



## Rodney Lee Canterbury

September 2, 1958 - November 17, 2014

IN LOVING MEMORY – RODNEY LEE CANTERBURY (09/02/58 – 11/17/14)

Rodney Lee Canterbury, of Tallahassee, 56, passed away unexpectedly in Miami, Florida on November 17, 2014. Born at Cabell County Hospital in Huntington, WV to Lee and Joan Canterbury, Rod spent his formative years in West Virginia and Ohio. In 1968 his family moved to Tallahassee, FL, which became his life-long home.

Rod grew up in Indian Head Acres with his brothers Chuck, Jerry, and Bill, and graduated with honors from Rickard High School in 1976. He lettered in Varsity Basketball as well as Varsity Golf. Stationed in the Boston area during his service in the United States Coast Guard, Rod specialty was in communications. He attended Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University. His work in the construction industry along with his love for the beach landed him in Destin, Florida, on Okaloosa Island, in the early 90's.

The love story between Rod and Sonja Guthrie began in 1994, when the joining of their lives turned a partnership of strong bonds into a newly blended family that he dearly loved, and whom dearly loved him. Once they were wed in October of 1997, he formally became the second parent to Coy and Jamie, and committed to raising these children in a safe, loving home. More recently, he became a doting "Grandpa" to two beautiful granddaughters, Cheyenne

and Lena. Rodney fulfilled his commitment joyfully by being a good provider, exercising strong moral character, and by demonstrating through his own actions how to live with kindness and to “love thy neighbor.”

Long-time owner of Southern Renaissance Stone Company, Rod was a highly-skilled marble and stone craftsman, whose local credits as a small business include the FSU College of Medicine, and the FSU Wellness Center. His specialized talent with marble and granite resulted in positions as Project Manager for two international marble companies, Italbec, US (Canada) and Fantini Mosaici (Italy). His acclaimed projects include: the Aria City Center in Las Vegas, the Fletcher Allen Healthcare Center at University of Vermont in Burlington, The Parc on Turnberry Isle, private residences on Glitter Bay in Barbados and on the Upper East Side in Manhattan, as well as the W. Hotel on Miami’s South Beach-for which he was recognized by the Construction Association of South Florida in 2010 as Craftsman of the Year. His current project as Project Manager for Italbec, US was the Brickell City Centre, a \$1.05 billion mixed-use development in the heart of Miami’s financial district. Rod and his son, Coy recently established Elements Tile and Stone, a local small business which Coy will continue to manage.

A passionate man, Rod was an avid music lover who attended numerous shows and festivals, including an almost annual pilgrimage to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. A fan and fixture on the Tallahassee music scene for almost 40 years, Rod became an accomplished harmonica player in his later years. Rod also had a life-long love of sports, and was an avid Seminole fan and supporter; he particularly enjoyed road trips for bowl and championship games. Rod’s vast array of hobbies included: golfing, cooking, camping, reading, and traveling. As a history buff, he delved deeply into world history, world religions and spirituality. As members of the Apalachee Beekeepers’ Association, Florida State Beekeepers Association, and registered apprentice beekeepers , Rod and Sonja enjoyed sharing their

award-winning honey with family and friends.

Rod was a kind and thoughtful man who greatly affected those fortunate enough to know him. His friends were many, and came from all walks of life. His life was not without difficulties. He recovered from, and conquered many life struggles, and graciously offered his strength, hope and experience in service to others.

Relationships were a priority to Rod; he cared deeply for his family and friends, as well colleagues, customers, employees and neighbors. The admiration and respect garnered from others was well-deserved. If you personally felt a bond with Rodney, know that he, too, cared deeply and spoke fondly of you.

Rodney Lee is survived by his wife of 17 years, Sonja Guthrie; adult children Jamie Sanderson and Coy & Shena Lefeavers; precious granddaughters Cheyenne (2 yr.) and Lena (4 mo.) Lefeavers—all of Tallahassee and Crawfordville, FL. He is also survived by his father, Lee Canterbury of Denver, CO; three brothers and their families: Chuck Canterbury and wife, Tammy, children Kristen and Kyle of Houston, TX; Jerry Canterbury of Destin, FL; and Bill Canterbury, children Ian and Veronica of Denver, CO. Also left to grieve his loss are his wife's Tallahassee family: mother-in-law, Janet Whitman; siblings Linda Guthrie, Mitchell Guthrie and daughter Jordan of Crawfordville, FL; as well as host of treasured relatives in the Brooks, Canterbury, Guthrie, Byers and Whitman families, both near and far. He was predeceased by his Mother, Billie Joan Brooks Canterbury in 2011.

A memorial service and celebration of life is planned for March 23, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida. Details will be provided via the Bevis website and Facebook social media site at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *One of the finest persons I have ever been fortunate enough to meet.  
Ever grateful for his presence, smile and kind heart.*

Ben Beldock - February 02, 2015 at 11:41 AM

SB

“ *Sharon Brooks lit a candle in memory of  
Rodney Lee Canterbury*



sharon brooks - December 16, 2014 at 09:55 PM

SG

“ *4 files added to the album New Album Name*



Sonja Guthrie - December 11, 2014 at 07:55 PM

AJ

“ *My prayers are with you and your family. May his soul be eternal.*



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**Alexis Johnson** - December 09, 2014 at 08:29 AM

MH

“ *Sometimes it's hard to understand why we loose the ones we love, especially at such a young age, so remember to seek comfort in knowing that Rod has gone home to our loving father, to help prepare the way for his family.*



*Matthew 5:4 – Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*God Bless!*

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**Marjorie Hinds** - December 08, 2014 at 04:14 PM

JL

“ *Sonja, I did not know your Rodney but from all I have read he sounds like a wonderful person and I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Jennifer Powell Lyons*

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**Jennifer Powell Lyons** - December 08, 2014 at 10:49 AM

SO

“ *Sherri Olney lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



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**Sherri Olney** - December 01, 2014 at 05:28 PM

GA

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Rodney was a fine man.*

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**Garnett Avant** - November 26, 2014 at 02:55 PM

MC

“ *Dale and I have known Rod since high school. He was one of those people you could go years without seeing, and then run into him again and it was like no time had passed at all. With such a love of life, a huge heart, a gentle nature and a smile that lit up the room, there will never be anyone quite like him. The world is a lesser place. To Sonja, Chuck, Jerry, and the rest of his family and loved ones, Dale and I send you our deepest sympathy. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May the wonderful memories you have of this special man help you get through this heartbreaking tragedy. Much love to all of you. He will be missed terribly, but never, ever forgotten.*

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**Melissa Starbuck & Dale Cook** - November 26, 2014 at 10:25 AM

MS

*Melissa Starbuck & Dale Cook*

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**Melissa Starbuck** - November 26, 2014 at 10:26 AM

PB

*Sonja, so sorry for your loss, love you, miss you. God keep and bless you and your family.*

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**Pat Browder** - December 08, 2014 at 10:28 AM

FN

“ *Fran Nessmith lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



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**Fran Nessmith** - November 25, 2014 at 10:44 AM

HB

“ *Married to my beautiful niece Sonja, but like a brother to me. I loved him and reflect back on some of our experiences and miss him more every day. My favorite was spending a long weekend with Rod in NYC, just the two of us. It was a special time. We will miss you Rod. You and your wonderful family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Hugh*

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**Hugh Byers** - November 24, 2014 at 08:36 PM

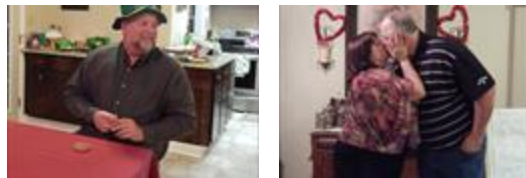
DP

“ *My deepest sorrow is with all of you during this difficult time. I pray that God is with each of you, and will continue to lead you. I know that Rod was an awesome man and loved his family dearly. You are forever in my heart and prayers. ~Donna Parker-Tallahassee, FL.~*

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**Donna Parker** - November 24, 2014 at 07:53 PM

PG

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



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**Patrick and Debra Gore** - November 24, 2014 at 07:03 PM

JC

“ *Best basketball player at Rickards High. White men CAN jump!!! He is scandalizing StPeter with his steals!*

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**julie lee campbell** - November 24, 2014 at 07:02 PM

KW

“ *The beekeeper Harvesting honey in heaven now as he continues to watch over his family. Praying for strength and positive energy during this difficult time. Kimberly Rose Wheatley, Daughters of the American Revolution*



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**kimberly rose wheatley** - November 24, 2014 at 05:50 PM

TB

“ *Trudy Barineau lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



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**Trudy Barineau** - November 24, 2014 at 03:36 PM

JW

“ *John (Red) & Tara Westmoreland lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



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**John (Red) & Tara Westmoreland** - November 24, 2014 at 03:07 PM

JH

“ Remembering how excited he was about those Tennessee tomato plants this past summer. He gave me some plants and I planted and nurtured them. He was a good man and his smile will be missed by many. I am keeping you all in my prayers.

Jennifer Harms - November 24, 2014 at 02:31 PM

LR

“ Leslie And Rod lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury



leslie and rod - November 24, 2014 at 12:01 PM

MM

“ There's a new star in the heavens looking down on us. We miss him. Sonja, stay strong and take care of your family. Hugs, Monty and Carol McCloud

Monty and Carol McCloud - November 24, 2014 at 11:59 AM

AF

“ So sorry for y'all's loss but y'all have been in oiu PRAYERS everynight since we heard about, GOD BLESS, Al & Nancy



Al Frith - November 24, 2014 at 11:07 AM

DE

“ *The embodiment of love and sweetness. That was Rod. Missing you now and forever. Dee*

Dee - November 24, 2014 at 10:40 AM

LJ

“ *May God be with you through this time of unexpected loss. Life is certainly fragile but I know you & Ron took advantage of sharing each & every moment possible. You were certainly in love because it showed on your face! I love you and know you are in my heart'*

Laura Jean Jackson - November 24, 2014 at 10:37 AM

RC

“ *Rachel Clarke lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



Rachel Clarke - November 24, 2014 at 10:10 AM

CK

“ *Cindy Moody Kinney lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



Cindy Moody Kinney - November 24, 2014 at 09:25 AM

JG

“ *Jim & Darlene Ganey lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



**jim & Darlene Ganey** - November 24, 2014 at 09:18 AM

SB

“ *Sharon Brooks lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



**sharon brooks** - November 24, 2014 at 08:53 AM

SB

*He was a fine man and it was an honor to have known him. He and Sonja were a beautiful couple and pray that she has the strength to get through this. She has so much love from family and friends and we all will keep Rodney's memory forever strong in our grand daughters hearts.*

**sharon brooks** - November 24, 2014 at 08:58 AM

PB

“ *I have nothing but wonderful memories of Rod. He always had a smile and a good word. He was such a kind and gentle man, and he and Sonja were truly a wonderful couple. Heaven has gained a treasure.*

**Patti Byers** - November 24, 2014 at 08:48 AM

CW

“ *Cathy "Catdog" Krell Wagoner lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



**Cathy "Catdog" Krell Wagoner** - November 24, 2014 at 08:41 AM

MS

“ *Mary Sampson lit a candle in memory of Rodney Lee Canterbury*



**Mary Sampson** - November 24, 2014 at 08:30 AM

PB

*Sorry for you loss. Prayers have been going up. He will be missed by all.*

**Pat Browder** - November 24, 2014 at 08:46 AM

NC

*4th of July will never be the same without his harmonica playing... I'll miss his positive outlook on "everything"...*

**Neal Cadwell** - November 24, 2014 at 03:33 PM