also remember a great weekend in the summer of 1967 that Bob and I spent together at the car races up in Watkins Glenn NY. Bob was always interested in fast cars.

The 2005 Shadow's reunion gig was a priceless opportunity to get the band back together after almost 40 years. It was a highlight of my life and Bob and I had a good long visit. In 2012 Bob and I hooked up again when he was here on the west coast for a hospitality business trip.

Keep your chops up Bob I feel confident we will be getting the band back together again some sunny day.

Doug Brucher

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Doug Brucher

Doug Brucher - October 08, 2016 at 04:23 PM

ND

“ *I offer my condolences for the loss of Bob. Continue to lean on family and friends for support. As I read the obituary, I noticed that Bob found solace from God at Psalm 91. God gives us similar comfort and hope at Isaiah 26:19 when we mourn on occasions like this. May you find the strength to endure the days ahead.*

Neil Dupree - October 01, 2016 at 06:54 AM

DG

“ *Donna and Mickey Garner purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Robert Woodside Kaley.*



Donna and Mickey Garner - September 30, 2016 at 01:44 PM

BS

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Brian Sorber - September 29, 2016 at 10:52 PM

“ I met Bob Kaley in 1959 when we were both 12 years old. We became fast friends, probably because we were both chubby, short, and liked the same things. We had a number of things in common: 2 younger siblings, a love for rock and roll music, and parents who expected us to be home for dinner...every day, no matter that we were doing something of vital importance.

We decided that if we were going to be rock and roll music stars, we should probably learn how to play something other than our band instruments, so...we went to the Sears catalog, and after careful analysis, both bought Silvertone guitars and amplifiers, and took lessons together. After 2 lessons, we decided it was time to form a band so that we'd have a speedy vehicle to success. We added a piano player (Jim Ford) and a sax (Gary Ravert) to the band, and became the Emperors. It was easy to tell because we had cardboard bandstands with the name written in glitter, so that adoring fans would know who to ask for when they wanted a quality band for their next event. In no time, we secured our first playing engagement for the MYF teen group at our church. They may have agreed to have us because our reputations preceded us, or because we offered to play for free - who knows!

Over the years, we were in a number of bands, and although the members changed, Bob and I were always together. During the 60's and 70's we had attained both regional and state-wide success as "Flesh & Blood," and specialized in the music of Blood, Sweat, & Tears, Chicago, and even a few show tunes! We found ourselves playing at various High school proms, colleges and frat parties in NY and PA, plus a number of popular clubs in the upstate NY, and even several weddings.

Now...things weren't always rosey between Bob and me, partly because Bob loved sports cars - he owned a Fiat Abarth and a Porsche 914. I, on the other hand, always had a cargo van, so as to move our ton of equipment. One day, during an unrelated argument, I became angry with him, and told him he couldn't use my van to

move his personal equipment. Bob took this in stride, and showed-up at that evening's engagement with his guitar and one speaker in back of his front seat (he never had a back seat). The 2nd speaker he had placed on the luggage rack of his trunk tied down with bungee straps! Fortunately, this particular evening did not present any inclement weather challenges. I did relent, and invited him to feel free to use my van for his equipment. He thanked me, then promptly drove home in his Porsche, while I drove myself, the roadies, and all our equipment home in my Ford van!

Fast-forward through the next few decades, which found us both engaged in real jobs, working for major corporations - Bob in the hotel and hospitality business, and me in industry. We had married beautiful, and patient, wives, had children, and almost settled-down. However, the band addiction is impossible to totally beat, and we played for several of our class reunions as the Shadows, one of the names we had used back in the 60's. Our last one together was in 2005, which reunited Bob, my brothers Tom & Scott, Buddy White, Doug Brucher, and me.

As Bob's health problems began to mount, we remained in close touch, and were emailing one another just days before his soul left this earth for his Eternal Mansion. We had been looking forward to getting together as soon as Bob was able to obtain a portable oxygen unit. So our get-together will have to be postponed...at least for a while.

Brian Sorber

Brian Sorber - September 29, 2016 at 10:48 PM

SE

“ 17 files added to the album *Photos of Bob through the years*



Samantha Evans - September 27, 2016 at 08:55 PM

BS

“ *Mary, Debbie and I send you love and strength at this sad time. -- B. Kelly Stevens*

B.Kelly Stevens - September 27, 2016 at 06:39 PM

MK

Thank you so very much. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Mary Kaley - October 10, 2016 at 04:39 PM

AA

“ Bob lived next door to us for the last 9 years. In those 9 years he gave me some of the best wisdom and advice as well as taught me how to interview after being out of work for 5 years. Bob was a kind, giving, extremely smart man that was devoted to his wife and family. He will be missed very badly by all of us.

Oh funny memory; when he got that mustang he talked my husband into sitting in it to look at it. Before my husband knew it Bob was taking off in the car with him. Drove real fast and my husband came home 4 shades whiter than he was before he left. LOL
My husband scares easily when he's not the one driving so this was great for our family for a good laugh.

We will be painfully missed Bob may you rest in peace.

Sincerely,

April & Phil Anderson

April Anderson - September 27, 2016 at 05:25 PM

RO

Dear Mary Alice and Samantha and any other family member heretofore unknown of. I met Bob on 3 occasions. He was always quiet and kindly stood by while I spoke with Mary Alice. I remember his kind standby attitude when my aunt Jeanette passed away about 3 years ago. Bob, appeared to be a selfless and giving man. He supported his wife and family with a quiet aplomb that I know nothing of. My assertive and exhuberant approach to life did not seem to deter him from a kind and quiet countenance of understanding. Mary I am so sorry for your loss. I had sent a happy birthday just recently. If he was ill, I'm sorry I did not know. It was a good day when I met Bob. God Speed, remember to celebrate his life and do the things you both planned, I think he would have wanted you to. love Ruby

Ruby I Owings - September 28, 2016 at 03:54 PM