



J. Delleney "Laney" Ruff, Jr.

May 10, 1941 - October 5, 2018

J. Delleney Ruff, Jr., known to friends as "Laney", 77, of Columbia, died Friday, October 5, 2018.

A native of Columbia, Laney graduated from Dreher High School in 1959, where he was class president, and the University of South Carolina in 1964, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order and a first baseman on the Gamecock baseball team. He was a lifelong member of Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia.

He worked for many years in the banking industry, and then in the securities brokerage industry, retiring from Scott & Stringfellow in 2001. He served on the boards of several organizations, including Easter Seals and as President of the USC Association of Lettermen. For many years he coached in the Palmetto Baseball League. Laney and his wife Melinda enjoyed traveling extensively together. One of his life's highlights was being in Omaha for the two baseball national championships of his beloved Gamecocks in 2010 and 2011.

Laney was loved by his many friends and family members. He was a true gentleman, never speaking negatively of anyone else, and always kind, positive, and generous to all.

Laney is survived by his wife of 54 years, Melinda; sons, Harley (Carol) of Beaufort and Andrew "Andy" of Columbia; grandchildren, Clayton, Graham, and Mary, all of Beaufort; his sisters, Sally (Jim) Wiseman and Mary (George) Ross, both of Columbia; his brother-in-law, Colin (Anita) Harley of Kiawah Island; as well as many nieces and nephews whom he adored.

A celebration of Laney's life will be held at 2pm, on Tuesday, October 9th, at Shandon United Methodist Church, 3407 Devine St., Columbia with Reverend Smoke Kanipe officiating. The family will receive friends in Player Hall at the church following the service. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family.

Memorials may be made to USC Association of Lettermen (attn. Shelley Leavitt), 1304

Heyward St., Columbia, SC 29208 or to Shandon United Methodist Church Choir Fund,
3407 Devine St., Columbia, SC 29205.

Events

OCT **Service** 02:00PM

9

Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine St, Columbia, SC, US, 29205

OCT **Visitation** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

9

Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine St, Columbia, SC, US, 29205

Comments



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Melinda,

I just spoke with Lois and Janet and am so sorry to hear about Laney's passing. I will be in prayer for you and your family. I will always remember your caring for the families in the Ronald McDonald Family Room and the times I got to share with both of you. You brought such comfort to the patients and families here at Children's Hospital. I am truly heartbroken and will miss seeing him on Wednesdays.

Bryan Smith

James Bryan Smith - October 10, 2018 at 12:36 PM



“

Melinda will and i were shocked and saddened by Lacey's death. He was my lifelong friend and one of the finest men that I have ever known. Due to illness we will not be with you at the service but will have you in our hearts and prayers. Mollie sullivan

Mollie sullivan - October 09, 2018 at 04:41 PM



“

I learned of Laney's passing from Gene and Jan Schofield, via Ron and Erica Odom, all huge Gamecock fans along with Laney, Melinda and myself. We all enjoyed so many good times together at the baseball games, in Columbia, Omaha, and elsewhere. I will truly miss one of the best Gamecocks ever. My love and condolences to Melinda and all the family... forever to thee.

Kevin Kaminer - October 09, 2018 at 02:41 AM



“ Melinda and family:

I learned of Laney's passing this past Friday as I was heading from Virginia to USC for my first parents weekend since Liza was accepted. While this news was painful to hear, I realized nothing would have made Laney happier than to know I was going to spend time on his beloved campus and would be rooting for his Gamecocks. When the game winning field goal went through the uprights to beat Missouri, I thought of Laney and I know he was smiling in heaven. He always made me and my family feel so welcome during our visits to Columbia and I'll always remember his kind, gentle spirit. Always the consummate gentleman, he will be sorely missed. Love, Michael, Brooke, Liza, and Finley Holland

J. Michael Holland - October 08, 2018 at 08:46 PM



“ Melinda and family ... Draw upon the leadership and congeniality that Laney displayed his entire life to help you traverse the emptiness that you now feel in his absence. Laney was an ICON for human civility and nurturing, and all aspects of living by THE GOLDEN RULE. How fortunate for all of us classmates that we were lucky enough to observe, up close and personal, this TRUE SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN.

Laney was, and remains, THE GOLD STANDARD for all would-be SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN! Not many will match that standard.

He will be missed by many, for sure, but he will continue to be the beacon that guides the daily lives of many souls. No man could want a stronger legacy. And no man has earned that legacy more so than Laney!

Marion Brown

Marion Brown - October 08, 2018 at 03:03 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. We loved being neighbors with you all and having the boys play together. Have thought of you often through the years. The kids join me in sending our sympathy. (Joan Baxter Roland, Bo Baxter and Hugh Baxter.)

Anna (Baxter) Blythe - October 08, 2018 at 01:20 PM



“ Melinda, Harley & Andy,
Happy memories of Laney and our boys at PBL baseball flood my mind as I heard of Laney's passing. He was a special man .Please know we are thinking of you and wish you love and grace in your mourning.
Mary Dunlap Snead

mary d snead - October 08, 2018 at 10:54 AM



“ Melinda, Ron and I were saddened to hear of Laney's passing. We have such fond memories from The Sarge, to away baseball games, to Omaha and seeing you the last few years at the new stadium. Laney was a true Southern gentleman and a loyal Gamecock fan! He will be truly missed by all who knew him! We love you and are praying for strength and comfort for you and your family.
Harriet and Ron Stevenson

Harriet Stevenson - October 08, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ Jan and I were sorry to hear about Laney's passing.

David Jordan - October 08, 2018 at 10:12 AM



“ My name is Anne Henry Ross. My father J K Henry was Laney's baseball coach at Dreher High school. Daddy's baseball team that Laney was a part of was very special to him and Laney was one of his favorites as they both loved baseball. And if my memory serves Laney was in my Mom's Annette Henry's home room at Dreher and Laney and other members of that homeroom would walk me a cross the street to Shandon Methodist kindergarten but Laney was my favorite escort He was a very special to our family.

He was a very special person and I know you will miss him.

Anne Ross - October 08, 2018 at 09:02 AM



“ Melinda,
Larry & I are deeply saddened for you and your family. Laney was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He was always welcoming to me and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. God bless you and the family.
Love, Larry & Becky Kingery

becky Kingery - October 08, 2018 at 06:31 AM



“ So sorry to read of Laney's death. Such a nice gentlemen and Ganecock. So enjoyed talking to him at ball games. Thoughts and prayers are with Melinda and family.

Bill and Harriette Cash

Bill cash - October 07, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of J. Delleney "Laney" Ruff, Jr..



October 07, 2018 at 09:05 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of J. Delleney "Laney" Ruff, Jr..



October 07, 2018 at 08:41 AM



“ Melinda,
We really enjoyed the USC football games and tailgating with y'all. Many, many fond memories of a real gentleman.

You are in our thoughts and prayers,

Charles & Sheila Gatch

Charles & Sheila Gatch - October 07, 2018 at 08:23 AM



“ Melinda, so sorry to hear about the death of Laney. Bart and I remember with such fondness of the memories of sharing with you our Gamecock times at Columbia. You and yours are in our thoughts and prayers.

Margaret and Bart Holland - October 07, 2018 at 07:55 AM



“ Melinda, I was shocked and saddened to learn of Laney's death. I am so sorry that I will be out of town on Tuesday, but my heart will be with you.
Love, Lill

Lill Mood - October 06, 2018 at 08:43 AM