



Wayne Yoshino

June 29, 1949 - November 27, 2020

Huntersville-- Wayne Yoshino, larger than life, island son, teacher, coach, athlete, waterman, preacher, jokester, singer, musician, friend, father, grandfather, brother, and most importantly, husband to Mom, went to be with his Savior early morning, November 27, 2020.

Born in Lahaina, Maui, on June 29, 1949, Wayne was a star athlete, scholar, martial artist, and proud Lahainaluna graduate. After dedicating his life to Christ, he attended college on the mainland, met and fell in love with Nancy Tangonan, then returned to Hawai'i to become a beloved teacher, coach, and principal at Hanalani Schools where he would spend a total of 30 years.

Wayne also served as youth leader, deacon, song leader (with Nancy as his accompanist), Sunday School teacher, and hard-hitting softball player for Calvary Independent Church in Wahiawa, Oahu. A gifted speaker, Wayne was sought after by many schools and churches across the Hawaiian islands to speak. No matter where he spoke, he was known for being frank, humble, funny, knowledgeable, and extremely personable.

Always connected to sports, Wayne spent much of his spare time as a referee for youth, military, and semi-pro sports. This "other" life led to Wayne becoming head of the Leeward Officials Association on Oahu.

At age 51, Wayne became a student again and successfully earned a master's degree in education—a capstone to his long career as a teacher and administrator. Upon finishing his master's, Wayne started a second career working with youth, but this time as a United States Army School Liaison Officer helping the children of incoming military families transitioning into island schools.

Wayne was devoted to his wife, always made time for family and friends, loved cooking, loved his San Francisco 49ers and Atlanta Braves, loved playing the ukulele, loved

“talking story,” and especially loved being a grandpa. So much so that in 2019 he left his beloved Hawai’i to be closer to his son’s family in North Carolina. There, he and Nancy enjoyed fellowshiping at Cornerstone Baptist Church, going to restaurants, exploring the South, and reuniting with friends.

We will miss his laughter, his quick wit, his jokes, his encyclopedic knowledge about sports, his ready smile, and most of all, his unwavering love for his family and for Christ.

Wayne is survived by his wife of 47 years Nancy (Tangonan); children Scott, Renée (Schorno), and Randall; grandson Jude Kealohi; and brother Glenn.

A celebration of his life will be held Friday, January 8, 2020 at 3 PM James Funeral Home in Huntersville, North Carolina.

Events

JAN **Memorial Service** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

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James Funeral Home

10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville, NC, US, 28078

Comments



“ I just now learned of Wayne's going home to the Lord Jesus. He was one of the best of my college friends (BJU). I got to know him in the summer of 1969 when we worked for a laundry in Wildwood, N.J. to earn money for the following year in college. I remember him playing his ukelele. I never knew I could sing tenor until he encouraged me to harmonize with him as we sang many of the old standard gospel songs. I am sorry he is gone, but I know he is with the Lord.

Terry Brown - March 18, 2021 at 09:44 PM



“ If I could just use one word to exemplify Wayne, it would be "inspiration"! That word describes how he has been to me. We met at the Honolulu airport on our way to Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC in 1967. Never met before but that was a start of many experiences that will never be forgotten. Just driving across country with the members of the summer mission team was overwhelming enough. He was an example to me as he was part of an evangelistic team using judo/karate as a way to attract those in need of Christ. After graduation, I was working in town in the business side of the company when he called me and told me about working at the old (King's School) and new Hanalani Schools, which resulted in me working there for some 30+ years. If that wasn't enough, he got me into reffing sports. I think that was a blessing, if not a good survival skill. But of all those things he got me involved with, the greatest impact I will remember of him is his relationship with Christ. That was always forefront with him. His legacy lives on with me! I look forward to meeting him again, altho I know he is enjoying himself so much better than a lot of us here with the covid-19 and "political" pandemic!! lol...Aloha and A hui hou!!

Randall Inafuku - January 07, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Wayne Yoshino.



January 07, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wayne Yoshino.



January 06, 2021 at 10:18 AM



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne Yoshino.



January 06, 2021 at 12:17 AM



“ Cornerstone Baptist Church purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Wayne Yoshino.



Cornerstone Baptist Church - January 05, 2021 at 08:50 PM



“ Love, The Yoshino / Tanaka Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Yoshino.



Jasmine NY Domingo - January 02, 2021 at 09:08 PM



“ Wayne had unforgettable smile and a very humble and sweet soul. Our prayers go out to the family. We were stationed at Schofield for over 6 years and very blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such a wonderful person while serving on several committees at Solomon Elementary. Was hoping to get a chance to visit since the move to the mainland but we will see him again. Thanking God for all the lives he touched especially ours Nancy, we are so very sorry ~ Theresa, Linda, and Paula ~ Solomon P1 Crew

Theresa - December 25, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ I know Wayne from our time working together at Schofield Barracks. You can always count on him to share a smile and to take time to ask about my family. His grandson Jude and my daughter Macy were born I think in the same year. Wayne always checked in with how her basketball was going and he would track her team stats to share a "good job" - it meant so much to know my work community cared about me as a whole person. DO MO ARIGATO Wayne for your friendship and kindness. Your words of wisdom you shared with kids, families, and colleagues are cherished. Much Aloha to your family... Please tell his grandson Jude that his grandpa lit up so brightly whenever he even mentioned his name...he was always so proud. Aloha Wayne, you will be missed.... Sara Hill

sara hill - January 08, 2021 at 04:46 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Wayne for Child & Youth Services as a School Liaison Officer. That was the perfect position for him because it dealt with helping families and schools. He took the time to make each family feel special. A conversation that would normally take about 15 minutes could easily become an hour or more and I could hear Wayne and the family laughing and talking as if they were old friends.

He will be missed and I guess I'm one of the lucky ones...he nicknamed me Angel a few years ago.

Aloha 'oe my 49ers friend from Lahainaluna, until we meet again!

Sending my aloha and condolences to Nanci, Scott, Renee, Jude, Randy, Cheryl, and all the 'Ohana!

Tamsin - December 23, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ I'm fortunate to have many memories of my Basilean brother. His smile. His love for life and his Lord. I smile when I remember him saying, "Shut the light and turn off the door." when it was lights out in the dorm room. During my first soccer practice, Wayne gave me my college nickname, Foot.

Roger Wolfe - December 04, 2020 at 09:54 PM



“ Dad had a knack for remembering everybody, and if he liked you, you got a nickname. Mahalo for sharing this, Roger.

Scott Yoshino - December 18, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ Nanci & family,
I was privileged to know Wayne as a member of his Karate Team 1971-1973. He was a natural leader---wise, humble, witty, funloving, and confident. That little 5' 5" man was a stick of dynamite as a martial artist, but kind and caring as a husband and father. I traveled around the eastern United States every weekend for two years with Wayne; I got to know him really well. Wayne is the real deal; a faithful servant of God. We will see you in the morning Wayne, your forever friend. Rick Brooker

Rick Brooker - November 30, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ You described him in all the ways I admired and loved him. Mahalo for your kind tribute, Rick.

Scott Yoshino - December 18, 2020 at 06:43 PM