



## Ed Jonas

September 17, 1948 - June 12, 2020

Edward Jonas, 71, of Tallahassee passed away on Friday, June 12, 2020. Born in Logan, Ohio and the grandson of an Ohio coal miner, Ed was no stranger to hard work. After graduating from Cocoa High, Ed set out to realize his childhood dream of becoming an artist. In 1972, he earned his BFA in Studio Arts from Florida State University, and in 1977, he played a pivotal role in the opening of the Museum of Florida History.

In 1982, Ed went on a blind date that would change his life forever, where he met his soulmate, Christine. This past April, Ed and Christine celebrated 37 years of marriage, and during those years they managed two businesses together, raised three children, and travelled the world, all while sharing countless laughs and a tremendous amount of love.

Ed was a true Renaissance man, who seemed to possess more knowledge than one man could possibly learn on topics ranging from art to falconry to Civil War artifacts. As a gifted artist, curator, engineer, and advocate for the arts, he devoted more than 50 years to his creative passions. A proud FSU alumni, Ed has painted three of the university's former presidents and has created sculptural works located all-around the campus.

An educator at heart, Ed was also the co-founder and Chair of the Portrait Society of America, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to supporting artists and the traditions of figurative art.

He is survived by two brothers, Mark (Donna) Jonas and Greg Jonas; his wife, Christine Egnoski Jonas, and three children, son Tyler (Diana) Jonas, daughters Emma Jonas, and Amelia (Cody) Cummings; and grandson, Caiden Cummings.

A celebration of his life and studio visit will be held in October. In lieu of flowers, the family would welcome donations in Ed's memory to Portrait Society of America, PO Box 11272, Tallahassee, FL, 32302 or Porch de Salomon, PO Box 10509, Tallahassee, FL, 32302.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is

assisting Mrs. Jonas with her arrangements.

# Comments

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“ I knew Ed from working in the 1970s at the Florida Department of Education. He was a nice guy with tremendous talent. Always friendly when I ran into him around Tallahassee. His works of art will stand the test of time. Deep sympathies to his family.

**Wiley James** - June 16, 2020 at 08:33 PM

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“ To the Ed Jonas family, I was so shocked and grieved to learn about Ed's passing. Christine, my prayers are for you and your family to feel God's comforting Presence in this time and always. I read the article published in the Tallahassee newspaper and was so touched by your quote from Ed about the two groups of people "who will never forget you..." I am very much in the group of those ".....with whom you have taken the time to share your knowledge." I considered Ed a mentor in my earlier new art career, learning portraiture, and from his many workshops I attended and his talks at the Portrait Society of America conferences. In my world, he will be truly, never forgotten!!

I remember well his generosity in sharing his knowledge, expertise and giftedness both artistically and as a teacher, AND his humor!!. God Bless you and yours.  
Becky Stuart, Pensacola Beach, FI

**Becky Stuart** - June 16, 2020 at 09:50 AM

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“ How heartbreaking & shocking to hear of Eddie's untimely passing. Gone too soon would be an understatement. Eddie was such a kind, quiet, sweet, talented & unassuming guy. My prayers of comfort and condolences to his family during their time of mourning his great loss.

**judy Turner** - June 14, 2020 at 07:07 PM

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“ R.I.P. Eddy. The world has lost a wonderful artist and beautiful person. May God bring comfort and peace to all your family and friends.

**Laura Bowen** - June 14, 2020 at 12:07 PM

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“ This is surreal, as a sculptor, he was incredible! The world has lost a incredible, generous, thoughtful artist. He always gave his time and energy willingly to any artist that needed his help. It seemed he never met a stranger. Always a smile upon his face and greeted every member of the PSOA like you were part of the family. He has mentored many, and all have profited from his interest in their work.

I will never forget him, as he was a mentor to me. May God be with Christine and his family. There are very few people that I think so highly of, they are a very special family to many!

**Deborah Kepes** - June 13, 2020 at 08:01 PM

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“ What a nice guy and what a talent. The last time I visited with him was at a museum conference. Pretty much the same Eddy that I knew in HS. Praying God's peace and comfort for friends and family.

**Roger Shepherd** - June 13, 2020 at 07:22 PM



“ I knew Ed or as we use to call him Eddy, the first time I meant him and became friends with him is when we moved from England to Abington Street in Cocoa Florida we 0 layer together and went to school together. Ed always was into art and very good at it. Ed you will me miss not just as a artist or sculpture but more as a friend. I am praying for your wife and your family. Gid's peace and comfort for your family and friends.

**Jenny Wambles Weinrich** - June 13, 2020 at 08:55 PM

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“ Ed was so talented he was commissioned to create a sculpture at Florida State University. I see it on campus whenever I visit Tallahassee for football, etc. Its amazing!  
I wish peace for his family. I will miss him as a friend and classmate. God Bless Eddie!

**Mike Harden** - June 13, 2020 at 07:00 PM

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“ I am truly devastated by the loss of this talented man. I remember how awed May was ad to return to FSU several years ago and find his wonderful sculptures. I was delighted to reconnect with him on Facebook and again at our Cocoa High Reunion. His sense of humor was only exceeded by his talent.

**Kay Tawney** - June 13, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ I got to know Ed on a more personal level when we worked on the junior prom together. Even though it was “just paper mache” I was in awe of his talent as he created a huge Buddha from chicken wire in the Cocoa Armory. We worked together well...I did what he told me . We went separate ways as adults but thru reunions I got to meet his stunning wife. Through FB I followed his art. His sculptures left me speechless. I still stand amazed at his talent. I have none in the art department but I really did well in art appreciation! Although we were polar opposites in politics we agreed to disagree. We could actually discuss an issue without going for each other’s juggler! He was very kind and considerate. My heart breaks for his beautiful family. I am so sorry for their loss. I am praying Our Lord and Savior will hold them tight and grant them the peace that passes all understanding during this time of grieving.  
.....gone too soon

**Karen Bunch Anthony** - June 13, 2020 at 06:41 PM

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“ Oh I am so very very sad to see this news. I remember Ed from our first years in elementary school. He was a very talented artist even then, and one teacher posted his portrait of Santa at the front of the classroom for all of us to copy. It has been wonderful to follow his achievements and creativity through the years. May you feel God's comforting love and know that he lives in all our memories. Much love to you.  
Ivis Bohlen

**Ivis Bohlen** - June 13, 2020 at 06:20 PM