



## Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield

July 29, 1958 - May 25, 2024

Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield, a longtime resident of Sarasota, FL, and a native of Dayton, OH, passed away on May 25, 2024, after a brief illness. Tony was born in Dayton on July 29, 1958, and grew up in Beavercreek, OH.

He graduated from Beavercreek High School in 1976. He received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in landscape architecture from The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, and a master's degree in English/creative writing from Southern New Hampshire University.

Tony had a successful career as a landscape architect. He also taught adult education classes in landscape design. In later years, Tony worked for Children's Medical Services, a division of the Florida Department of Health.

Tony retired in 2016. In 2018, his love of education sparked his return to work, and he was employed by the School Board of Sarasota County, where he worked with special needs children at Oak Park School. With his calm personality, patience, quick humor, insight, and easy-going manner, he had an exceptional way of connecting with the students. He found great fulfillment in his role at this school.

Tony enjoyed being outdoors. He rode his bike regularly, jogged, went on long walks, and loved to sit outside in the evenings and listen to music on his

headphones. He was interested in meteorology, astronomy, botany, and nature. He also enjoyed writing, reading, cooking vegetarian meals, anything computer or technology-related, old movies, Christmas lights, and watching college football—especially his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes. His idea of the perfect day was one spent at home with his wife, Gratia, and his daughter, Aubrey, and which ended with a quiet evening on the lanai looking at the moon and stars, listening to the birds, and watching the wildlife behind his house. He was always present for the people he loved.

Above all things, Tony's greatest joy in life was his daughter, Aubrey.

Tony was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Clark Chatfield; his grandmother, Elon Bingham; his grandparents Howell Booth "Hal" Chatfield and Edna Rhea (Brewer) Chatfield; and his sister, Debra Ann Urzi.

He is survived by his wife, Gratia Inge Chatfield; his daughter, Aubrey Elon Chatfield; his mother, Rhonda Carol Chatfield; his aunt, Alice Rawls (Bob); his uncle, Carl Chatfield (Jan); and many cousins.

There will be a remembrance gathering on June 8, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 North Orange Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236.

As Tony would say, in the words of Jimmy Buffett, "It's been a lovely cruise."

# Previous Events

## Gathering

JUN 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory-Colonial Chapel  
40 N. Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ Tatiana, David, Katalina and Shane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.

Tatiana, David, Katalina and Shane - June 07, 2024 at 04:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.



June 07, 2024 at 04:34 PM

TG

“ The Georges purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.



The Georges - June 06, 2024 at 02:21 PM

KC

“ Kathy and Don Campbell purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.



Kathy and Don Campbell - June 05, 2024 at 09:04 AM



Carmen  
Chatfield

“ Tony was my cousin. We grew up together and were, as they used to say, thick as thieves when we were little. We laughed, we loved scary movies, we respected and cared deeply for one another. Sadly, as life does, we moved on with school, jobs, relocating to different states, he had a daughter to raise, I have a daughter. We lost touch for many years as life goes by so swiftly, then reconnected a few years ago and corresponded via texts and Messenger. We finally were able to have what was almost a 3-hour conversation a couple of weeks ago, laughing, reminiscing about the silly things we did (he had a broken foot or leg, flat can't remember which and was on crutches at one point). He would play his mother's Elvis records and play one of his crutches like it was a guitar, I used a hairbrush pretending to be Ann-Margret and we sang up a storm. Oh, how I cherish those moments, there were so many, and I thank God above we did have that lengthy conversation - was devastated when hearing it was to be our last. Tony loved life, loved so many, and oh how he loved his beloved Gratia and his precious daughter Aubrey. Sending love and prayers to them, as well as to all who knew Tony. He is now one of God's bright, shining angels!! We'll meet again one day in Heaven, and the fun will begin again!!

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**Carmen Chatfield** - June 04, 2024 at 11:38 PM

LH

“ Love, Kevin & Shelley Hamilton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.

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**Love, Kevin & Shelley Hamilton** - June 04, 2024 at 11:37 PM

LH

“ Love, Kevin & Shelley Hamilton purchased the Sereene Retreat for the family of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.



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**Love, Kevin & Shelley Hamilton** - June 04, 2024 at 11:37 PM

JL

“ Tony was a valued and respected member of the Oak Park School staff. His loss was felt by staff and students alike. His kindness, loyalty, and gentle nature will always be remembered. Jamie Lowicz, Principal

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**Jamie Lowicz** - June 04, 2024 at 02:57 PM

PE

“ Patty & Randy Elliott purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Joseph Anthony "Tony" Chatfield.



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**Patty & Randy Elliott** - June 03, 2024 at 06:08 PM