



Mershell J. Sherman Jr.

APR 24, 1952 - JAN 19, 2022



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Mershell J. Sherman Jr.

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Mershell J. Sherman Jr., age 69, passed away suddenly on January 19, 2022, at his home in Tallahassee, FL. Mershell was born on April 24, 1952, to loving parents Mershell J. Sherman, Sr and Ladell Ray Sherman in Greenville, Mississippi. Mershell was preceded in death by his parents, his brother David Sherman, his twin sister Ladell Sherman Crawford, and brother-in-law, James Albert Crawford.

Mershell is survived by his son Christopher Sherman, daughter Kendra Adams, son-in-law, Charlie Adams, three grandchildren; Connor, Layla, and Lillie, and his older sisters; Mary Frances Lang (James) and Elizabeth Pardue, as well as many other loving nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends in Tallahassee and Mississippi.

Mershell's grandparents migrated from Lebanon for the promise of opportunity in America. They started a family near the banks of the Mississippi River, finally settling in Greenville, MS. He graduated from Northeast Louisiana University in 1974, and two years later, moved to Tallahassee with his then wife, Kathy. Mershell Sherman Sr., a businessman, greatly influenced his youngest son. Mershell started The Refinishing Touch, a successful furniture refinishing and repair business that he owned and operated for over 30 years.

At his core, Mershell was an artist, but it wasn't until the death of his twin sister that he found his passion for creating art. He dedicated his spirit and talents to painting, drumming, and teaching. Mershell loved his time volunteering at the Tallahassee Senior Center and drumming at Abundance Wellness Center. He truly enjoyed connecting with people, and he wanted everyone to understand that music and art can not only entertain but truly heal.

He enjoyed spending time outdoors and always cherished the time he spent bringing his children and eventually his grandchildren to the places he loved. Whether it was the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, Alligator Point or the trails of Torreya State Park, Mershell was at his happiest in nature. He would often retreat to the outdoors to work on his spoons, play drums, or paint the scenes that caught his eye.



Obituary

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To quote one of his favorite musicians, "I got somethin' in my heart, I been waitin' to give. I got a life I wanna start, one I been waiting to live". Mershell has started a new journey, and he will continue to give to us all. His family and friends will miss him dearly, but Mershell's beat will carry on.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, April 3 at 4pm at Millstone Plantation. More details will be posted on Mershell's Facebook page and distributed via email. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the GoFundMe created by his friends at the Tallahassee Senior Center <https://www.gofundme.com/f/memorial-star-for-mershell-sherman>.




Events

Mershell J. Sherman Jr.

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Celebration of Life

 **Sunday**, April 3, 2022

 4:00 PM ET

 **Millstone Plantation**
FL



Tribute Wall

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Betty Cummins shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



April 2 at 9:50 PM



Betty Cummins shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



This past summer (when our son, Michael, drove down from Maryland to visit), Mershell invited us to join his drumming circle under the overpass on FAMU Way. We had just moved to Tallahassee from Alligator Point and were not able to find and unpack our percussion pieces to join in. Mershell was generously kind in letting Michael use Mershell's own djembe when we arrived with no instruments of our own. I was truly touched by that act of kindness by Mershell and I bought some spoons from Mershell in Dec. to give to Michael as a Christmas gift because of that drumming circle special memory. One of Mershell's beautiful paintings was given to me as a housewarming gift from a mutual friend. It is now happily on the wall over our dining table brightening our meal times with its vivid colors. The last time I saw Mershell was at a music jam gathering of friend's on Andy Moorer's porch at the beach on Alligator Point just a day or so before we heard the heartbreaking news of Mershell's passing. He was happily drumming with us that day and enjoying conversation over a shared meal. He had brought some of his spoons to show the group and I helped him carry them back to his car as we prepared to drive back to Tallahassee. Is difficult to believe that he will not be joining us to make music again. I recently bought two of Mershell's spoons to use as a pair for serving salads. When I got them home and looked at them more closely, I discovered the outline of a heart in the wood grain of one of the two spoons that were identical in every other way.

January 26 at 11:45 AM



Vangie posted:

We had the pleasure of living next door to Mershell for 17 years. I loved hearing him play his drums and having long chats about art and music. He was an awesome person. Best neighbor a person could ever have. We will miss you Mershell. Rest in peace.

March 8 at 12:36 PM



Laura Jennings posted:

Mershell was a kind and gentle soul, he will be greatly missed.

February 10 at 8:13 AM



Tribute Wall

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DN

Dean Newman posted:

Mershell was truly a good man. We played music together so many times over the years—porch jams, living room jams, barroom jams, and he provided stellar rythym with me at severals bar gigs and house concerts. It's such a shock to lose him so soon. I hate that I missed the last jam at Andy Moorers's house at Alligator Point—how could I know it would be his last.

February 9 at 10:14 AM

GP

Ginger Goff Phillips posted:

What a fabulous man. I first met Mershell through furniture. He restored several pieces for my clients, and finished some pieces for my son's room. I purchased several spoons from him as gifts. Sorry that I never bought one for myself, or had a special chair restored. I always put it off. Thought I had time. So sad for friends and family. He will be greatly missed.

January 29 at 8:20 AM

TE

Teresa shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Mershell was such a light in Tallahassee. I was so fortunate to have experienced many drum circles over the years before I moved away in 2017. After moving away I was in connection with him and purchased many spoons as gifts and to have for my home. My spoon collection is in the heart of our home, the kitchen. Each time I use one of them I will continue to embrace the heart energy that Mershell put into each unique piece. Thank you Mershell for the love that you brought into the Tallahassee community and that I have in the heart of my home.

January 28 at 9:20 AM

VC

Valerie Jean Conner posted:

From the 1970s through 2021, Mershell repaired and restored pieces throughout our house. His refinishing touch was perfect. He was a master craftsman who loved bringing wood back to the life it deserved. Moreover, he became a good friend who always made us smile and laugh. We feel his presence in every room and always will. Jeanie Conner and Stan Makielski

January 28 at 4:00 AM



Tribute Wall

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Dan Middlebrooks sent a virtual gift in honor of Mershell.

Mershell was an amazing artist and my go to professional whenever we had any damage at Middlebrooks Relocation Systems-United Van Lines. Mershell workmanship left the furniture better than it was beforehand. Mershell was more than a colleague, he was a good friend. The last time I saw him Jeff Phipps called me about finding a professional furniture restoration service. I told Jeff there was only one person for the job and yes, it was Mershell. I was able to find Mershell and bring him from retirement to handle the massive job for Orchard Pond Plantation and Jeff was ecstatic with every piece of antique furniture restored. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.



January 27 at 11:19 PM



Hazel Blumberg--Mckee posted:

Mershell was my djembe teacher. The others in the class and I learned and laughed so much. I saw Mershell not long ago at a farm day. He was selling his beautiful wooden spoons, and of course I bought several. It is so difficult for me to fathom that he is no longer with us. Hazel Blumberg-McKee

January 27 at 8:13 PM



Arden Harrison posted:

Mershell left this world a better place. He refinished and repaired many family heirlooms for me and I treasured his friendship and honesty. He surely must be joyous to be reunited with his family and friends who preceded him. Sending prayers to family and friends. Arden Harrison

January 27 at 5:52 PM



Tom C Stratton lit a candle in honor of Mershell.

Truly a kind and considerate man I will miss you Mershell.



January 27 at 4:38 PM



Tribute Wall

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BR

Bruce posted:

Last fall, I went for a paddle down at the refuge. Over near the boat launch access cul-de-sac, I found Mershell seated on a bench with his carving tools and several pieces in-progress. He was so content with his craft and the location he'd chosen to work on it, I had to admire the comfort he'd found. His spoons may never become a collectors item, but they will always be treasured by those of us who are fortunate to have a piece of Mershell stirring our pots. Fare thee well, Mershell, you are stardust. You are golden.

January 27 at 3:53 PM

ET

Ernest Toole shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We all lost a true Gentleman and a good friend and we will all miss him, Mershell played on my 2012 CD. Always a pleasure just being around him.



January 27 at 3:37 PM

MP

Melanie Piland posted:

Mershell was such an inspiration between his art, woodworking and musical talent. There wasn't much he couldn't do. He loved to bring people together through his drum circles and it was such an uplifting experience. He was a very kind and genuine soul and he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. His spirit will live on in his paintings, woodwork and drums, and in his family and friends.

January 27 at 3:13 PM

JC

John Campbell posted:

I worked for Mershell at the refinishing touch for a couple of years in the mid nineties and quickly realized he was an all too rare special human. A kind and multitalented person who always trusted, encouraged and lifted up those around him. I am deeply saddened by his death and send heartfelt condolences to his family and massive circle of friends. I plan to continue to emulate his attitude and actions in tribute to this bright soul that i was fortunate to have met.

January 27 at 3:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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SF

Susan Frisbee posted:

My most sincere condolences to family and friends of this most multi talented artisan. His smile, his creative endeavors with wood, paint, and tools, the ability to make the drums sing, and always seeming to be up beat will be truly missed. I've only known Mershell for about 5 years but it felt like I'd known him for much longer. I have several of his spoons which I treasure, and I will miss him.

January 27 at 2:51 PM

LG

Lance Greenfield posted:

I'd only been friends with Mershell over the past two years or so, as he joined our musical ensemble, the Tallahassee Uke Jammers. During our Sunday rehearsals, many times he'd request a banjolele song (which is my backup instrument). Often, during a song he liked what I was doing, he'd look over, smile, and nod his head in an affirmative gesture noting to me his approval. I loved those moments and will always remember them fondly. I visited him at his spoon sales, at Havana and Millstone and at Tallahassee Nursery. There will always be a huge emptiness at TUJ for his musical contribution as well as his camaraderie. RIP good friend... you cannot be replaced.

January 27 at 2:39 PM

AG

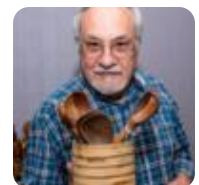
Ann Gabor posted:

what a wonderful man and artist and djembe teacher. We will miss your smiling face.

January 27 at 10:04 AM

LC

Lifesong Funerals & Cremations shared an album called **Memories Album**.



January 26 at 11:45 AM



Media

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Betty Cummins shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

April 2 at 9:50 PM



Betty Cummins shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 2 at 9:30 PM





Media

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Teresa shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

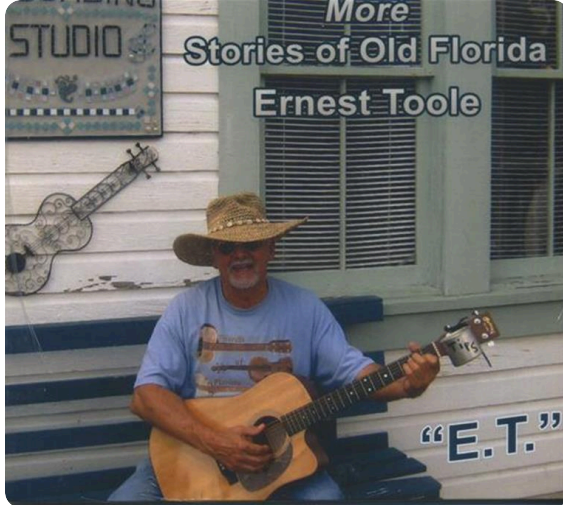
January 28 at 9:20 AM





Ernest Toole shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 27 at 3:37 PM



2012 - More Stories Of Old Florida



Mershell Played Percussion



Media

Mershell J. Sherman Jr.

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Lifesong Funerals & Cremations shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

January 26 at 11:45 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mershell by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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