



Rodney L. Hamilton

November 14, 1940 - May 21, 2021

SENECA, SC - Rodney Lee Hamilton, 80, passed away peacefully in his sleep Friday May 21 after a brief illness. Rod (please don't call me Rodney) was born in Covington Kentucky on November 14, 1940 to the late Edwin L. Hamilton and Mayce Underhill Hamilton.

He is survived by Sharon, his wife of 38 years, three daughters - Kristi (Jon) Nykamp of Mekelle, Ethiopia, Amy (Paul) Caimano of Chapin, SC, and Carey Hamilton of Salt Lake City, UT. He was also blessed with 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren who affectionately called him Grandpa Hamo. In addition to his parents, Rod was preceded in death by his brother Jack Hamilton and his sister Mayce Buckner.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky, where Rod was a proud member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, career moves took him to Louisville, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Deep Creek Lake Maryland. He spent 20 years at Sears, working his way up to a senior management position. From there he was recruited to a top position at Montgomery Ward and later became Vice President of GNC. In 1988 he left the corporate world and started his own business, where he partnered with his wife Sharon in various endeavors.

Rod worked hard and played hard. He always managed to find a lake home wherever he lived which was always open to friends and family. There was

seldom a weekend when there wasn't a houseful of guests. Those times created the best memories of his life. In 2005 he retired to Lake Keowee, loving the warm climate and vowing never to go north of the Mason Dixon line again.

All are welcome to join us on Friday August 27, 2021 at 10:30 AM. for a memorial service followed by celebration of life including lunch and open bar. It will be held at The Biggerstaff Retreat Center on the shores of Lake Keowee, 398 Biggerstaff Road, Seneca, SC 29672. Family and friends will raise a toast to Rod and reminisce about his life.

On Saturday August 28 his family will gather at the Ramsey Creek Preserve where his cremains will be interred.

For more details or to rsvp for lunch, you may contact Sharon Hamilton, sharonhamilton55@bellsouth.net

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Habitat for Humanity, Fox's Nest No Kill shelter <http://arfsc.homestead.com>, or the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 27. 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Biggerstaff Retreat

398 Biggerstaff Road

Seneca, SC 29672

<https://www.stjohnswalhalla.org/biggerstaff-retreat-conference-center/>

Tribute Wall

SH

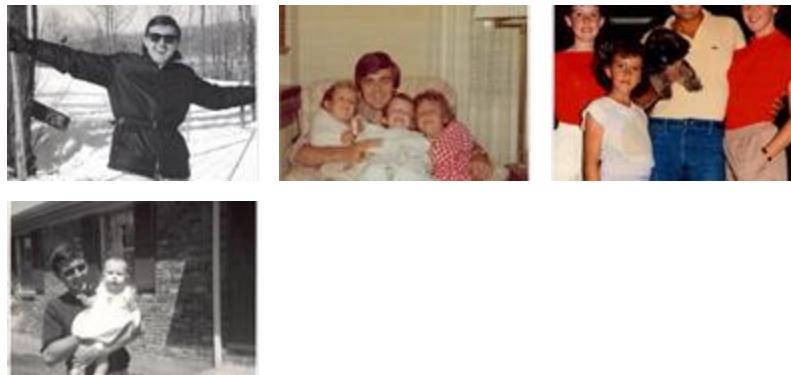
“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



sharon hamilton - June 04, 2021 at 06:45 AM

KN

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Kristi Nykamp - May 28, 2021 at 01:38 AM

AC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Amy Lee Hamilton Caimano - May 26, 2021 at 09:59 AM

BC

“ In the early 1960s, there were a group of Sigma Chi Fraternity brothers who enjoyed music and singing. Remember these were the folk singing days. Rod, Jim Todd, and myself with help from Gordon Scott on guitar had what could be loosely called a folk singing group. We would sing sometimes during rush to try and convince prospective new members to join us. We also actually had a real gig making a recording that was used in advertising a local car dealer. Rod was the best of us, not so much that we were professionals but we loved Sigma Chi and the Brothers we made there. Rod was indeed perhaps the very best at keeping the level headed and fun loving attitude needed for the fraternity to succeed. He was a gentle soul with a ever present smile, intelligent, and I have ever had a warm memory of those college days held in my heart for him. All Honor to his name!

Billy Cornette, Sigma Chi, Lambda Lambda Chapter, University of Kentucky Class of 1964.

Billy` Cornette - May 26, 2021 at 06:58 AM

AC

He was telling my kids & I some fun stories about UK days a few years back & we learned alot about his skills..I recognize your name as good friends of his..Amy

Amy Lee Hamilton Caimano - May 26, 2021 at 10:01 AM

NK

I always enjoyed my visits with Sharon and Rod. Rod would look on with a smile as Sharon and I would do our sister things, whether it was sharing memories or creating new ones.

Rod always saved a project that he and I could work on together. It could be repairing something, rebuilding something else or figuring out how to remedy a problem. He appreciated the ideas I brought to those projects and the extra hand to get them done. Rod was such a gentle soul with a hearty zest for life. I always enjoyed those special hours that we shared working together and will cherish those memories.
Nancy (aka- Nedly)

Nancy Knop - May 26, 2021 at 08:55 PM

NK

I always enjoyed my visits with Sharon and Rod. Rod would look on with a smiling expression as Sharon and I shared our sister memories or created new ones.

Rod always saved a project that he and I could work on together. It might be repairing something, building something else or figuring out how to remedy a problem. He always appreciated the ideas I brought to those projects. I will cherish the hours we spent together.

Rod was a gentle soul who had heartfelt zest for life and laughter.

I will miss you.

Nedly

Nancy Knop - May 26, 2021 at 09:17 PM

DH

It was my great pleasure to occasionally work with Rod at the Habitat for Humanity store in Seneca. I didn't know him well, but he always had a kind word or a good story and he was always good to me. He was the only guy at the store who would willingly take a 5 gallon pail of nuts & bolts and things and spend hours sorting them out and packaging them for sale. I asked him once how he could find the patience to do such tedious work, he said he found it relaxing and didn't mind at all. Rod was a gift to all of us who had an opportunity to work with him. Rest In Peace, Rod.

Dan Heltness

Dan Heltness - August 08, 2021 at 06:44 PM



Billy Cornette, I still have all of my parent's photos of you guys with Jim Todd & his family when you guys were young! I would be happy to share the with you! Rod's daughter, Amy

Amy Caimano - August 17, 2021 at 01:34 PM