



## Keith Craig Challenger

January 31, 1959 - March 24, 2020

Keith Craig Challenger, 61, passed away March 24, 2020.

A native of Sheffield, England, son of the late Peter James and Marguerita June James Challenger, he was an employee of Westin Poinsett Hotel, longstanding member of Asheville Toastmasters and proudly involved with Lessons and Leadership.

Surviving are his wife, Anna Marie Bucklew Challenger of Greer; one son, Ross Craig Challenger of Irving, Texas; a daughter, Jodie Gunter of Manchester, England; mother of his children, Patricia Ann Challenger of New Bern, North Carolina; step-daughter, Shelby Lee of Knoxville, Tennessee; a brother, David Challenger (Jane) of Sheffield, England; a sister, Cindy Branquet (Shane) of Guernsey Channel Islands, England; and four grandchildren, Jack Cain, Harper Cain, Natalie Cain and Georgia Gunter.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com)

# Comments

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“ Heartbreaking news. Our deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to Keith's family and friends. Keith was my best friend at school where he encouraged my wife, Lynne & I to go out together, we are still together some 46 years later. He meant so much to us our son is called Craig. He was a keen Blade fan and we spent many hours kicking a ball around together, we even had a short period with Sheffield United Boys together despite his challenging health. After leaving school Keith worked as sound engineer with the Harvey Ruff Band in which i was the bassist. He was always coaching us to improve our vocal harmonies in the band van to and from gigs. He was always great fun to be around. I still remember Keith wearing his Britain's number 1 guy T shirt for his wedding to Patricia, very appropriate we thought, and totally original. We kind of lost contact when Keith emigrated long before days of social media. Lynne and I desperately wished Keith could've attended our Silver wedding celebrations but just couldn't make contact and we certainly tried but some obstacles couldn't be overcome. With the advent of social media we managed to get back in touch and we spoke of Lynne and I travelling over and getting together suggesting after retirement would be ideal. We are truly heartbroken as I'm sure everyone who loved Keith will be.

If you read this from the otherside Keith, know, you where a very, very special person in our lives and I wish I had said that to you many more times. Sleep well our dear friend and rest in peace                      xx

**Chris Hamilton** - March 28 at 07:30 AM

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“ My heart truly aches. I can't imagine the sorrow the family must feel during this time of isolation. Please know that we weep with you. I wish there was a magic wand to heal this pain, which is on so many different levels with the numerous relationships Keith had with his family and friends. I have known Keith for years. I first met him when he was a DJ for a fundraiser at the Eagles Home Dance Studio. One of my dance partners Hilarie was in Toast Masters with him. This was the beginning of a more than 20 year journey with Keith as our paths crossed a number of times. Our friendship truly blossomed through Anna though. She lit up around him, and he doted on her lovingly. Then at the end of our Chamber journey together, we solidified our friendship through John Mark's Lake Greenwood gatherings with sunset cruises, and laughter until our sides were splitting and we all thought we might drown in the lake. The last time I had the pleasure of his brilliance was when he stepped up once again for a good cause and hosted a Parks and Greenways fundraiser with me. His wit was impeccable, and his charm and timing were always spot on. These are the memories I will cherish. Much love to all his family and friends.

**Dana Cure** - March 27 at 01:06 PM

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“ I have no words that really help to ease your loss or help answer the question why. But please know that your family is in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time. Keith was such a great guy to work with. I will miss him.

Wil Cain

Wil Cain - March 27 at 06:20 AM



“ I am saddened by these turn of events. Keith was always supportive and was a great team associate at the Westin. He was always sharing a smile and a laugh. We will deeply miss him here at the hotel. My prayers go out to the whole extended family. Mary DiSparano

Mary DiSparano - March 27 at 07:02 PM

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“ Anna, I am so sorry to hear about Keith's passing. We certainly enjoyed the times he came to church with us and played the guitar and you sang. Our prayers are with you all.

Pat Ingle - March 26 at 10:12 PM



“ I'm shocked to hear the news, then I read you just had surgery! When it rains it pours. During this time I'll be praying for comfort to help you and your family. I still remember him playing music for us at Debi's. God Bless you all.

denise bosak - March 27 at 09:13 AM