



Brooks Griffith

July 24, 1987 - November 2, 2023

“All the heat and fear purged itself. I felt surprisingly at peace. The bell jar hung, suspended, a few feet above my head. I was open to the circulating air.” Robert Brooks Griffith, 36, of Greenville, South Carolina, passed away, surrounded by his family, on November 2, 2023 after a brief battle with cancer. The lines above are from *The Bell Jar*, the only novel written by his favorite poet, Sylvia Plath. The main thing about these lines are simply what they reveal about Brooks: He was a smart, heady guy, but he lived in the freedom of his heart.

He was a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina—the son of Robert Warren Griffith, Jr., and Bonnie Hicks Griffith, both of Greenville, South Carolina. Surviving, in addition to his parents, are one sister, Jordan Griffith Callaway (Keefe) of Greenville, South Carolina; one niece, Tallulah Jane Callaway; and one brother, Walker Ellis Griffith of Greenville, South Carolina.

Brooks was a member of St. James Episcopal Church. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama, his beloved alma mater, which gave him an unaccountable joy on the gridiron (particularly the Nick Saban era). He was also a fanatical (and often fanatically frustrated) New York Jets fan. But Brooks’ strong sense of self-irony helped him keep it all in perspective. He had many talents and strengths. He was an English major / Creative Writing minor who wrote wonderfully well—not in a stodgy academic sense, but in a very real, living, breathing style. His acute eye to detail was as likely to point out beauty as it was mischief. His rehearsal dinner speeches are the

stuff of legend...as are his impassioned karaoke renditions that ran the gamut of pop, rock, metal, even a little country when the mood struck him right.

As everyone knew, Brooks had a tremendous wit: unclichéd, rapier-like, and often subtle. He loved music, too, in particular U2, The National, Bruce Springsteen, Orville Peck, and many others. He was an unabashed wrestling fan, a pop culture enthusiast, and a frighteningly gifted trivia wizard.

But above all, Brooks was a friend. A soul to confide in. An open heart that desired to help others. That was his true gift, as well as his legacy. His service to the special needs and elderly community was a driving passion. He worked as a respite worker for multiple children and adults, was a caregiver to many, assisted with the Special Olympics softball, dance, and soccer teams, was counselor at Camp Spearhead for Special Needs, and on and on. Most recently he worked as an autism aide at Grove Elementary School until his passing. Brooks loved this job so much and often talked about wanting to go back to school to be a teacher. That was unnecessary, of course, because Brooks was already a teacher. He taught all of us by the way he lived: the way he viewed the world, the way he saw the best in people, the way his compassion was inexhaustible, and the way he cared about you, me, and so many others. Brooks was a true gem.

When Brooks was asked what he thought regarding having an aggressive form of cancer, he replied "Of course I am scared, who wouldn't be? But I'm not scared of death because I know where I am going."

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 18, 2023, at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church conducted by Reverend Mark Tankersley. Burial will follow in Woodlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will be held 5:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, November 17, 2023, at The Wood Mortuary.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Camp Spearhead, 4232 Highway 11 Marietta, South Carolina 29661, or Special Olympics Greenville, at 4806 Old Spartanburg Road, Taylors, SC 29687.

Online condolences may be made to www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

1 Pine Knoll Drive
Greenville, SC 29609

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary, Inc.
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Service

NOV 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church
207 Mitchell Road
Greenville, SC 29615

Tribute Wall



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.*



November 18, 2023 at 08:26 AM



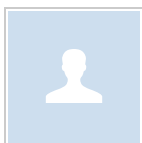
“ *Roll Tide Brooks!*

Sandra B. - November 17, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ *I don't know Brooks or your family, but I wanted to let you know that I was deeply touched by his obituary. What a beautiful tribute. The people that knew him are very fortunate as Brooks sounds like an amazing person. I will keep your family in my prayers.*

Jill Alayne Motsinger - November 17, 2023 at 08:47 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.*



November 16, 2023 at 10:20 PM

AH

“ Alan and Bene Holcombe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brooks Griffith.

Alan and Bene Holcombe - November 16, 2023 at 04:51 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.



November 16, 2023 at 04:51 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.



November 15, 2023 at 04:36 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.



November 14, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.*



November 12, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.*



November 09, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ *“Mr. G”, that’s how my kiddos knew him. He was very special to two of my special babies. My daughter spoke often of Mr, G and my son with limited speech vocabulary would babble in agreement. Even my older son would greet him on the mornings once ensuring little brother and sister made it safe to class. We only met him this school year and sadly I didn’t get a chance to experience how awesome it appears he was. I’m thankful my kids did. I know he made an impact. I’m grateful to know my kids had such an amazing person with a heart for the special kiddos in this world. Heaven gained a good one.*

My deepest condolences to the family. I couldn’t even begin to imagine. Thank you to his parents for raising a person with a passion for kids.

Jessica Wyatt - November 09, 2023 at 07:43 AM

KS

“ *Kristin S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brooks Griffith.*

Kristin S. - November 07, 2023 at 02:46 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.*



November 06, 2023 at 09:11 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Brooks Griffith.*



November 06, 2023 at 08:05 PM

-F

“ - *Your kickball family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brooks Griffith.*

- Your kickball family - November 06, 2023 at 08:05 PM

KB

“ *Kathy Butts lit a candle in memory of Brooks Griffith*



Kathy Butts - November 03, 2023 at 04:31 PM

PK

*Dear Bobby and family,
So sorry to learn of your devastating loss of your son. No parent ever fathoms having to bury a child. May God's special blessing and comfort be on you and your family as you honor his life with your loving support and shared memories of a much loved son and brother.
Pat Keller
Numbers 6:24-26*

pat keller - November 03, 2023 at 05:27 PM

AB

*Dear Sweet Family of Brooks,
I am as sorry as I can be over the loss of your precious son and brother, Brooks. I remember him as a sweet kid, all arms and legs, with a fun sense of humor. My prayer for you is that your memories of this wonderful boy will sustain you as you move through this time of grief. May you rest in the arms of Jesus, the Comforter of all sorrow.
lynnbateman*

Andrea Lynn Bateman - November 04, 2023 at 09:30 AM

FK

*Dear family of Brooks,
Words cannot express the grief felt by the loss of such an incredible man. Brooks touched the life of my daughter, Maggi, at Shock Stars, Camp Spearhead, and Special Olympics. He was genuine in his love for the special needs community. Maggi talked frequently about Brooks hilarious antics that had everyone laughing. We pray for comfort and peace from our Heavenly Father.
Faith and Maggi Knowles*

Faith Knowles - November 04, 2023 at 11:31 AM

KA

Dear Bobby and family. I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your son. My prayers are with you and all the family

Kim Baldwin Allen

KIM Baldwin Allen - November 04, 2023 at 08:16 PM

CW

Dear Bobby , Bonnie, Jordan & Walker, As I read the above posts of people that Brooks touched in one way or another, love & laughter is a common thread weaving through all of them. What a blessing to be his parent, sibling, or friend. I pray you will all lean hard on our faithful Father in the coming days & years. I am so sad for your loss. Carey White

Carey White - November 06, 2023 at 07:55 PM

TA

Dear Griffith Family,

My deepest condolences for your loss of your amazing son and brother Brooks. He was one of the funniest and positive people I have ever met. He was a great brother to Walker and it was always a treat to have him up to Columbia and hang out. Your family will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

Tyler Anderson - November 17, 2023 at 01:33 PM