



Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes

March 23, 2023

Louis Gregory, "Greg" Berkes, 64, of Osprey, FL passed away on March 23, 2023, awaiting a heart transplant at Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, Florida. He was surrounded by his beloved family and friends.

A true Florida native, Greg was born in Winter Haven, FL to the late William Louis and Helen (Takacs) Berkes. He grew up in Tampa, graduating from Jesuit High School ('76) and the University of South Florida ('80).

In 1985, he married the love of his life, Amy (Cooper) Berkes. Together they owned and operated several successful restaurants in Florida and Georgia along with other business ventures. Coach Greg also coached softball and baseball for many years and was a mentor to many, both on and off the field.

Greg will always be remembered for his authenticity, a humble and giving heart, his love for God, being a faithful family man and lifelong friend, his passion for the game of golf and the Florida Gators, the beach, a zest for cooking, doting on his beloved grand-dog Bogey, and listening to Tom Petty music. Greg will also be remembered for his fight for his life; he battled as only a warrior could. (He always talked about wanting to live to see his grandchildren grow and coach them.) Greg's motto was "Always Do the Right Thing" and he lived his life doing that until the very end; a true hero, Greg's honor and legacy live on with his final gift of organ donation.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 38 years, Amy; daughter, Elizabeth Berkes; son, Gregory (Jordan) Berkes of Hilton Head Island, SC; and the absolute light of his life, granddaughter, Emma Kathleen. Survivors also include his beloved sister, Teri Berkes- Brundrett (Scott) of Osprey, FL; brother, Bill Berkes of Hilton Head Island, SC; and special aunts (Vulli, Marie and Betty), cousins, nieces and nephews and in-laws.

The family would like to thank John and Kim Fernandez and family for their unwavering love and support every single day. We would also like to thank the outstanding nurses, doctors and staff of the Tampa General CTICU unit and Transplant Center for their devoted care and support of "Team Greg".

A funeral mass to celebrate the life of Greg will be held Friday April 28th at 10:30am Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, 425 S Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229. Rev. Anthony Armstrong, officiant. A luncheon will follow in the Fr. Fred Tillotson Hall, located next to the church.

The family asks those attending to wear colorful attire in Greg's memory.

"I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing."

More than 100,000 people are waiting for a lifesaving transplant. Help end their wait by making a tax-deductible contribution to Donate Life America and/or sign up to be an organ donor. <http://Donatelife.net>

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR **28**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
425 S. Tamiami Trail
Osprey, FL 34229

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 28, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 26, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 24, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 24, 2023 at 07:09 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 24, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 24, 2023 at 12:23 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 24, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.*



April 20, 2023 at 04:21 PM

RS

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Greg. My husband and I loved Greg and Amy. Greg was such a friendly and humble person. Our condolences to Amy and the family. Rod & Lorei Smith

Rod & Lorei Smith - April 17, 2023 at 08:40 PM

TE

“ I was so sad to hear this.. seeing his smiling face at Gritz has been missed for a long time. Prayers to his family and friends.

Tracy Englund - April 14, 2023 at 11:12 AM

JD

“ This is a story about golf buddies. For about the last fifteen years, a bunch of hacker dudes get together on Saturday mornings to chase a ball around and talk trash. We played a little money game of quarters for skins – but nothing serious or overly competitive. Players come and go, but the ritual continues.

One of the original members of the group was Dollar Bill Mercer – will get to the nickname in a minute. Bill, and most of the guys, epitomized Harvey Penick’s saying that “If you golf you are my friend”. Over time, Bill brought Scott Brundrett into our group and shortly thereafter, Scott asked if he could bring his brother-in-law, Greg.

The first time Greg played with us was at Bent Tree – I remember well that he won most of the skins that day. Of course, I had to needle him about being a ringer and how could a newbie take all our money.

I played with him the next week and hassled him about how he could play so well with his funky golf swing. Golf announcer David Feherty described Jim Furyk’s golf swing as an octopus falling out of a tree. Plus, Greg would throw in Jason Dufner waggles before he took the club back. But like the major-winner Furyk, Greg was super consistent.

One of Dollar Bill’s legacies was that he founded a group called the Compadres – 40 or so guys from all over the country get together every year to play golf, drink beer and act like frat boys. One of the rituals is to assign everyone a nickname. Since Bill was a banker, his nickname was Dollar Bill.

Greg’s first encounter with Compadres was 2019 in Birmingham, AL. At the time, Greg tended to hit the ball left – a lot. Normally golfers call that a draw, but sometimes when it goes way left, that is a hook. Subsequently, Greg got the nickname: the Happy Hooker.

Later that year, Dollar Bill became very ill. Not surprisingly, Greg

was right there to help out – taking him to doctor appointments, bringing food – doing what Greg did, being a buddy. We lost Dollar Bill in April of 2020.

2020 was the year of Covid. The only thing anyone could do was get outside – and we did; playing a ton of golf that summer.

The thing about riding around for 3-4 hours on a golf course is that you learn a lot about your playing partners. Greg and I spent the time talking golf, sports, trivia, and generally solving all of the world's problems.

Now, Greg and I were on complete opposite ends of the spectrum when it came to politics. But that never mattered to either of us. We could share our opinions, agree to disagree without being disagreeable, and move on to talk about University of Florida football and hit the next shot.

In 2021, Compadres came to Sarasota to have the tournament and honor Dollar Bill.

After the first day of the tournament, Greg was pretty high on the leaderboard. The group always has a Calcutta where you bet on who you think will win. Knowing our boy as well as I did, I and a couple other guys bet heavily that Greg would come out on top.

At the end of the tournament, the Happy Hooker was the winner by a long shot. One of my most favorite memories and proudest moments will always be of Greg holding that trophy as the champion of the Dollar Bill memorial Compadres.

Greg won't be at the Compadres in Myrtle Beach this year. But I am absolutely certain that he will be playing golf and talking smack with Dollar Bill up in heaven.

Joe Downs

Joe Downs - April 14, 2023 at 10:43 AM

LJ

“ The most lasting memory I shared with Greg was when he just got his brand- new, special- ordered white Mercedes convertible. He told me I could drive it but I opted to just sit in it because I couldn't bare the thought of putting a scratch on it. He always had a smile on his face & a story to tell. His hardy laugh was truly his signature. Every time I eat at Gritz in the McDonough square I think of him. My condolences to the family & prayers for all. He will truly be missed.

Lori J - April 13, 2023 at 08:14 PM

GD

“ Greg and Amy were our neighbor; we became good friends. We cherish the friendship and memories made. Greg was a wonderful husband, father and friend. Amy, Elizabeth and Greg Jr., please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you daily. May our friend, Greg, Rest In Heaven. Gone but not forgotten, RIH...Greg, Mimi, Gregory and Greer Davis, McDonough, GA

Greg and Mimi Davis - April 13, 2023 at 09:46 AM

JN

“ I'm saddened to hear this. The Newalu family loved talking baseball and meeting up with Greg at Grits. He always asked how Blake was doing. And we always got the intel on his kids who he adored. Condolences to the family

Jeanna & Earl newslu - April 12, 2023 at 11:27 PM

LT

Sorry to hear of such a great loss!! Greg & Amy were some of my most favorite customers at the bank in Jonesboro. Always smiling always kind. Loved going into Tannama then next door for one of Greg's delicious subs. My prayers are with Amy and his entire family.

Lisa Tatham-Staffon - April 13, 2023 at 08:00 PM

DG

“ Oh I am truly so sorry to hear this, Greg was one of the best humans that I know! He was always so kind to everyone and I never saw him without a smile on his face. Amy and Greg both are one of a kind and shared so much love for each other and their kids. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Debbie Gray - April 12, 2023 at 09:14 PM

TU

“ So many baseball, tanning bed, lunches and conversations with Greg. He was a dedicated Dad and husband. We are thinking about your entire family. -Richard @ Tracy Ussery

tracy ussery - April 12, 2023 at 08:46 PM

BT

“ We loved visiting Greg at The Gritz. He always took good care of us. And the food was awesome. Sea Dunes was like home to us. We are so sorry to hear of this loss. Dwight and Brenda Thomas, Cookeville, TN.

Brenda Thomas - April 12, 2023 at 08:37 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Louis Gregory "Greg" Berkes.



April 12, 2023 at 08:27 PM