

Words of Remembrance – by George Campbell

Before we were the ROMEOs, we were five couples brought together by music. I can't think about Josh and not think about music. In our group, Josh, John, and Ken were the musicians. Rachel and my wife Barbara love to dance. All of us found joy in sing-alongs and Josh was the most enthusiastic of the bunch!

I've always loved lyrics. I'm going to lean into some lyrics (apologies to song writers). "I came upon a child of God," he was sitting on a barstool at Billy's, living like "we may never pass this way again," so he would "laugh while the laughin' was easy" and Josh made each of us feel like we were more than his friend.

After Covid ended the music at Billy's Roadhouse, Ken and I decided we should get John and Glenn to go places for lunch one day each week, and this is how we became the ROMEOs - Retired Old Men Eating Out. Josh was neither retired, nor old, but he was able to take a lunch break and join us.

Josh was an inspiration to us, in that he demonstrated that no one knows how long they may live, so everyone should live each day as wide as possible. That is how we became the Wide Guys.

The joy of music continued as the original five couples grew from friends to family. House concerts, Mount Troy Inn, and a Wide Guy trip to a Parrot Head Music Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama added width to Josh's life.

When Rachel notified us that Josh was dying, she told us that he seemed to be at peace. More than two years ago, Josh and I talked briefly about death. Josh said, "I know what's next. I'm good." I am comforted by Josh's hope and blessed assurance. I believe Josh is now singing praises to the Creator of the music of the spheres!

Thank you for being a friend!