



Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart

December 28, 1974 - October 12, 2019

By Jack Kuenzie –

"Never tell me the odds."---Han Solo

Dwight Andrew Stewart was five years old when Harrison Ford gave heroes everywhere that mantra in "The Empire Strikes Back." The boy we'd come to know as Drew had a lot of growing up to do before he'd need those fighting words to launch his own epic battle against darkness. Drew's journey started in Sumter shortly after Christmas, 1974.

But it was Summerton where father Dwight and mom Sherry raised a son who soon showed signs of the personality that would make him an unforgettable man. A curiosity and an opinion about everything. A prankster who found creative ways to drop water buckets on sister Kate's head. A partner in crime imagining himself and brother Seth as Clarendon County's answer to Bo and Luke Duke. A mind his wife would later describe as "always going 90 miles an hour."

Drew's movie wound through Boy Scouts, Manning High, a stint as a Christmas tree salesman, a journalism degree from the University of South Carolina and a career in media. He was a newspaper columnist and a sports junkie. He had a secret identity as the WUSC DJ named "Texas Pete" because, why not? His musical interests had a staggering range, from Hank Williams to Sun Ra. He loved Sesame Street. He loved Miles Davis.

And he loved Jill Cauthen. They met in 1996 at USC's Wade Hampton dorm. "Interest at first sight," she says. A few years later, they were sitting at his computer when he turned and asked her to be his "permanent sweetie." Not the most conventional proposal, but the start of her amazing adventure with an unconventional guy.

Drew's photojournalism career accelerated, from Columbia's WIS to WCIV in Charleston and back to Columbia. He met major sports celebrities. Montana, Gordon and Woods. He was on a first name basis with the HBC. And he was getting recognized for his on-air work. He covered news too. Hurricanes, politics, protests. One of his biggest stories

almost ended in tragedy. Speeding to Washington, DC, in the hours after 9/11, Drew and reporter Lisa Goddard survived a rollover crash that wrecked their news vehicle. The incident might have given him a new appreciation of life, but no more so than becoming a father himself. Mason Andrew Stewart came into the world in 2006 at barely a pound and a half.

But as Mason grew stronger, Drew had a second, shocking brush with mortality. His frequent headaches diagnosed in 2008 as a brain tumor.

Within a week, surgery. Radiation, chemo. His TV friends put together a fundraiser and "Drew TV" was born. In the years that followed, prayers and many trips to Duke gave everyone hope a medical miracle had occurred. Even so, he again had to slow down. Taking and later leaving a state job as the illness reappeared.

Drew Stewart turned even more to his faith. He once wrote: "My favorite all-time movie quote comes from "Rudy" when the priest tells the title character, "...in 35 years of religious studies, I've found only two hard, incontrovertible facts: There is a God. And I'm not Him."

There is also this, from another inspirational cinematic figure Drew surely admired: "Death is a natural part of life. Rejoice for those around you who transform into the Force." Yoda, of course. Drew has indeed transformed, and today we rejoice that he was among us.

Dwight Andrew Stewart, 44, of Columbia, died Saturday, October 12, 2019. Born in Sumter, SC, he was a son of Dwight and Sherry Martin Stewart, and married to Jill Cauthen Stewart.

In addition to his wife and parents, Drew is survived by his son, Mason Andrew Stewart; sister, Kate Lincoln (Stephen), Seth Stewart (Patty); father-in-law, Kenneth Cauthen (Marsha); mother-in-law, Jan Viars (Denver); brothers-in-law, Matt Cauthen (Meagan), Ben Cauthen (Tanya); eight nieces and nephews; and numerous loved ones, co-workers and fans.

A service will be held at 11 o'clock, Wednesday, October 16th, at Shandon Presbyterian Church. The family will host a reception in Drew's honor for friends and loved ones from 5 until 7 o'clock, Tuesday evening at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext., Columbia. The burial will follow the service in Evergreen Cemetery, Summerton, SC at 4 o'clock.

The family would like to thank Dr. Anne Hutchinson and the staff of South Carolina

Oncology Associates, Dr. Katherine Peters and the brilliant team at Duke's Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center, and the staff at The Sigurd Center for Ortho and Neuro Rehab for the love and care they have shown Drew and the Stewart family.

Memorials may be given to Shandon Presbyterian Church, 607 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC 29205 and Brain Injury Association of South Carolina, 121 Executive Center Drive #135, Columbia, SC 29210, and Mason Andrew Stewart Education Fund, 6524 Sandale Drive, Columbia, SC 29206.

Cemetery

Events

Evergreen Cemetery

Larry King Highway

Summerton, SC, 29148

OCT

15

Visitation

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel

7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

OCT

16

Funeral Service

11:00AM

Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC, US, 29205

OCT

16

Graveside Service

04:00PM

Evergreen Cemetery

Larry King Highway, Summerton, SC, US, 29148

Comments



“ my mom was battling breast cancer the same time drew was battling cancer. my mom got to meet drew at oncology. i lost my mom to breast cancer in 2011. i pray for the family on loss of drew.

Andy Garland - October 27, 2019 at 03:49 PM



“ Pandora Verdone lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Pandora Verdone - October 23, 2019 at 09:32 AM



“ I only knew Drew as a kid a few years younger than me at Clarendon Hall. He was everyone's friend and always marched to his own beat (an ultimate compliment in my book). I was proud to have known that guy I later saw on the news. Condolences to the family. He will be missed.
Will

Will Davis - October 20, 2019 at 01:18 PM



“ I never had the honor of meeting Dwight in person, but I have been a friend of Crystal's for a long time. I am praying for the whole family. This is just so sad. I know he is where he is supposed to be.

"May his passing be swift in the arms of his Angel; May he be greeted by his loved ones that have passed; May his loved ones here on Earth find joy in his memory"

Love Never Dies

Aloha - October 20, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 18, 2019 at 08:17 AM



“ Drew came from "Salt of The Earth" folks. He inherited true life values very early. I always enjoyed his reporting....Straight forward and honest. A life ended far too soon
RIP

Charlie Hatfield - October 17, 2019 at 02:15 AM



“ With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 15, 2019 at 06:45 PM



“ I met Drew in college when he and my college roommate did Senior Semester together. I ran into him, years later, at a Shandon Presbyterian Bible study. He always had a huge smile, a deep love of family and an immense pride in his hometown of Summerton. I never got to know him well but was always so glad to see him when I'd bump into him when we were both running errands. I am so sorry for your loss - he was such a great guy. I will keep his family and friends in my prayers.

Betsy Lott
USC Class of 1997

Betsy Lott - October 15, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 15, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ Karyn S. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



Karyn S. - October 15, 2019 at 09:54 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 15, 2019 at 09:29 AM



“ Melanie Free lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Melanie Free - October 15, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ Drew was one of the most professional photojournalists I've had the privilege of working with. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Jill and son Mason at this time of loss. This world lost a great man but his memory will live on forever!

Ken Thayer

Ken Thayer - October 15, 2019 at 08:34 AM



“ My condolences to Jill, Mason, and your whole family. Please don't hesitate reach out and ask what you and Mason need. Banu

Banu Varlik - October 15, 2019 at 08:22 AM



“ Jill and family; my condolences for your great loss. May God give you strength and peace.

Debbie Mack

Debbie Mack - October 15, 2019 at 07:06 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 04:17 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 03:39 PM



“ Extending my sympathy and condolences for Drew's passing. I offer this as well in hopes of you finding some solace ... remember your family, friends, and coworkers are here for you and Mason. Never forget that and never hesitate to ask us if you two need something.



Mel Leaphart - October 14, 2019 at 02:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 02:15 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Jill and Drew's entire family. I had the opportunity to work with Drew on multiple occasions over the years and he was always the consummate professional and just an all around good guy. He will be missed.

Pete Brooks - October 14, 2019 at 01:39 PM



“ Jill, I was so sorry to hear about Drew's passing. Thinking of you and your son, and wishing you both moments of peace and comfort as you walk through this hard time. With sincere sympathy,
Amanda Ley

Amanda H Ley - October 14, 2019 at 12:48 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ My deepest condolence to the Cauthen-Stewart family for this loss. Drew will be forever remembered for his gamecock reports. May God give y'all the strength to overcome; and, to thrive.

Arturo Ovalles - October 14, 2019 at 12:22 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 11:08 AM



“ Thank you, Jack, for a beautiful tribute. Don and I met Drew and Jill in member orientation classes at Shandon Presbyterian many years ago. We moved and lost touch with the members there, but I ran into Drew on a couple of occasions in the SCOA infusion room. He was always positive and determined--a proud husband and dad. Our sincere sympathies to his family and friends.

Susan Haile - October 14, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 09:21 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 09:10 AM



“ Jill, I am so very sorry for your loss. Praying for peace and comfort for you all.

Jaime Teraoka - October 14, 2019 at 08:48 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 08:31 AM



“ Debbie (Berry) Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Debbie (Berry) Davis - October 14, 2019 at 08:22 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 08:22 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 14, 2019 at 06:05 AM



“ Corinne Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Corinne williams - October 14, 2019 at 12:24 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Drew's passing. I met and knew him as Texas Pete when we both hosted radio shows at WUSC at the University of South Carolina in the mid-90s. He passionately (and very honestly) introduced me to his hometown's culture and community in Manning; McCabe's Bar-B-Que (the honesty part was something along the lines of "you can't eat here too often or it will kill you" - yes, it was really yummy to someone from the far North), the Clarendon County Striped Bass Festival (still have the pics) and my introduction to shooting a 30:06 at his grandparent's farm. Very fond memories of my time with him as a cultural guide to the South and South Carolina.

Nigel Ravenhill - October 14, 2019 at 12:11 AM



“ He fought the fight with as much as he had for so long. I worked with Drew at WCIV in the 90's. He was very professional and was attentive to details, especially lighting. Which in my rushed reporter-mode didn't always appreciate, but damned it he wasn't right each time. My heart goes out to his son, wife, and family. I know he will be missed...

Kellen Butler - October 13, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ The Burns family of Camden extends our best wishes and our prayers. God's Grace and power will flow to and through you, bring you His Peace.
Ruth Ann and Julian.

julian burns - October 13, 2019 at 11:03 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 13, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ Kayla Lucas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Kayla Lucas - October 13, 2019 at 07:14 PM



“ Mark Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Mark Robinson - October 13, 2019 at 03:36 PM



“ Kate and Family. I am very sorry about the passing of your brother. I didn't know him, but used to work with you at Palmetto Health a while back.

Karen Hart

karen Hart - October 13, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ What a beautiful obituary. I am so sorry for your loss.

Coco Floyd - October 13, 2019 at 02:25 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to Jill, Mason and the rest of Drew's family. I was fortunate enough to briefly work with Drew at WIS. He always had a smile, and was easy to work with. Gone too soon, and too young. Your memories of all the good will help you all through this. I wish you strength and joy in remembering. He will be missed.

Katie Paxton - October 12, 2019 at 11:27 PM



“ Eloise W Chavis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart



Eloise W Chavis - October 12, 2019 at 10:53 PM



“ Sending many prayers and condolences to Dwight Andrew Stewart's family. I wondered what had happened to Dwight? Thank you Jack Kuenzie for the beautiful obituary. I miss you too!

Eloise W Chavis - October 12, 2019 at 10:57 PM



“ To Dwight, Sherry and The Entire Stewart Family,
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. I Peter 5:7. Please know that you are surrounded by prayers and thoughts during a very difficult time. Just reflect on the many, many fond memories that you have and shared; this will help to lessen some of the present discomfort. Over time your pain will become a little dull. May you be strengthen in the days ahead.

Carrie Sinkler-Parker
Alcolu, SC 29001



Carrie Sinkler-Parker - October 12, 2019 at 08:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight Andrew Stewart.



October 12, 2019 at 07:45 PM



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October 12, 2019 at 04:14 PM