



Scott Allan Ralls

March 24, 1964 - September 3, 2020

Scott Allan Ralls of Cortlandt Manor passed away on Sept. 3, 2020. Scott was born on March 24, 1964 in Herrin Illinois. Scott was raised in Benton, Illinois by his mother Donna K. Smith and Charles Smith. Scott graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky. On April 22, 1995 he married Andrea Durr in Benton Illinois.

Scott has dedicated his entire professional life to providing growth opportunities to children and young adults. Along with Andrea, his wife, Scott was the founder, owner and director of Southwoods, a premiere 4-Week Residential Camp in Upstate NY and owner of Summer Trails Day Camp, in Westchester County, NY. Scott began his career in youth development after his first summer working with Amy and Morry Stein at Camp Echo Lake more than 30 years ago. During his career, Scott was a true leader in the camping industry. He served for many years on the American Camp Association, NY and NJ Board including a term as President. Scott was a current board member for the New York State Camp Directors Association as well as a board member for The American Camp Association National Board. Scott was a founding Board member and has served on the Project Morry Board continuously for 21 years, including the role of President. He is the Founder and CEO of the Donna Kaye Smith Scholarship Fund. An organization that provides 4 year college scholarships to those who otherwise might not be able to attend. Scott, has always been a champion for the camp industry and worked hard to make sure that all children had the opportunity to attend camp. He earned many awards and accolades along the way but the thing Scott was most proud of was his relationship with his wife Andrea and his three daughters Emma, Sydney and Bailey. Family was everything to Scott and being a father was his most important achievement and greatest blessing. The impact he has had on his many camp colleagues, friends and family is far and wide. Scott's legacy will live on in those of us whose lives he touched.

Scott is survived by his wife Andrea, 3 daughters; Emma, Sydney and Bailey and a sister Valarie Durham. His Aunt Carolyn South, cousins Lex and Cathy Turner(Chelsea, Eric), Kim and Bill Reynolds(Ryan and Ross), cousins Josh and Lora Smith(Zadok, Aletta, Tamsin) Alex and Amanda Smith (Alivia) , Anna and Randy Lane (Oliver) ,Mother in law

Sandra Durr ,Father in Law Paul Durr II, Brother and Sister in laws, nieces and nephews; Alissa and Chris Simmons(Ethan, Ainsley, Rowan, Finn), Shannon and Kicke Gomez(Giovanni), Paul and Cindy Durr (Anna and Adam) and countless friends who have become family.

We will honor Scott's life on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 from 12-2 pm and 4-8 pm at the Yorktown Funeral Home in Shrub Oak, NY. On Wednesday September 9, 2020 the funeral service can be viewed at <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/59417136>

In lieu of flowers, we encourage you to donate in memory of Scott to Project Morry (<http://projectmorry.org/donate>) or the Donna K. Smith Scholarship Foundation (checks can be sent to PO Box 201, Granite Springs, NY 10527)

Events

SEP

8

Visitation

12:00PM - 02:00PM

Yorktown Funeral Home

945 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY, US, 10588

SEP

8

Visitation

04:00PM - 08:00PM

Yorktown Funeral Home

945 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY, US, 10588

SEP

9

Funeral Service

11:00AM

Yorktown Funeral Home

945 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY, US, 10588

Comments



“ I am late in learning of Scott's passing. My heartfelt condolences to Andrea and girls. Southwoods and Summer Trails are his enduring legacy. I was fortunate to be a part of that family. A gift in his memory was made to Project Morry. -Lorraine Z, SummerTrails Staff Alumni.

Lorraine Z - November 17, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ Scott had such a big personality. He made such an impact and I saw it first when he came to Echo Lake for the first time when he was still an undergrad at Murray State. I remember his blue car which I think was a Cutlass or a Buick. I can see it but I can't remember the make. And we listened to the Cocktail soundtrack heading down to watch the NY Mets play one time in August. Always laughing and always positive. He was such a natural camp person OMG. Warm, caring, positive, upbeat and indefatigable. He knew no barriers whatsoever. He clearly found his calling. He will be greatly missed by many. Also one of the best huggers on the planet! My heart goes out to Andrea, Emma, Sydney and Bailey. Sending love and good wishes.
George

george stein - September 23, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ Scott was larger than life, and left us far too soon. It was a joy to have our son attend Southwoods. It made such a difference when he was young. Thank you Scott, Andrea and girls for being so wonderful. You are forever part of the Southwoods family. Fuzzies forever too.

Theresa Prestopino - September 13, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ Deb Bialeschki lit a candle in memory of Scott Allan Ralls



Deb Bialeschki - September 10, 2020 at 12:25 AM



“ Scott has made such a difference in so many people's lives... I know you will hear many great stories, but I just wanted to let you know that I have so much respect for Scott... I met him decades ago when doing research for Morry's Camp and over the years, I saw the impact he made on our camp community. He was a very good man. I will miss him.

Deb Bialeschki - September 10, 2020 at 12:24 AM



“ I was an overnight camp consultant when my boys were growing up and got to visit camps throughout the Northeast each summer. I chose Southwoods for both of them, partly because of the physical setting of the camp but in large part because of Scott. He so cared about each and every child there and teaching good values was more important to him than all athletic skills combined. He will be missed.
Helaine Isaacs, formerly with Tips on Trips and Camps
Mom of Stuart and Joshua Isaacs

Helaine Isaacs - September 09, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



matt bayer - September 09, 2020 at 03:28 PM



“ I "get to" mourn Scott, because I had the privilege of knowing him for so many years. Andrea, Emma, Sydney, and Bailey - he loved each of you so much! His eyes lit up each and every time he spoke about one of you - and he was bursting with pride at sharing news about his family. Sending love to you, and to everyone who carries on with some memory or lesson from Scott in their life and in their heart.

Emilia Bohac - September 09, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Andrea and Scott visited my home in 1997 to tell my daughter, Lauren, about a new camp, Southwoods. As a former camper at Echo Lake who knew Morry Stein and a lover of all things "Adirondacks," I had no hesitation in sending Lauren to a camp, sight unseen.
Lauren was enthralled by Scott's magnetic personality and enthusiasm for life! She loved Southwoods and eventually became the Athletic Director. As Morry was Scott's mentor, Scott became Lauren's mentor in all major life decisions including a career in education. The world is a better place because of Scott Ralls and that, I hope offers Andrea, Emma, Sydney, and Bailey some solace. Love, the Koppels

norma koppel - September 09, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ I have been digesting this sudden sad news for the past few days. The world has lost an incredible human being, who was a loyal partner, an inspirational role model, a caring friend full of love, and much more.

R.I.P Scott. You will be deeply missed forever.

My heart and thoughts are with Andrea, Emma, Sydney and Bailey.



Wenyu Zhao - September 09, 2020 at 05:44 AM



“ John Brookshire lit a candle in memory of Scott Allan Ralls



John brookshire - September 08, 2020 at 11:22 PM



“ I've worked at Summer Trails Day Camp for 13yrs and have always known Scott to be a very happy and caring man. It was always very clear that he loved life and especially loved his job at camp. He always made me smile.
He will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Jennifer Allen



Jennifer Allen - September 08, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Scott Allan Ralls.



September 08, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ Dear Scott,

You leave behind a sorrowful but oh so grateful family as well as a huge group of friends, admirers and colleagues.

Your accomplishments are myriad. Eradicating boulders on a beautiful site called Southwoods Camp was child's play for you. If you wanted something done, you put your shoulder to the wheel and nothing deterred you. Needless to say a beautiful and high spirited children's camp with you at the helm was a given! Your campers adored you and your love of fun and grand sense of community put Southwoods Camp on the map.

The spacious and beautiful site now occupied by Project Morry was a result of your determination that it should be ours. Project Morry was guided by your presidency 2003-2005 and the Morry Award presented to you in 2016 was so well warranted.

We will rarely see your likes again, Scott. You were a very special, bigger than life guy, and the memory of someone so unique surely lives on.

With love,

The Stein Family

Amy Stein - September 08, 2020 at 04:26 PM



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With love,

The Stein Family

Amy Stein - September 08, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Pam Johnson Kimball - September 08, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ The Divack family is heartbroken to hear of Scott's untimely passing. We adored him as did everyone, and he made Southwoods a summer home for our girls and thousands of kids. His huge heart, big spirit, endless work at camp, day in and day out, made Southwoods the special place it is. Scot will be missed tremendously but his wonderful values and personality will endure through Andrea and the girls and Project Morry will flourish as Scot wanted it to.. Our hearts go out to the entire family and sending our love and support. Stacey, Josh, Pam & Lauren Divack

+Stacey Divack - September 07, 2020 at 07:21 PM



“ Andrea and family, you have our sympathy regarding the death of your husband and father and one of my oldest friends Scott. I am deeply saddened by his death. We spent a lot of great times together as kids at his home on Commercial Street in Benton. He had a personality that could light up a room when he walked in! We will miss him at our high school reunions. Please accept our deepest condolences. May God give you peace and comfort during your time of grief. Amen.

Derek and Selinda Johnson
618-927-4344

Derek Johnson - September 07, 2020 at 05:40 PM



“ I remember the first time Scott and Andrea visited my home when we were considering sending our son to sleep-away camp for the first time. After meeting Scott we immediately knew he could not be in better hands. What a great experience Southwoods was for him and also for my daughter when she went the following summer. What a wonderful role model Scott was to my children and to so many others. He made everyone feel so special and cared for. Such a loss...Sending you Andrea and your beautiful girls my deepest and heart-felt sympathy.
-Ellen Ephros (formally Ratty)

Ellen Wirtshafter - September 07, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ 193 files added to the album LifeTributes



Yorktown Funeral Home - September 07, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ I am deeply saddened by the news of Scott's passing. He went on to do great things with his life. My sincerest condolences to his family. -Dana Wilkerson BCHS Class of 1984

Dana Wilkerson - September 08, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ Dr. and Mrs. Nido Qubein and your HPU family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Scott Allen Ralls.



Dr. and Mrs. Nido Qubein and your HPU family - September 07, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Scott Allen Ralls.



September 06, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ Dear Andrea and family: Very sad to hear of Scott's passing. He (and you) were such an integral part of the Rosenblum girls summer life. He will never be forgotten.
Ira and Dianne Rosenblum

ira rosenblum - September 06, 2020 at 01:25 PM