



Christopher Young Burton

October 9, 1967 - August 16, 2014

Christopher Young Burton passed away on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, after a brief but valiant battle against cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends and was receive in the heavenly kingdom of his Lord and Savior. Chris was born on October 9, 1967, at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and grew up "an army brat," living in many interesting places. He graduated from Westwood High School, Austin, Texas, where he played on the football team and baseball team, earning all conference honors in baseball. He attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. There he was varsity baseball player for four years under coach John Skeeters. He was inducted into the Sam Houston State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. In his college senior year he realized his dream of being drafted by the Atlanta Braves, where he played for four years. Chris then followed his love of sports through television broadcasting at TNT in Atlanta and later KSAT12 in San Antonio, where he was a sports producer. He returned to Huntsville where longtime friends, Bert and Suzy Lyle, guided him as he reoriented his life in the service of the Lord. He also rekindled his relationship with Sam Houston State University and reconnected with many friends from his baseball days and his fraternity Delta Tau Delta. Again, Chris used his talents and love of baseball to build a business teaching and mentoring young men. It was this work that brought him the greatest satisfaction, and the outpouring of testimonials from his current and former players attest to that fact that he touched many lives. He is survived by the love of his life, Tammy Cannon, who never left his side during

the most difficult days of his illness. Chris's mother, Colleen Cassidy Burton, preceded him in death. He is survived by his father, Col. USA (Ret.) Emmette Y. Burton III, and his stepmother, Jane Findling Burton; brother, MSG USA (Ret.) Emmette Y. Burton IV (Special Forces) and his wife, Julie Burton, and their daughter, Alexis Burton; sister, Molly Colleen Strande, and her husband, Robert Strande, and their children, Collin Robert, Alec James, and Caroline Grace. The family wishes to thank the doctors and staff at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, for their excellent care and caring for Chris. The family has established a scholarship fund for baseball at Sam Houston State University in Chris Burton's name. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to this scholarship fund and sent to: Sam Houston State University, Christopher Burton Scholarship Fund, Office of University Advancement, Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2537. A visitation will take place at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville on Friday, August 15, from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. A Celebration of Chris's life will take place at the University Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville on Saturday, August 16 at 10 a.m. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Christopher Young Burton*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *We profoundly share your loss. Our thoughts and prayers remain with you and your family. God Bless*

Linda and Glynn Mallory - August 19, 2014 at 10:33 PM



“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss. We have one son, now 28, and I simply couldn't be able to comprehend what you are going through.*

But I had to write to remind you that life is precious, but you will get through this, too. You have been a mentor and friend to me for so long. Grieving is fine, as you well know. Just know that I and so many at TMI share your grief, your unending support, and the joy you bring to me and many others.

Tuffy Burton - August 17, 2014 at 04:45 PM



“ *We were so saddened and shocked to hear of Chris's passing. He was such an influence to my son. He always had a way with talking to him, encouraging him, building his self-confidence and bringing him out of his slumps. He even knew how to keep the parents going with his sarcastic remarks! We all enjoyed hitting lessons. He made it hard work for the boys, but fun at the same time. Baseball will not be the same without him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.*

The Lewises - August 16, 2014 at 07:03 PM

KR

“ Chris will be greatly missed. He gave hitting lessons to our son, Carter. He had a great sense of humor and had a special way with the boys. He's loss was such a shock and we will pray that our God will greet him with open arms- home at last! May God bless you all and bring you peace during this time of great loss. Farewell Chris, till we meet again, but not too soon.

Kent, Carter, and Vicki Robinson - August 16, 2014 at 12:23 PM

KM

“ Tuffy, Bunky, and Molly,
I am truly sorry for your loss! I was in disbelief when I heard. I wish I had known and could have said Goodbye. Chris was there for me during a difficult time the last few years. He was a huge part of my world when we were younger. I will treasure the memories I have, as I know you will also. All my love and prayers are for you all.

Kelli McCall - August 16, 2014 at 12:30 AM

RM

“ Tuffy, our prayers go out for you and your family. You have lost a fine son and a mentor who was obviously loved and respected throughout his community. Knowing Chris is in good hands with our Lord and Savior, we pray for you and your family at this difficult time that you may draw strength and love from the friends around you.

Rick and Sue McManus - August 15, 2014 at 06:30 PM

RB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Burton family. Chris Burton was always a name that comes up when I talk about the guys I played with in college. Chris was not only an outstanding player and coach but a very caring guy. We got to have some very good conversations over the past several years. He will be truly missed.
Richie Beard

Richie Beard - August 15, 2014 at 05:54 PM

KF

“ Words cannot express the love that Chris showed for each and every young man that he coached. My two sons will forever be grateful for the years they spent with him. We will miss our teammate, coach, and friend. He will forever be a huge part of our family. God Bless, and we love you.

Kerry Brand and Family - August 15, 2014 at 04:00 PM

RJ

“ Chris was my brother's roommate their freshman year at Sam so I got to hear all about Chris before I even got to Sam in 1988. We all shared a love of baseball but Chris and I shared a love for the music of Prince as well. That was our bond. I think of Chris every time I hear a Prince song on the radio and I always will. So, at the risk of sounding corny...”I'm here to tell you, there's something else...”
Rest In Peace, Chris.

Ray Jones - August 15, 2014 at 03:22 PM

KT

“ *May God ease your sorrow and suffering for your incredible loss. Since I found out Chris was sick, I prayed for him daily. Though he is gone, I still find myself praying not only for him but all of you as well. Chris was blessed to have you all there at his side when he took his walk with God. May you find peace in knowing that he knew how much he was loved.*

Kim Theis - August 15, 2014 at 10:12 AM

RF

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the Burton Family. Chris was always someone you could count on, and his love for people always burned bright.*

Russell Ferrell - August 15, 2014 at 10:10 AM

DS

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.*

Darcy Scrimshire - August 15, 2014 at 08:37 AM

MC

“ *Tuffy/Bunkie/Molly: I was shocked and saddened to hear of Chris' passing. I will always remember his huge smile and his grace and poise on the athletic field. I recall how difficult it was for him at Colleen's funeral. Well they are together now with God and in that you can take comfort. Again my deepest sympathy. Chris and you are in my prayers.*

Mike

Mike Clark - August 15, 2014 at 08:33 AM

DS

“ Played golf with Chris and realized what a competitor he was; as a fellow coach I quickly realized his passion for helping players get better; he will be missed by many, but will live on in the lives of the players and friends he cherished and those who respected him for his love of coaching and teaching;doug

Doug Smith - August 14, 2014 at 09:05 PM

TF

“ Our family is incredibly shocked and saddened by the news of Chris' death. He was a wonderful person, friend and coach to our family and especially our son, Grant, for the last several years. He will be dearly missed, however his coaching tips will be with us for a long time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Chris' friends and family. God bless -

Ross, Winnie & Grant Muery

The Muery Family - August 14, 2014 at 04:31 PM

CH

“ I knew Chris when he played ball in South Florida. I remember him in his leg cast. He was a good guy and had a great love for kids. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those who loved him. He will long be remembered by many.

C. Hutchinson - August 14, 2014 at 12:17 PM

BF

“ Shocked by Chris's passing, he was a great person and friend he will be truly missed. Thoughts and prayers to the Burton family. God Bless you Chris.

Bond Family - August 14, 2014 at 11:10 AM

LO

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God's blessings be with you and your family Tuffy during this time. We will keep all of you in our prayers. Your son had an amazing life that touched many. God Bless.

Lee and Karla Ortiz - August 13, 2014 at 07:58 PM

KP

“ Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss.
Brent, Kay, Caroline, and Emily Parke

Kay Parke - August 13, 2014 at 07:09 PM

JC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Tuffy, and with the entire family. The memories that people have shared of "Coach Burton" are truly a testimony to his life and influence. You can count on your friends at TMI--The Episcopal School of Texas and the Texas Military Institute Corps of Cadets.

John W Cooper - August 13, 2014 at 05:20 PM

PA

“ Col. Burton, so sorry for the loss of your precious child. I know how proud you were with what he had made of his life. Prayers for you and your family during these hard times...

Paula Allen - August 13, 2014 at 05:16 PM

GK

“ Thoughts and prayers go to the Burton family & friends. Chris had a larger than life personality with an infectious smile. He was an awesome teammate and good man. He will be missed. God Bless.

Gene & Jackie Kridler - August 13, 2014 at 05:01 PM

FH

“ Thoughts and prayers go out to the Burton Family. Many great memories of Chris while I was at SHSU. May you find comfort in God's hands.

Franci Hay - August 13, 2014 at 04:00 PM

MC

“ Chris was a great teammate, athlete, and most of all...a great friend. I have many fond memories of Chris and he will be truly missed.

Mario Cotton - August 13, 2014 at 03:43 PM

GG

“ Coach Chris will truly be missed. He was a great man, coach and mentor! My son Gavin truly loved him and will miss him. God Bless you Chris and your family.

George and Gavin Graham - August 13, 2014 at 02:53 PM

SG

“ We are so sorry for your lose. Owen took hitting lessons from Chris, and really looked up to and admired him. They quickly bonded over their mutual love of baseball and trendy athletic shoes. Every week Chris asked us not only how Owen was doing on the baseball field, but also how his school work was coming. It was clear Chris cared a great deal about his students and players. He will be remembered and missed by all of them. God Bless.

Shane, Shayla and Owen Green - August 13, 2014 at 09:37 AM

DM

“ So saddened and shocked by Chris' passing. He was a great person and will truly be missed. Our son Jon loved Coach Chris and spent lots of time with him over the years. Heaven gained a wonderful person. All of the family are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless.

David, Stacia and Jon Morrison - August 13, 2014 at 12:14 AM

GU

“ I am completely shocked and saddened by this news. Chris was truly larger than life. Many blessings and prayers to those who loved him most; he will be missed.

Guest - August 13, 2014 at 12:02 AM

JC

“ Thoughts and prayers are with the Burton Family & Friends. Such a big lose, but Chris lived a full life. He is now truly home. God Bless

John & Jana Carmichael - August 12, 2014 at 04:04 PM

DH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. Coach Burton was highly respected and loved by my son Haden. He thought Coach Burton was "way cool and an awesome player".

Darren Howton - August 12, 2014 at 03:02 PM