



Mr. Chris Shofner

March 29, 1954 - June 19, 2015

John Christopher “Chris” Shofner, Jr., age 61 of Shelbyville, died Friday, June 19, 2015 at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Ginger Bobo Shofner, his 9-year-old daughter, Willa Katherine Shofner, his younger sister, Ruth Ann Shofner, his uncle, Howard Bentley Shofner, Jr. and his wife Helen, his mother-in-law, Sheila Reed Bobo, all of Shelbyville, and his brother-in-law, Pyke Reed Bobo of Mena, Arkansas, plus a multitude of cousins and friends who loved and adored him. He was preceded in death by his father, John Christopher Shofner, Sr., who died in 2000, his mother, Betty Ruth Thompson Shofner, who passed after a long illness on June 13th, his aunt, Katherine Shofner Anglin in 2003, and his first cousin, Maureen Shofner Minch in 1998, who like Chris, died much too young.

Chris was born on March 29, 1954 in Shelbyville at the old county hospital, weighing a whopping 11 plus pounds, which held the hospital record for more than two decades, a fact his mother did not let him forget. He grew up being spoiled by his maternal grandparents, Bell and Annie Ruth Jarrell Thompson, their only grandchild for many years until Ann’s arrival, and spending days with his paternal grandmother Katherine Jenkins Shofner. As a child he was active in Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle Scout certification on September 7, 1967 with Troop 155, and as a teenager served as his great-aunt Mamie Jenkins Moore’s weekly golf partner every Saturday morning at 6:15 AM, which unfortunately put him off golf for many years.

He was the 12th member of his father's family to attend The Webb School in Bell Buckle, followed by his sister, where he played goalie for the soccer team and got into mischief. Whenever he drove down Highway 82 towards Bell Buckle in the Spring and looked over at the rows of daffodils that were in bloom, he would grumble that he had to plant many of them during detention, but then he would smile. He went on to attend Middle Tennessee State University where he majored in journalism after being inspired by one of his favorite Webb teachers. He also minored in philosophy and spent too much time at Kappa Alpha fraternity house, all the while playing in various bands.

Chris pursued his love of honest, straight-forward, and objective journalism as a reporter for several newspapers, including the Shelbyville Times-Gazette where he also served as Editor, The Tullahoma News, and the Daily News Journal in Murfreesboro. His last job was as the Public Information Officer for the City of Murfreesboro, a position he had to leave early in 2013 due to his rapidly declining health, much to his great sadness for he thoroughly enjoyed the people with whom he worked and was proud to represent Murfreesboro in the media. Unfortunately, Chris' greatest challenge in life was a frontal lobe brain tumor first diagnosed in 1997. Despite being benign and surgically removed, its aggressive recurrence several years later and the treatment it required resulted in cognitive disorders that only worsened in the passing years.

But Chris will be remembered most for his greatest passion, which was music, a lifelong interest he shared with his mother Betty and his Aunt Katherine. An accomplished bass player, he played professionally for many years in his youth, including touring nationally with country music star Skeeter Davis, playing in several rock and folk bands, and co-writing and producing a children's album with close friends. No matter the state of his health, he never refused a request to play guitar and sing. An old soul, his heart was gentle

and his disposition kind. He had a special affinity for connecting with people who were lonely or isolated from others. His greatest legacy is that he passed those traits on to his beloved daughter.

Visitation with the family will be Tuesday at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The funeral service will be held 10:00 am Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville, where Chris was a life-long member and a member of the choir, with the Rev. Lindsey Wade and the Rev. Dr. John Todd officiating. Burial will follow at Shofner's Lutheran Memorial Chapel Cemetery, where Chris will rest among generations of family, both immediate and extended. Ginger and Ann request that in lieu of flowers, memorials be given to Shofner's Lutheran Memorial Chapel in care of Mr. Bentley Shofner, 4625 Spring Cove Road, Murfreesboro, TN 37128, The Webb School Fund or First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville.

Chris' long-time friend David Feldhaus and Feldhaus Memorial Chapel are serving the family.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Heartfelt sympathy to Chris's family and many friends. Lots of fun times in the 80's with Chis and friends in Shelbyville, TN. May God's Peace be with each of you!
Mary Washburn Binkley, St. Augustine, FL

Mary Washburn Binkley - July 03, 2015 at 10:19 AM

SL

“ I went to Webb with Chris. Our paths crossed a year ago at birthday party in Shelbyville for the matriarch of local family. Chris grabbed his bass played with High on the Hog. I was sitting in on that gig with the hogs and enjoyed playing and visiting with my old friend. Thoughts and prayers to all the family. "Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."

Scott Lenoir - June 25, 2015 at 12:13 PM

FS

“ Ginger and Willa K, you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God's strength, love and grace carry you through. Praying for the Shofner family.

Fredda and Wayne Smith - June 23, 2015 at 05:10 PM

FS

“ Fredda & Wayne Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Chris Shofner



Fredda & Wayne Smith - June 23, 2015 at 05:08 PM



“ *I will miss your wit and crafted expression with a pen, Chris. Our pen pal relationship was a wonderful thing.* ”

John Pitts - June 23, 2015 at 02:57 PM



“ *Gail George lit a candle in memory of Mr. Chris Shofner* ”



Gail George - June 23, 2015 at 02:04 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Chris Shofner.* ”



June 23, 2015 at 11:34 AM

SC

“ Chris and I were roommates our freshman year (1968-69) at The Webb School in Bell Buckle. We were close friends and, at his kind invitation, I often visited his family home in Shelbyville.

As his obituary so precisely states, he really was "an old soul, his heart was gentle and his disposition kind". A great guy who certainly made this world a better place, Chris Shofner will be missed.

My thoughts and prayers and those of The Webb School Class of 1972 are with the Shofner family.

Scott Crichton

Scott J. Crichton - June 23, 2015 at 10:47 AM

BA

“ I'll add my sincerest condolences as a member of the Webb School Class of '72. What a true friend Chris was, always so kind and with a wonderful sense of humor. That glint in his eye when he smiled and laughed is what I remember so clearly. And, oh, my goodness, Wild Oats' rendition of Runaway at the 5% Solution in Murf.....wow.

We'll miss you, my friend.

Bill Abernathy - June 23, 2015 at 06:03 AM

JH

“ Jimmy Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Chris Shofner



Jimmy Harris - June 22, 2015 at 10:55 AM

JH

“ Chris was one of a kind. Both as a person and as a bass player. He was one of my best friends. I have no words to really express what I feel. I am praying for all the Shofner family.

Jimmy Harris - June 22, 2015 at 10:55 AM

SP

“ Chris was a friend of mine at The Webb School. I met him freshman year when we both boarded at the Sawney Webb House. We both played guitar and played a lot of music together. He was a great person. I am very sorry for your loss. Stephen Peters, Webb '73.

Stephen J. Peters - June 22, 2015 at 09:03 AM

MJ

“ May God wrap his arms around you all and give you strength. Thoughts and prayers are with Ginger, WK, Sheila and all the Shofner family and friends.



Marlene Jacobs - June 21, 2015 at 06:43 PM

WJ

“ Chris was a fellow classmate at Webb and a member of the class of '72. We treasure our memories and times with him. Please know our prayers and condolences are with the Shofner family at this time.

Wilson Sims Jr. - June 21, 2015 at 11:42 AM

JB

“ One of my best friends in high school (Webb), wonderful musician and journalist, and fun fellow to be with. So very sorry to lose him. Jack Bailey, Webb '72.

Jack Bailey - June 21, 2015 at 10:52 AM

JG

“ Chris hired me to work at the Times-Gazette for two summers when I was in college. Those are some of my best memories during my college years. He was funny, helpful and encouraging. I am so sorry for your great loss.

Jeanie Sorrells Garrell - June 21, 2015 at 07:17 AM

CG

“ May this time of great grief be a time of Great Grace for you and your family and friends. How we will miss him! Please know you are in our thoughts and our prayers.

Cliff and Linda Garrard - June 21, 2015 at 06:20 AM