



Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.

April 28, 1960 - April 11, 2021

Benny Frank Hawkins, Jr. passed away on April 11, 2021, after a bravely fought illness. Benny (Ben or “Benji”) was born on April 28th, 1960, to Marie and Benny Hawkins at U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. He was born into a military family and spent his formative years traveling the world, living in England, California, and Alaska, amongst many other places. His family ultimately settled in Iowa City Iowa.

Ben received his Bachelor’s degree from New College in Sarasota, Florida. He received his MBA from University of South Florida. He also graduated from The University of Iowa with a Juris Doctorate.

Ben was a music lover and loved the beach and the sunshine. He was a wonderful and loving husband, father, son, brother and grandpa. Ben worked many jobs in his lifetime, but most recently worked for over 18 years at Tampa Morgan and Morgan, where he met his wife, Beth. Ben was known as a relaxed, calm, funny and fun-loving man and well-loved by anyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Beth, of Brandon, FL. His daughter, Rachel Reis (Jim) and grandsons, Benton and Tyson of Adel, IA. His father, Benny Sr., (Lucille) of Coralville, IA. A brother, Chris (Stan), of Arlington, TX. Bonus daughter, Kristin Segreto (Tom), bonus grandson, Nicholas of Lakeland, FL.

Bonus son, Nick Meyer (Kim) and bonus grandchildren, Shay and Zachary of Tampa, FL. Ben was preceded in death by his loving mother, Marie.

Ben and Beth were prepared to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary this May. Ben loved the beach and the warm Florida sunshine. He loved to vacation in the Keys, which is where Ben and Beth spent their honeymoon. Ben and Beth loved to travel and spent many holidays traveling to and from Iowa to be with family, sometimes attending Iowa homecoming festivities. Ben loved most music, but especially blues, rock and roll, reggae and hip hop. One of their favorite things as a couple was to attend concerts and listen to live music. Ben also loved playing his Fender Telecaster, watching football, especially the Iowa Hawkeyes, USF Bulls and the Bucs.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Ben's Life will be held at the Brandon Elks lodge, 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon, FL 33510, on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:30. Reception to follow.

Instead of flowers, donations in Benny Hawkins, Jr.'s name can be made to the Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon, FL 33510 or the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, 3607 N. Armenia Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Brandon Elks Lodge 2383
800 Centennial Lodge Drive
Brandon, FL 33510

Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - April 25, 2021 at 12:29 PM

DE

“ *Marie, was my dad's sister Sidney Jordan, she had 9 Siblings, two remaining. Her parents are Addie Bell Leopold - Dillard, of Louisiana. And Sidney Jordan of Tennessee. Condolences.*

Dee - July 19, 2024 at 05:59 PM



“ *Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*

November 17, 2022 at 10:14 AM

CL

“ *Cathy Leskowics lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Cathy Leskowics - April 29, 2021 at 06:07 PM



Ben was like a brother to me. I will surely miss him 🙏

Manuel H Rodriguez - May 02, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr..*



April 29, 2021 at 01:10 PM

CR

“ *Ben lit up a room by just walking in! My prayers to Beth and family. He is certainly in a better place now and in no pain!*

Chris Rodriguez

Christine Rodriguez - April 28, 2021 at 04:07 PM

MB

“ *I will always remember Ben with a smile. I am always going to see him when I walk into the break room in the office and see him having his "pre-lunch". He is going to be missed but certainly will not be forgotten.*

Mary Barton - April 28, 2021 at 11:24 AM

TL

“ It's hard to believe that someone as happy, loving and friendly as Ben could be gone from this world so soon. I worked with Ben closely for most of my time at M&M, and cannot remember him ever being angry or upset. He always had a kind word or a funny joke for anyone. His laugh was infectious. My heartfelt love and support go out to Beth, Kristen, and the entire Hawkins family. My heart hurts so much for you right now. I look forward to celebrating Ben this weekend.

Tina Lafoe - April 27, 2021 at 03:32 PM

 David
Carter

“ Ben was such a nice, easygoing guy. I really enjoyed working with him. When I first started working with him, he went out of his way to provide valuable advice and help. He will be missed.

David Carter - April 26, 2021 at 03:27 PM

SK

“ I had the great pleasure to work side by side with Ben for many years. His smile was contagious & his fun loving spirit was everlasting. I affectionately nicknamed him "Big Money Ben," because he helped settle cases for exceptional values.

I will always remember the joy he expressed after beating me in many of our firm's bowling outings. He may have even done a victory dance :) Those were some of the best memories!

In addition to work, we both loved barbecue, music & guitars & often discussed them. I can't express how much i miss & love him!! Rest in peace Ben.

Love,

Sumeet Kaul

Sumeet Kaul - April 26, 2021 at 10:33 AM

DZ

“ Ben had such an infectious sense of humor. He always made me laugh and smile when I saw him. Even when he was having a bad day. My heart hurts that he is gone.



Devon Zukoski - April 26, 2021 at 07:32 AM



“ Manuel H Rodriguez sent a virtual gift in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.



Manuel H Rodriguez - April 24, 2021 at 08:56 PM

CM

“ Ben loved being outside, sunshine, music, and good company. Anytime I was with him, we were doing at least one of these things. Ben lived life the way he loved it and that’s what all of us should strive for. Rest easy in love Ben.

Caitlyn Mosher - April 23, 2021 at 02:27 AM

MG

“ I only met Ben once, at our 30th TBT Reunion. The best weekend ever for the class of 1973. You, and I became close as committee members/planners. The night of our ‘73 night function...I almost peed my bell bottoms when Ben walked in... MOD SQUAD..at least a two foot wide Afro. He was the hit. I laughed and hugged him so tight. He was a complete joy to be around. I went through the pics of that night in our magazine of that weekend, and that pic is a little dark, but I still remember his laugh and meeting up in your room and later in the hospitality suite.He was a real gentleman whom lite up every room. You were certainly blessed to have loved and be loved by this man. Love 🙏 Mary Henke Goff

mary goff - April 22, 2021 at 06:50 PM

GE

“ Ben will be greatly missed...my prayers are with Beth and family.

Gena Malone Evans - April 22, 2021 at 06:36 PM

SH

“ Ben's smile and laugh could brighten anyone's day. He loved his family and loved life. He will be missed...great memories 🙏❤️

Sherry - April 22, 2021 at 02:27 PM

TT

“ I am so glad that I got to meet you and spend time with you and Beth and Kristen. I always enjoyed being around you, especially at concerts. You will be missed by so many.

Tara Torrens - April 21, 2021 at 07:14 PM

JM

“ A beautiful man. I always saw him happy.....john Morgan

john morgan - April 20, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ We feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to become friends with Ben and get to spend time with Ben and Beth together as a couple. They were always having fun together, which is an inspiration to others. Beth, you and your family are in our prayers and we are here for you if you need anything.

Robin Hujar - April 20, 2021 at 05:16 PM



Ben was like a brother to me. He filled a void in my heart and soul. When ever I got together with Ben and Beth they made me feel loved and part of the family ❤️

Manuel H Rodriguez - April 22, 2021 at 09:49 AM

KB

“ Ben was always smiling and joking, I cannot remember a time that he was upset. He was always making others laugh. And always eating all the time, he will be missed.



Kelli Barnett - April 20, 2021 at 05:02 PM

TW

“ I will always remember his great smile and kind demeanor. He will be missed.

Todd Whitley - April 20, 2021 at 03:19 PM

TW

“ I will always remember his great smile and kind demeanor. Ben will be missed.

Todd Whitley - April 20, 2021 at 03:17 PM

MG

“ Ben was always smiling or eating. It was refreshing to see the love he and Beth had. We will forever miss Ben. Love and hugs to Beth and family 🙏🙏👍👍



Michelle Gramling - April 20, 2021 at 01:43 PM

CH

“ The two things I love most about Ben: how much he loves Beth, evidenced by how close they were every day at M&M, walking together, eating together, being together. And how much he loves music, loved to talk about it, loved to share his and Beth’s live music experiences. I will carry those memories of his unique goodness always.



Chad - April 20, 2021 at 01:32 PM

DH

“ Ben was a strong and kind person. My thoughts to you Beth and family.



Doreece Harp - April 20, 2021 at 12:58 PM

JW

“ Jamie Wells lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.



Jamie Wells - April 20, 2021 at 12:40 PM

CC

“ Caron Cook lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.



Caron Cook - April 20, 2021 at 12:33 PM

CC

Benny had a great smile and wonderful laugh and I will miss him very much. Love to Beth and family.

Caron Cook - April 20, 2021 at 12:38 PM

JG

“ *Julissa Garrido lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



julissa garrido - April 20, 2021 at 12:29 PM

NL

“ *Natasha Lopez lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



natasha lopez - April 20, 2021 at 12:26 PM

NL

Beth and Family , i'm so sorry for your loss. Ben was such a great person, always smiling and always positive. I will miss him dearly.

natasha lopez - April 20, 2021 at 12:32 PM

MB

“ *Myia Basham lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Myia Basham - April 20, 2021 at 12:24 PM

AG

“ Dear Beth and family. So sorry for your lost! My condolences to you and your family.

Abby Gonzalez

Abigail Gonzalez - April 20, 2021 at 12:14 PM

TA

“ *Tara Austin lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Tara Austin - April 20, 2021 at 12:09 PM

BM

“ *Brooke Manchesi lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Brooke Manchesi - April 20, 2021 at 12:07 PM

RH

“ My Dad, Charles (Bunchie) Hawkins, Uncle Benny Franks Brother, really took time and poured into Benji. Daddy took a special interest in Benji. It's easy to see why. Benji has always been a great guy. I've always felt Daddy saw himself in Benji. He was so proud when Benji got his degrees and began working in the law. Growing up, I still remember Benji playing Joan Jett and the Blackhearts records (yes vinyl) and his love of rock music. Benji was cool before Lenny Kravitz ever thought about it!! Rest In Peace Cousin Benji. 🙏❤️

Ruyē and Charles Hawkins

Ruye H. Hawkins - April 20, 2021 at 12:03 PM

JM

“ Janae Martinez lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.



Janae Martinez - April 20, 2021 at 12:02 PM

JM

Beth you and the entire family are in my prayers. My deepest condolences on your loss. I will never forget his smile and his amazing spirit. I know he is an angel up in heaven.

Janae Martinez - April 20, 2021 at 12:10 PM

SG

“ Sarai Galarza lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.



Sarai Galarza - April 20, 2021 at 12:01 PM

KF

“ *Ben is the kind of person that leaves a positive impression on everyone he comes across. He is unforgettable and so loved. He is forever in our hearts.*

Katie Frehr - April 20, 2021 at 12:00 PM

LS

“ *Lizeth Sosa lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Lizeth Sosa - April 20, 2021 at 11:58 AM

CN

“ *Colleen Neumann lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Colleen Neumann - April 20, 2021 at 11:58 AM

CL

“ *Beth: I am so sad for you and your family to have lost this wonderful man. He fought hard. I love you and wish you and your family peace!*

Cheryl L Louis - April 20, 2021 at 11:57 AM

KW

“ *Karla Whitemore lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Karla Whitemore - April 20, 2021 at 11:56 AM

LP

“ *Laura Parada lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Laura Parada - April 20, 2021 at 11:56 AM

CL

“ *Cheryl L Louis lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Cheryl L Louis - April 20, 2021 at 11:55 AM

BJ

“ *Brooke Jimenez lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Brooke Jimenez - April 20, 2021 at 11:55 AM

LW

“ *Leeya Woolfson lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Leeya Woolfson - April 20, 2021 at 11:54 AM

KF

“ *Katie Frehr lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Katie Frehr - April 20, 2021 at 11:52 AM

BH

“ *Beth Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Benny Frank Hawkins Jr.*



Beth Hawkins - April 20, 2021 at 11:43 AM