



Coleman Wheeler

June 8, 1943 - March 20, 2016

Coleman Wheeler, 72, of Centralia, passed away at 7:05 p.m. Sunday, March 20, 2016, at Doctors Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Salem.

He was born June 8, 1943, in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Irving and Virginia (Coleman) Wheeler. He will be remembered with fondness as a Cruise Line Director, with Clipper Cruise Lines, and a Producer/Director for the World's First Production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." He also was a Mentor to many youths with the Great American Adventure Club, an art teacher, and a Production Choreographer/Coordinator for the Opening Ceremonies of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. He shared his many talents and abilities with the world, the communities he visited, and the schools he taught in. As Coleman always said, he just wanted to "Do Good."

He loved gardening, nature, architecture, and travelling the world. He leaves this world, with a legacy behind him of all the places he travelled, the garden paths he walked, the art he created, and the lives he touched.

Mr. Wheeler is survived by his partner, Bill Scott of Centralia; children, Jeremiah Wheeler and wife Renee, Benjamin Wheeler, and Chamisa Wheeler-Ellis and husband Benjamin Ellis; grandchildren Liviyah and Kaide Blackmon; siblings, Mick Wheeler and wife Joyce, and Virginia Oliver and husband Kevin; nieces and nephews, Steve Wheeler, Amy Wheeler, Emily Hecker, and Shelley and Sara Oliver; and many great nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Irving "Buz" and Virginia (Coleman)

Wheeler.

In accordance to Mr. Wheeler's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Osborn Funeral Home in Dix is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at osbornfuneral.com, or the funeral home's Facebook page.

Tribute Wall

CA

“ I went to college with Colie at the Univ of Missouri in the 1960's. We both lived in St Louis County Creve Coeur, Missouri I knew he moved to Centralia, il. My family and I moved to Naperville, IL in 2000. I got in touch with Colie but never got to see him. I have a Mola which he gave me when he lived in Panama. I have been searching for him all these years and just read he passed by away in 1916. At this late date I would like to send my sympathy to his family and children. I wish I would have known sooner and maybe I could have visited. Peace.
caroleebrown8885@gmail.com



Carolee - January 24, 2023 at 01:50 AM

NC

“ In my search for Colie, as I knew him, I found this sad news just today. I taught school with Colie at Alta Vista Junior High in Carlsbad, New Mexico in 1968. It was my first year to teach, and I think it was his too. It was a great time in my life. He organized a trip for students to to the Grand Canyon. I went along as a chaperone. He scheduled a mule ride down into the canyon for all of us. Everyone got to go but the bus driver and me. A couple of intruders took our place on the trip into the canyon. Since we had confirmed reservations, they must've paid dearly to have us ousted us from the ride. Another time, Colie and I climbed Quadalupe Peak (highest point in Texas). I remember us being terribly thirsty on our trek down the mountain.

Just wanted to share fond memories of Colie. He was an extraordinary person who filled his time on earth with many good deeds.

My condolences to Bill Scott, his children, and many friends. I'm sure he has things organized in his heavenly home.

Nancy Cotner - September 21, 2020 at 07:29 PM

MM

“ Just found out that Mr. Wheeler passed away over 3 years ago. As it happens, I am standing in line waiting to board a Hot Air balloon with my son and husband. I'm regaling my guys with stories about inflating and chasing the Disney's Castle in the Sky Hot Air balloon when I was in the Great Adventure Club in high school. I am so sad, and yet, I know wherever he is he's enjoying his next Great Adventure. ❤️ The world is a little less bright for me, but I know that heaven is that much more FABULOUS!

Melissa Mulvaney - August 03, 2019 at 08:15 PM

VA

“ I just saw this website and read about Coleman. I worked with him in the Youth Directors Office in the Panama Canal Zone. He was extremely talented and the kids adored him. May he rest in peace and live in our memories. Vicki Harrell Ahlemann

Vicki Harrell Ahlemann - June 15, 2017 at 11:06 PM

SF

“ So sorry to hear about Coleman. My heart goes out to Bill Scott and to Coleman's children. Love and comfort to you all.

Stephen Frakes - August 23, 2016 at 09:44 AM

DW

“ Doris Williams lit a candle in memory of Coleman Wheeler



Doris Williams - April 16, 2016 at 02:15 AM

DW

“ I assisted Coleman on a Great American Adventure Club trip to the Florida Keys with son, Erik Williams, and several other high school teens (sleeping in tents at every stop). We had a wonderful time! I couldn't imagine the time & effort Coleman must have contributed to organize this trip down to every exact detail!! I had never met him before this trip, but learned of him to be a very kind, respectful, very caring, philosophical, and just an all around wonderful and interesting man!! He treated and cared for these young adults like they were his very own. I witnessed the respect firsthand these kids had for Coleman and how they looked up to him as a role model and mentor. These kids bonded together and built lifelong friendships. Coleman gave these kids an opportunity of a lifetime with experiences and comradeship that was offered through the Great American Adventure Club. At first I wondered what I had gotten myself into by offering to help chaperone this trip. But it soon became clear to me that it turned out to be one of the most memorable experiences of my life! My son and I am so thankful to have met Coleman. He became a very good friend over the years and he gave us many fond memories to treasure. He will be truly missed!!!

Doris Williams - April 16, 2016 at 02:10 AM

DB

“ Coleman, or "Colie", as he was known by some of us, was outgoing, personable, artistic, philosophical, filled with awe by the world around him, all of which made him the unique person he became and which opened up so many opportunities for him. Those of us whose life he touched, have been made the better for it. He was my best friend through college and I will miss him.
Don Butler

Don Butler - March 29, 2016 at 08:23 AM

MC

“ Coleman made me feel welcome when I first started with Clipper Cruise Line. I also became his Facebook friend and was able to reconnect with the friends that I had made while working aboard the Newport Clipper. He will be missed.

Michael A. Carello - March 28, 2016 at 10:36 AM



“ Coleman was a true professional. He was a fabulous Cruise Director for Clipper Cruise line. I fortunately became his Facebook friend later in life. Coleman was so interesting and thoughtful. He loved his partner and family so. He often posted funny things. As well as, thought-provoking post. I miss him. I'm sure we all do. Blessings to all of his loved ones. Rest in peace my friend.

Carly Pack-Bailey - March 28, 2016 at 09:25 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carly Pack-Bailey - March 28, 2016 at 09:19 AM



“ Carly Pack-Bailey lit a candle in memory of Coleman Wheeler



Carly Pack-Bailey - March 28, 2016 at 09:15 AM