



Tom Herring

JUL 17, 1958 - AUG 13, 2023



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Joseph Thomas Herring, Jr. (Tom) passed away peacefully on August 13, 2023 following a brief illness. Tom was born July 17, 1958 to parents Joe and Martha Herring of Whigham, GA who preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Janie Sandy, sister and brother-in-law, Rose and Sergio Salinas, nieces Tania and Savannah, nephew Cristian, and great niece and nephew Adriana and Benson.

Tom was a graduate of Whigham High School where he graduated in the top of his class. He received a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Valdosta State College and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida State University.

How does one condense such a well loved and lived life into a few small paragraphs? If you were fortunate enough to know Tom, you knew what southerners mean when they use the term "good people", because that's exactly what Tom was. He was a gentle giant with a heart of gold and a true southern gentleman.

Tom loved his family and friends. Tom found the love of his life, Janie, and he spent the happiest years of his life together with her and their fur babies, Lily, Tibby, and Boy. He loved his sister Rose, with whom he shared a love of music and literature that led them on many fun adventures together. Tom was also close to his nieces and nephew and was always present to celebrate birthdays, achievements, and other family events both special and ordinary. Tom made many friends through college and work and he maintained those friendships throughout the years, traveling to shows and visiting friends whenever he had the opportunity.

Tom loved his work. Tom worked with the Florida Department of Health for almost 40 years and developed many relationships during that time. Tom was originally recruited from the Hillsborough County Health Department to move to Tallahassee in the late 1980s to help lead the effort to automate business processes in the CHDs. Many monumental initiatives were accomplished under his leadership, including the creation of the Health Management System (HMS), and obtaining Federal Electronic Health Record Certification of HMS. His expertise in



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these areas went beyond the state of Florida and he was nationally known as an expert in health records and informatics.

Tom loved music and literature. Tom had a lifelong love of music from an early age. While he never played an instrument of his own, he had an encyclopedic knowledge of music that would rival any professional music critic. He loved music of all types, and especially loved attending concerts and live music events. He will be remembered by those who knew him for his skill at quoting just the right lyrics when responding to various people and situations. He also had a love for reading and literature, and could converse with anyone on almost any topic. If you ever had the opportunity to travel with Tom, no matter where you went, he always knew a neat record shop or indie bookstore to stop at along the way.

Tom loved life. He loved nature and enjoyed being outdoors. He had a love for animals and animals loved him. He never met a stranger and would strike up a conversation with anyone anywhere. He always made people feel at ease and he treated everyone with respect. He loved learning new things, meeting new people, and exploring new places.

He will be remembered by his warm smile that could light up a room, his great intelligence, his sharp sense of humor, and his kind and gentle heart.

Services will be held on Friday, August 25, 2023 at Calvary Methodist Church, 4581 Old 179 S., Calvary, GA. Visitation will be from 10:00-10:45 AM in the sanctuary with the service following at 11:00 AM. (Note: If using GPS, the address may show up as Whigham, GA, but the church is in Calvary).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's memory to one of his favorite charities, Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary, <https://ofsds.org/>

“The song has ended but the melody lingers on.”



Events


Tom Herring

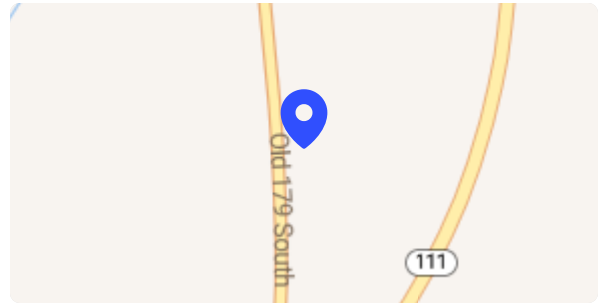
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Memorial Service

 **Friday**, August 25, 2023

 11:00 AM ET

 **Calvary Methodist Church**
4851 Old 179 S., Calvary GA 39828





SW

Steve Moore Watkins posted:

Tom and I met during inventory at Record Bar in the Tallahassee Mall in 1981. We became music brothers. He began visiting Vinyl Fever where I worked there in the early 80's. Tom had a special ability to be present when life had stressful challenges. Once, while living at St. Pete beach while in law school, I was downstairs washing my car and I looked up to see Tom walking by on the beach. I joined him. He was having an especially difficult time in a relationship at the time. Another time, I was having issues in a relationship and needed space. So I went to the CD store in Tampa. I looked up from the bins, and there Tom was to provide timely counsel. He was always there when I needed his counsel. What a good man and wonderful being. We shared many Wane festival weekends and concerts and he was always a joy to be with. I loved his laugh even when he it was at my expense he having called into question some action or attitude of mine. He was truly centered in joy and loved sharing this music in his life. The day before he passed, I had a dream that I was visiting a friend whose wife was having surgery at the hospital. After visiting with the friend, I knew I needed to go see Tom in the hospital but not know where to find him. But who showed up to show me the way? Tom himself, and it did not seem strange at all that he had been there to guide me to his hospital room. I felt Tom's presence strongly that next day and when I went to see King Gizzard and the Wizard Lizard a few days later in Cologne, I felt Tom with me. I will miss Tom's physical presence but know that he lives on in the heart's of those who loved him most. Blessings to those who were close to Tom in this life.

August 26 at 10:33 AM

BD

Bill Dahlem posted:

I knew Tom for over 20 years here in Tallahassee and I can surely say that no finer gentleman have I ever met. Though this may seem hard to believe, we met at a CD store. No, not legendary Vinyl Fever, but a small place that sold mostly used. Around noon we would see each other in the store and noted that we were frequent visitors. The clincher came when he bought a Patti Smith CD that I had special ordered. He was extremely apologetic, offered (illegal) copies of cool sh*t he had, and we were friends ever since. We also traveled to a few shows together, mainly to Atlanta. But the finest trip was to Nashville and the Legendary (and incredibly uncomfortable) Ryman Aud for a recreated Sweetheart of the Rodeo. Great times both at the shows and the trips to and fro. Tom will be missed by me and so many others. Sympathies to Family and friends. Bill Dahlem

August 24 at 1:13 PM

MG

Mark Gerszewski posted:

I worked with Tom at different times over the years. Having lunch with Tom when I was in Tallahassee was always a treat. He was just a special man. Highly intelligent without really trying to show that. His kindness and good nature just warmed us all. I will always carry warm memories of Tom.

August 22 at 5:42 AM



Tribute Wall

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LW

Lee Wolfson posted:

Allow me to reiterate how loved Tom was by the whole Vinyl Fever family. I moved to Tallahassee in 1984 and Tom was among the first people I met. He was friends with everyone I worked with at the store and I believe you could say that was the case for anyone who worked there the next 30 years! And Tom got to know people - friendships were often grounded in music, but went beyond. I only saw him sporadically after moving from Tallahassee, but we always picked right up where we left off, as if we'd just seen each other at the store... I'm sure to not be the only person to feel lucky to have known him. R.I.P. and deep condolences to Family and Loved Ones. - Lee Wolfson

August 21 at 10:55 AM

MC

Mike Coleman posted:

Tom was a heck of a guy. I first met Tom in the late 80's not long after starting work at Vinyl Fever in Tallahassee. We immediately hit it off due to our shared obsession with music. We developed a really great rapport in the store, but also enjoyed a friendship outside of the confines of that environment. We maintained that for all the years after I left the store in 2002. We would occasionally meet up for lunch or I'd run into him at a show or the grocery store. We'd always have a great conversation and have some great laughs. He was one of the easiest to talk to, sweetest people you'd ever want to know. I know he is missed by so many included many of the folks that remember him from years of working at VF. My deepest condolences to his friends and family.

August 21 at 9:19 AM

RJ

Robert Pruyn Jr August 26 at 4:16 PM

I met Tom when I went to work for Health. He was a remarkable person, keeping me and Alan M in line. Our team put together one of the only working systems still be used 24 years later despite many different attempts to kill it, HMS LIVES!!! Thanks to all who had a hand in it and thanks especially to Tom a great person and my friend. Bob Pruyn

LW

Lee Wolfson August 21 at 10:35 AM

Allow me to reiterate how loved Tom was by the whole Vinyl Fever family. I moved to Tallahassee in 1984 and Tom was among the first people I met. He was friends with everyone I worked with at the store and I believe you could say that was the case for anyone who worked there the next 30 years! And Tom got to know people - friendships were often grounded in music, but went beyond. I only saw him sporadically after moving from Tallahassee, but we always picked right up where we left off, as if we'd just seen each other at the store... I'm sure to not be the only person to feel lucky to have known him. R.I.P. and deep condolences to Family and Loved Ones. - Lee Wolfson



Memories only last if you share them

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



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