



## Herb O'Connell

March 28, 1962 - October 29, 2021

Herbert William O'Connell, 59, passed away on October 29, 2021.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, son of Arlene Grass O'Connell and the late Thomas William O'Connell, he was the Owner and General Contractor for TAG Builders LLC. He attended Brookwood Church.

A man of many interests and few words, his early life consisted of perfecting his hockey game through the youth program in Fort Worth and furthering his skills in woodworking. He was invited to try out for the US Olympic hockey team. While at a tournament in Canada, he taught himself how to ski in one day. Herb was a natural athlete and took on new sports with ease.

With a natural aptitude for designing and building, he spent time learning how to build his own boat and sharing it with the company of his friends on the lakes.

Herb studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. During his time there he participated on the SAE Mini Baja team and spent countless hours in the machine shop on campus. He loved the creative process of design and airplanes which led to his first career in the aerospace industry. He worked on the 777 design for Boeing and never tired of watching airplanes fly. He obtained his pilot's license and later bought an airplane with his friend Norman from engineering school.

Herb loved spending time with his family, and all he wanted was for them to be happy. He was a mentor to many young men on the path to Eagle Scout as the Scout Leader for Troop 776 in Greenville. He enjoyed working with youth

of all ages and coached baseball and lacrosse. He was a constant source of encouragement and positivity for all.

Surviving are his wife Laura Patterson-O'Connell, two sons; Spencer O'Connell of Salt Lake City, UT and Keegan O'Connell of Greenville; mother, Arlene O'Connell; one brother, David O'Connell of Talpa, TX; two sisters, Karen Hunter of Forth Worth, TX, and Susan O'Connell of Amarillo, TX.

A memorial service will be held at Brookwood Church on November 19 at 12:00 conducted by Norman Ponder. The family will receive friends at 11:00 prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to Boy Scouts of America 1 Park Plaza, Greenville, SC 29607.

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

# Tribute Wall

RE

“ *Herb was one of the nicest people and a great neighbor. He protected me from dogs lance while I was walking Charlie. Even Charlie the dog loved him. He would always greet us with a smile and a pet on the head for Charlie. around Forresters Heights and I am saddened beyond belief. I feel lucky to have known him. God Bless him!* ”

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**Roberta Etzkorn** - December 18, 2021 at 05:18 PM

DM

“ I was fortunate to get to know Herb in his later college days and his early professional days. He was a true craftsman and he excelled at everything that he put his mind to. He was very professional at work and a fun and loyal friend away from work.

We didn't talk often after he and Laura moved away from Ft. Worth but when we did, he would tell me how proud he was of Laura, Spencer and Keegan. He loved his family and with excitement in his voice would share their many accomplishments. Herb and Laura brought the boys back to Texas for a “reunion weekend at the lake” with several of our college buddies and their families in 2008. We all enjoyed every minute of it and Herb even proved that he could still barefoot ski.

One of Herbs' prized projects was a beautiful and FAST boat that he built. The quality of the build was top notch and the attention to detail was incredible. As good as he was at everything he did, he never took himself too seriously. This is evidenced in a photo of Herb and Laura in his boat. He had everyone laughing with is muscleman pose. With this we celebrate his life which ended much too soon. Our prayers go to Laura and the boys. Rest in peace our friend.

*Don and Deanna Murray*



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**Don Murray** - November 18, 2021 at 11:42 PM

KS

“ I have been trying to put this together for a week. I was having a hard time putting my thoughts together. I didn't want to admit that this has happened. I didn't want to acknowledge that another dear friend had gone way too soon. Herb was one of my best friends and will be dearly missed. I have great memories of us playing hockey, playing softball, snow skiing, Sundays on the lake water skiing, flying, woodworking, going to lunch after classes in college. We had such great times together in our younger years. As Russ said he was one of the hardest hitters in hockey and after he knocked you down, he would ask if you were okay. Just the kind of guy he was, played 100% to win but genuinely cared about people and just a good person. My condolences to the entire O'Connell family.

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**Karl Summerford** - November 18, 2021 at 10:37 PM

JC

“ Dear Laura, Keegan and Spencer,  
We mourn loss of Herb. He was a great father, Scout leader to our son and other boys. He would open the doors to his workshop at your home so boys could build those race cars to win the Derby race as Cub scouts. He was so happy to assist all.  
He was a great craftsman for our built in cabinets and bed (2007). I picked up this Ralph Lauren metallic paint and when he showed up for install I was blown away. He used some car sprayer for it, because it was the only way to perfect it. Herb was a perfectionist when it came to his product.  
He was a great outdoorsman as we remember him from many outings, hiking, water sports or teaching kids how to camp, pitch tent, pack for camp out, tie a knot, fix food.....  
His home additions, such as front porch is at my next door neighbor and other homes I know in our neighborhood. My original closet needs help right now and I have no Herb to call to. 😊  
He is missed greatly. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Jana and family.

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**Jana Circle** - November 18, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Herb O'Connell.*



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November 17, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Herb O'Connell.*



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November 15, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Herb O'Connell.*



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November 13, 2021 at 02:21 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Herb O'Connell.*



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November 12, 2021 at 11:54 PM

EH

“ Thinking of Herb means and ment for us having a great time together. Even it is a long time ago that we had the chance to see each other regularly. Herb was our neighbor, friend, consultant and sparring partner for Ralf, when it came down to woodwork. We will keep him in mind with his red truck, with a smile on his face, buried in wood dust or playing with the boys. Sending all our love from Munich.

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**Eva Homann** - November 11, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ In the short time that I knew Herb, I quickly grew to love having him around. He was so welcoming and enjoyable to be with. I never got tired of his jokes or interesting facts he would share. I am thankful to have gotten to ski with him in Utah, enjoy some great Texas BBQ together, and hike some of Mt. Rainier with him. These are all memories I will always cherish. Herb will always be remembered as a great father and husband. I am thankful for the hope that someday we will reunite again.

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**Ali Sottile** - November 08, 2021 at 07:51 PM

LP

“ A bright, shining light has been extinguished within our family. Herb was the best family member and - hands down - the best son-in-law anyone could ever hope for. He was a wonderful provider for his family and a faithful and devoted husband. The champion of Dads; he loved and encouraged Spencer and Keegan and was proud of their academic pursuits and college degrees. He had a hands-on approach with their various sports and forged lasting friendships with their coaches and their teammates.

First and foremost, Herb was smart - not just academically but from a common sense approach to any problem. That unassuming brilliance showed itself in so many ways; from report card grades to those incredible custom touches when building houses. His woodworking skills were unmatched. When listening to his approach and ideas with even the most common problem, it was like attending a Master Class. He also had much respect for Chris and all of the people he worked with on every project. Being outdoors, whether on the lake or in the mountains, he always appreciated the wonders of nature. He and Laura especially enjoyed seeing it through the eyes of Spencer and Keegan. Herb, you are missed - you will always be missed but your positive influence lives in each of us.

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Linda Patterson - November 06, 2021 at 06:03 PM

TM

“ I remember coming to Seattle before Norm and I were married so that I could meet Herb and Laura. I think that meeting was right up there with meeting his family. Norm had so many Herb stories! I always felt like Herb was the brother that Norm never had. I remember all of our get togethers and we cherish the last time we met in Charleston. We were looking forward to many more visits now that all of the kids are in college. Herb was a gifted and talented builder but more than that he was a loving person and made everyone feel welcomed!! All of his stories will live on and he will not be forgotten. Until we meet again....  
Tracey McNeely

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**Tracey McNeely** - November 06, 2021 at 04:50 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**J. R. Russ Whitaker** - November 05, 2021 at 05:35 PM

JW

“ Herbie was a very good hockey player. Right before he'd check you into the boards he would say, "Get your headup". That way you'd see what was going to blast you. He was a great water skier as well. He'd drop his ski and barefoot.  
I'll never forget and still tell the story about all of us falling into the ice on a bus at Purgatory ski resort. Unforgettable and very cold.

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**J. R. Russ Whitaker** - November 05, 2021 at 05:31 PM

KO

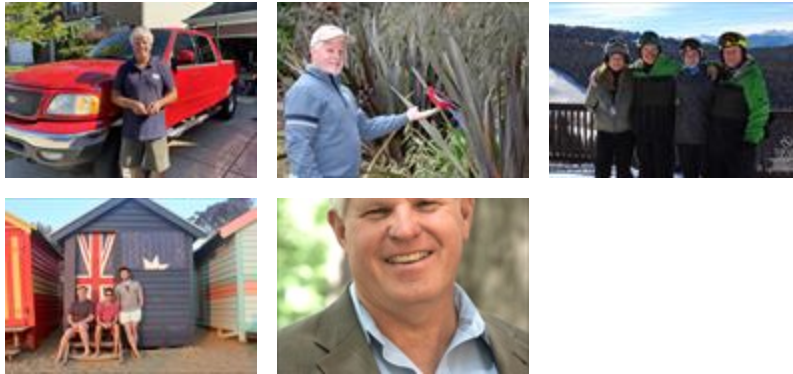
“ I couldn't have asked for a better father. Spencer and I received endless support and love from him and he found a way to show it every day. He was the most selfless person I have ever known, he was always helping others and it was this quality along with so many others that made him such a role model to me. Thank you for everything, we will truly miss you Herbie.

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**Keegan O'Connell** - November 04, 2021 at 10:34 PM

KO

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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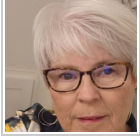
**Keegan O'Connell** - November 04, 2021 at 09:53 PM

JC

Tab Builders did two renovations for me. From the moment I met Herb, I knew he was sincere, creative and kind. We had pleasant conversations and I admired his work ethic, his knowledge, and his desire to do excellent work. I was blessed to have crossed paths with him and I send my sincerest sympathy to his family. He will be missed! RIP, Herb!

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**Joy Cutchin** - November 05, 2021 at 07:47 PM



“ *The best nephew ever. A life well lived. A legacy that will endure. Simple pleasures made him smile, and excellence represented Herb in all that he did.*

*1 Timothy 6:6: “Godliness with contentment is great gain.”  
Love to you all. Aunt Carol and Uncle Gene*

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**Carol Oldham** - November 04, 2021 at 10:23 AM

JB

*I was so shocked to learn of Herb passing. You, Herb, and Norm were such good friends and support for Brian way back when he really needed it. I am very grateful for that. Bless you for being a good wife to Herb and Mother to your children and best wishes for the future.*

*Jack Beattie*

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**Jack Beattie** - November 20, 2021 at 09:37 AM