



Tommy Vernon

September 4, 1968 - July 10, 2025

Tommy Vernon passed away July 10, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

William Thomas Vernon, Sr. was born September 4, 1968, to the late James Hiers and Marian Terry Vernon. He was born and raised in Darlington, South Carolina. He graduated from St. John's High School in the class of 1987. It was his formative years where he formed several lifelong friendships. These friends were truly an exceptional group that remained close throughout their lives. Tommy cherished them all.

Tommy worked hard. He spent many years in the soft drink industry. His job came to an end when his health would no longer allow, but he loved his company and the products he sold. He was a devoted associate of Quality Beverage for 16 years. He enjoyed playing golf, woodworking, hunting, and fishing. These traits, and his genuine love for the outdoors, came from his daddy.

Tommy had a huge personality. He smiled a lot, laughed a lot, and his words for others were kind. He was smart, entertaining, and honest as the day is long. These traits came from his momma and his daddy.

He loved watching Clemson play ball. There wasn't but one way to cheer in

the Vernon house and that was GO TIGERS, probably two of his favorite words. A few years ago, when Caleb played golf at Carolina, they all learned to say something else. It was hard, but Uncle Tommy did it! It was part of a devotion for his children, including his nieces and nephews, that was unwavering. He loved big, and he loved them all.

In 1996 he married a beautiful girl named Debra McFarland. They had a great life, three children, many laughs, some cries, but all in all, it was everything he ever wanted. He wanted her by his side when the Lord called him home. She was.

Those left to cherish his memory, in addition to his wife, Debra, are his three children, Tom King and wife Ashley, McClain Vernon, and William Thomas Vernon, Jr.; His brother, Jim Vernon; his sisters, Tricia Faithful and husband, Tom, Annette Patterson and husband, Ralph. His nieces and nephews, Jody, Matthew, Blake, Parker, Fleming, Christy, Amanda, Caleb, Becca, Colton, Noah, Tanner, Anna, and Forrest.

Funeral Services will be held Sunday, July 13, 2025, at 3 PM at Trinity Methodist Church, 126 Pearl Street, Darlington, South Carolina. Tommy will be placed next to his parents, in a private ceremony, at Grove Hill Cemetery.

Tommy grew up at The Darlington Country Club. It was here he learned to fellowship, swim, and play golf. In his honor his family will host a reception at the club immediately following the funeral. All are invited. The address is 125 Country Club Road, Darlington, SC 29532.

Tommy himself suggested memorials be made to The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute in his memory. It was his hope and his prayer to eradicate this dreadful disease for future generations. You can donate online in his memory. <https://cancer.uams.edu/get-involved/donate/>

In the end, he fought the good fight, he finished the course, and he kept the faith.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 13. 3:00 PM (Est)

Trinity Methodist Church
Pearl Street
Darlington, SC 29532

Tribute Wall

MP

“ I am so sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. I vividly remember meeting him our first day of middle school as we both struggled to open our lockers at Brunson Dargan Junior High. Always the gentleman, he made sure I was able to get it opened before heading off to class. We were friends from that day forward. We shared many a laugh and conversation throughout homeroom through the years. Tommy was one of the good ones and such a light. I will continue to keep his family in my prayers.

Marci (Todd) Poston - July 14, 2025 at 07:03 AM

CL

“ Connie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Tommy Vernon



Connie Lewis - July 13, 2025 at 10:05 PM

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I went to high school with Tommy and ran into him in Lexington some years ago. It was really nice to catch up and hear about each other's families. Tommy was always such a nice guy with a great big smile. I saw his name on the prayer list at my church.

Jane Hoke Buell - July 13, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ 103 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home - July 13, 2025 at 09:51 AM

RK

“ Debra, Tom, McLain and William, we are so very sorry for your loss of your wonderful husband and father. Tommy fought a long and hard fight through this terrible disease, and he is no longer suffering. We love you and will continue to keep you in our prayers.



Rodney and Kathy - July 12, 2025 at 10:58 PM

DC

“ David Cole planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tommy Vernon.

David Cole - July 12, 2025 at 10:23 PM

DC

“ David Cole purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Tommy Vernon.



David Cole - July 12, 2025 at 10:23 PM

CA

“ Tommy and I met on the baseball field 10 years ago or less I was umpiring he was coaching at Lexington Dixie Youth, great guy, couple years later I was diagnosed with cancer went to have a chemo treatment and walked in and he was sitting there looking at me smiling we went through several chemo sessions together I asked him if he would like to umpire and he said yes he turned out to be one of the best umpires ever at Lex.Dixie Youth. He's in heaven right now coaching and complaining to an Umpire because he knows the rules better then he'll look at Jesus and God and smile and they'll look at him and just say same Old Tommy welcome home I miss you man it won't be the same without you Tommy but I know you'll be somewhere with us on the field if it starts raining when we're on the baseball field all we have to do is look up and we'll see you smile cuz you want to see us wet love you my brother

C.J. Atkins - July 12, 2025 at 07:40 PM

TC

“ Knowing Tommy from middle school all the way through high school was a blessing. Tommy was truly one of a kind. He was always smiling and happy. I didn't see him any after high school, but always considered him a true friend. My prayers are now with his family and friends. I pray that God wraps his arms around all of you, and that you know peace and comfort that only he can provide.

Tim Chapman - July 12, 2025 at 06:13 PM

LA

“ *Thinking of you and your family!*

Lisa Louise August - July 12, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tommy Vernon.*

July 12, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Tommy Vernon.*



July 12, 2025 at 04:24 PM

BC

“ *Sorry for your loss knew Tommy from Ball park coaching my grandson in baseball. Also I Country club of Lexington. Good guy and good friend .*

Bill Cash - July 12, 2025 at 03:14 PM

BC

“ *You will be missed old friend. I will always cherish the times spent at BallPark Road Coaching. Prayers to all. Billy Cash*

BILLY CASH - July 12, 2025 at 01:46 PM

RW

“ *Rhonda Watford lit a candle in memory of Tommy Vernon*



Rhonda Watford - July 12, 2025 at 01:20 PM

LD

“ *Debra,
Sending lots of love and prayers to you and your family. Tommy was a wonderful person. We were chemo partners at Lexington and he kept us all smiling. He truly fought hard and loved his family dearly!!
Linda and Stoney Denny*

Linda and Stoney Denny - July 12, 2025 at 10:35 AM

SS

“ *My heart aches for each member of Tommy's entire family. Over all the years, I only heard great stories about this extraordinary guy. My prayers will be with you all for a long time. With my love and deepest sympathy,
Sally Sherron*

Sally Sherron - July 12, 2025 at 09:56 AM

GO

“ Debra and family. I am sorry to hear about Tommy's passing. I believe he started at St John's during my 1984..85 school year. He will be missed by his fellow classmates and all who knew him. It's my thoughts and prayers for you That God will comfort you all during the days that are ahead. Always reflect back on the memories you cherished with Tommy. They will last a lifetime. Sincerely, Grady L O'Neal Saint Johns HS Class of 1985



Grady L O'Neal - July 11, 2025 at 10:43 PM

JG

“You meet people who forget you. You forget people you meet. But sometimes you meet those people you can't forget. Those are your friends.” -Mark Twain

Tommy “Mad Dog” Vernon was a legendary husband, father, uncle and friend.

He battled his illness for 11 years.

I never heard one complaint from him regarding his personal health struggles.

He was always focused on his family and friends that he loved.

Selflessness.

What a life well lived.

Mad Dog lead by example.

My condolences to his family and all those who loved him, as much as I do.

His friendship and love was a blessing to me.

Godspeed Mad Dog!

I love you my friend.

Joey Grice - July 11, 2025 at 09:19 PM

CC

“ Christy Coates lit a candle in memory of Tommy Vernon



Christy Coates - July 11, 2025 at 09:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tommy Vernon.

July 11, 2025 at 08:57 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tommy Vernon.



July 11, 2025 at 08:57 PM

CB

“ Chris B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tommy Vernon.

Chris B. - July 11, 2025 at 08:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tommy Vernon.

July 11, 2025 at 08:00 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Tommy Vernon.*



July 11, 2025 at 08:00 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Tommy Vernon.*



July 11, 2025 at 07:56 PM



“ *Tommy NEVER said no to his children or nieces and nephews when they wanted to ride in the pontoon. We loved him dearly.*



Iris McFarland - July 11, 2025 at 07:41 PM

JG

He was a great son, brother, father, uncle and friend. He set the benchmark very high regarding all. ❤️

Joey Grice - July 11, 2025 at 10:17 PM

RB

Such a kind soul. His smile and laughter was contagious. I am so blessed to had him as a close friend. Will miss him deeply 😊💙

Rhonda Blackmon - July 13, 2025 at 03:25 PM

GH

“ *Gene and I are so sad to hear about Tommy. I remember him as a very sweet young man. He had a wonderful family. Sending lots of love hugs and prayers to all his family and friends*



Gene and Elaine Hubbard - July 11, 2025 at 07:07 PM