



Herbert Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte

June 1, 1933 - May 20, 2019

Herbert Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte was born June 1, 1933, in an upstairs bedroom of his grandmother's house in Tallahassee, on a site where the New Capitol now stands. Sandy spent long, happy years in other places – Chattahoochee; Sewanee, Tennessee; at sea on Navy ships; London, England; Gainesville; and Miami – and left his mark on the wider world. But he always returned to the town where he was born. Sandy's death on May 20 came as he was heading home from Jacksonville, where he underwent knee-replacement surgery several weeks earlier. We soon will say goodbye to him in Tallahassee.

Sandy's survivors include his wife of thirty years, Patsy Palmer; daughter and son-in-law Gabrielle D'Alemberte and Matthew Grayson, of Miami and Charleston, S.C.; son and daughter-in-law Joshua and Alysia D'Alemberte, of Miami; four grandchildren, Willoughby D'Alemberte-Powell and Sears, Whitfield, and Parker D'Alemberte, all of Miami; brother and sister-in-law Richard and Jean D'Alemberte, of Chattahoochee; niece Trelles D'Alemberte and her husband, Clay Roberts, of Tallahassee; cousins and great-nephews; and countless friends, colleagues, and former students. He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Willoughby D'Alemberte and Eleanor Whitfield D'Alemberte, and a grandson, Alexander D'Alemberte.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, in the

D'Alemberte Rotunda at the Florida State University College of Law. A celebration of Sandy's life will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall in the Westcott Building on the FSU campus, followed by a reception in the building. The University will webcast the memorial service live at wfsu.org/dalemberte, and a recording of the ceremony can be watched later through the same link.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests charitable contributions to the Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte Law and Human Rights Fund at the FSU Foundation. The fund will be used to support the FSU College of Law and the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. Gifts can be made online through the FSU Foundation website (to Fund F08786), or by check. Please make your check payable to "FSU Foundation," note [Sandy D'Alemberte F08786] in the memo line, and mail it to: Florida State University Foundation, 325 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1403.

Sandy left the world a better place, in ways big and small, yet always wanted to do more. He dedicated himself to the pursuit of justice, and was still practicing law the last week of his life. Although he lived in great pain, he spoke softly and smiled broadly. His default settings were joy, kindness, curiosity, creativity, and fearlessness. He loved us deeply. We will miss him.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (www.bevisfh.com or 850-385-2193) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

D'Alemberte Rotunda at the Florida State University College of Law
425 W. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Celebration of Sandy's life

JUN 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ruby Diamond Concert Hall
222 S. Copeland Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Tribute Wall

DP

“ I have this very beautiful memory of the look on Sandy’s face when former Governor Collins walked Patsy down the aisle to marry him. It was pure joy and happiness! What a lot of people didn’t know about that day is Patsy’s beautiful wedding dress had been ruined by a dry cleaners in Miami and it was not discovered until she unwrapped it in her hotel room the night before the wedding. A seamstress worked through the night attempting to repair the damage to no avail. All this to say, you would never had known it, and most people did not. The looks on Sandy and Patsy’s faces when they saw each other was unforgettable - the most in love look I had ever seen. I believe she could have worn a bathrobe to get married in and Sandy would have just seen the woman he loved. That is who he was - a man of devotion, commitment, and undying respect and grace.

There has been a lot said about his political and professional accomplishments. All of that is so very true. He is also man who is leaving behind a broken grieving, wife, children, grandchildren, brother, sister-in-law, and other family members.

We all loved him, the man we knew just as Sandy, and will miss him greatly.

Debi Palmer

Debi Palmer - June 03, 2019 at 06:33 PM

MH

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Sandy since the early 70's and interacting with him as a lawyer, legislator, dean, racket ball player and friend. He was simply one of the most decent, competent and caring individuals one could ever know. His keen mind was second only to his wonderful personality. He always had a kind word for everyone with whom he had contact. Debbie and I extend our sympathy to each member of the family and want you to know he enriched our lives and we grieve with you. God bless. Mike and Debbie Huey

mike huey - June 03, 2019 at 02:01 PM

LP

“ I met Sandy in the early 1960s. I soon realized he could have easily become a wealthy corporate lawyer, but he viewed the Law as an instrument to be used to promote the common good. From the beginning, Sandy was devoted to public education, including higher education. Simply put Sandy D'Alemberte was not only a state treasure, he was one of Florida's greatest citizens.
Lee J "Jack" Price, Gainesville, Florida

Lee Jack Price - May 23, 2019 at 03:12 PM

VP

“ Sandy truly shaped my legal career. His classes were my favorite part of attending FSU Law. I am forever grateful for the knowledge that he shared with me and the lessons learned.

Victoria Pearce - May 22, 2019 at 09:04 AM