



## Bruce Washburn Jr

August 18, 1949 - June 5, 2020

Bruce Leslie Washburn Jr, 70 of Sissonville, WV passed away June 5, 2020 following an brief illness.

He was preceded in death by his parents Bruce L. Washburn Sr and Edna Jean Zukowski.

Bruce was born August 18, 1949 in Detroit, MI and moved to CA in 1965. Bruce always bragged about being a pretty good athlete and he was right. He was very good in basketball and track (surprise). He went to San Jose State before transferring to the University of Tennessee where he graduated in 1972. Bruce lettered for 3 years on the Track team as a high jumper and decathlete (another surprise). He also started on a pick-up basketball team at UT that whipped every team intramural or independent team they played in Knoxville. They even challenged the Freshman UT team in 1970 and Coach Mears wanted nothing to do with playing them. After graduating, Bruce stayed on at Tennessee as a graduate assistant track coach while working on his Master's. If you ever noticed the large ring Bruce wore, it was for the 1974 NCAA National Championship UT Track team that he was a coach on. He was also a good guitar player as he played in a rock band in CA (another surprise). Bruce's claim to fame came in the coal industry where he worked for +30 years for numerous companies in various roles. Bruce was the Tom Selleck in the coal industry with the Hawaiian shirts he wore everywhere. Bruce was an avid sports enthusiast and followed it very closely.

There will be no services at this time.

Donations may be made to the Kanawha City Veterinary Hospital at 5405 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston, WV 25304. Bruce loved his dogs and am sure he would appreciate your act of kindness in donating in his name.

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane is honored to serve the Washburn family.

# Comments

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“ I first met Bruce back in the early 1980’s when he was working for Ingram Coal and I worked for Ingram Barge. We also discovered we were at the University of Tennessee at the same time in the mid 1970’s—me as an undergrad and him working on a graduate degree.

He was a unique individual and I learned much from him. He will be missed! R.I.P.!!

**Terry May** - July 16, 2020 at 09:29 AM

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“ I've had the pleasure of getting to know Bruce for the past 15 years through events put on within the coal industry. He was extremely dedicated to the industry and cared very much about not only its success but also everyone he would stop and meet with...which was everyone. As mentioned in a previous post, he was very easy to spot in a crowd with his Hawaiian shirts and variety of hats he would wear regardless of the venue. I am truly saddened by his passing and will miss seeing him at future events.

God Bless,  
Jared Griffith



**Jared Griffith** - July 15, 2020 at 12:24 PM

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“ Bruce Washburn was a very unique individual and great person. I am proud to call him a friend. Bruce was a very caring and considerate person helping many people along his life's journey. God Bless him and his family.

**Larry Kaelin** - July 15, 2020 at 12:21 PM



“ Bruce was a fixture at the American Coal Council's annual Spring Coal Forum conference, wearing those characteristic hats and Hawaiian shirts. The fabric of Bruce's life and career was coal. I appreciate his support and will miss his stories, reflections, and musings on the market. Rest in peace, Bruce.

**Betsy Monseu** - July 26, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ Bruce was an athlete, coach motivational speaker as well as a hard working employee at any job he pursued. He left you asking yourself , " How can I improve myself ?". Knew him since days at UT as athletes and later in 1981 he was part of my wedding party. Yes, friends are forever and I am fortunate last February Phil Bonfiglio, Rick Grimm and myself had a telephone conference call that made us all feel we stepped back in time as UT athletes in the 70's. Rest in peace, Bruce.

**Daniel O'Connor** - September 07, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ Miss my cousin. RIP, Brucie

**Dianne** - December 30, 2020 at 11:07 PM