



## Dr. Mark Tait Johnson

April 13, 1955 - March 6, 2024

Mark Johnson

April 13, 1955- March 6, 2024

Mark was born along with his beloved twin sister Cheryl on April 13, 1955, in Denver, Colorado. Mark is preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Lucille Johnson, who adopted them on August 4th, 1955.

Mark is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Victoria (Vickie) Johnson, sister Cheryl Meyer and husband Richard (Dick) Meyer, brother-in-law Bruce Beasley, six nieces and nephews and five great-nieces. He also leaves behind his cherished rescue “pup” Olivia.

Mark and Vickie met in junior high school in Richmond, Virginia and started dating senior year and throughout their college years. He graduated from Barton College with a business degree in 1977, and he and Vickie married several months later.

He and Vickie moved to Marietta, Georgia, a year later where Vickie started her career as a dental hygienist, and Mark worked as a manager of Back Door Stereo, a high-end audio store in Atlanta. Audio was his passion and he was an active member in the Atlanta Audio Society.

From there he worked with the Red Cross and then as a claims agent with Allstate. In his late forties he decided to pursue a degree in chiropractic. He started that leg of his journey at Life College in Atlanta and then transferred to Parker University, earning his degree in 2009.

Failing health led to a Parkinson’s diagnosis. He and Vickie enjoyed the hours spent with the Parkinson’s boxing group at Tribe Wellness, run by physical therapist Michael Braitsch. Mark also worked with PT and OT in the home for years to maintain his abilities, but with increasing falls and failing vision it was apparent something else was going on. It

was at that point that his diagnosis was revised from Parkinson's to PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) a rare movement disorder. He faced each of his mounting challenges with grace and determination.

Besides his love of audio and prior to becoming housebound, he spent time at the gym and was a runner completing several marathons with wife Vickie. They were both members of the Atlanta Track Club and Chattahoochee Road Runners. He also loved travel and especially trips to Colorado, his birth state. Especially dear to his heart were the hours he spent with Vickie at the local animal shelter. Many wonderful friendships were founded during that special time. One of his favorite memories was an adoption event for the shelter Straydog Christmas of 2017. Mark sat in the Neiman Marcus window with a passel of puppies, to the delight of all who passed.

He led a life filled with deep friendships, always taking the time and effort to stay connected, to offer others support in their challenges, and share in their celebrations. He was forgiving by nature and always saw the best in others. His integrity, gentle ways and infectious laugh will remain in our hearts.

Special thanks to all our caring neighbors and friends, who availed themselves day or night with any emergency call. In the years prior to transitioning to hospice, he was receiving twice weekly visits by his physical therapist Michael, and occupational therapist Jennifer. Their efforts helped delay his loss of activities of daily living. The laughs we both shared with them kept Mark's spirits high and his outlook hopeful.

Special thanks to friend Anna Parkins who assisted us in many ways, and to our wonderful team at Legacy Hospice who helped make his final year as peaceful and comfortable as possible: nurse Jenny, caregiver Tina, social worker Heather, Chaplain Holly, and special friend and volunteer Josh.

Also, thanks to Ileen McFarland who works tirelessly as facilitator to the PSP support group. Much important information was shared in a caring and safe forum by group members.

A Celebration of Life service will be planned for a future date.

If you wish to honor Mark's memory, please consider a contribution to [curepsp.org](http://curepsp.org) or to [straydog.org](http://straydog.org), a wonderful shelter/sanctuary whose mission he embraced.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ *I'll miss you Uncle Mark.*



Joe Beasley - July 03, 2024 at 01:16 PM

BB

“ *Amazing, caring with a beautiful soul surrounding him .. that was my 1st thoughts when I met Mark so many years ago during our incredible Operation Kindness days of not only caring for the animals .. but building new friendships that have lasted so much longer than any of us expected.*

*Not only the love he showed with friends & the 4-legged furry animals  
But the absolute adoration he showed for his beautiful wife Vickie ..  
The magic the 2 of them exhibited was breathtaking and proved how  
A lifetime together seems to get stronger each year .. a relationship  
So many can only dream of having.*

*He will be missed by so many but has left behind so much for us to remember,  
Smile & sometimes chuckle at. Peace be with you Mark.  
Play happily with the animals at the Rainbow Bridge and we will all met again  
some day*

Becky Burnside - April 02, 2024 at 12:06 PM

BB

“ *Becky Burnside lit a candle in memory of Dr. Mark Tait Johnson*



Becky Burnside - April 02, 2024 at 09:42 AM

KC

“ *I met Mark through volunteering at Operation Kindness and StrayDog. I was able to visit with him while caring for the dogs. I found him to be a very personable, gentle and caring individual. He definitely will be missed.*  
*Kimberly Culpepper*

Kimberly Culpepper - March 31, 2024 at 11:14 PM

FM

“ *Mark Johnson was born with a beautiful aura of kindness, friendship, and empathy not only to humans, but to the big and small furry animals. So much that while I volunteered at Operation Kindness in the Bathing Department, he brought me and helped me with this bundle of copper fur with long ears in need of a SOS Spa Treatment. This my friends is Love in action.*  
*Forever,*  
*Fran McConnell*

Fran McConnell - March 31, 2024 at 08:31 PM

VJ

“ *I am grateful to have been in your lives, and I will miss our time together. Mark was a great teacher to me in many ways, but Vicky also got in a lesson or two here and there. Hang in there friends and family.*



Volunteer Josh - March 31, 2024 at 09:33 AM

CM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Cheryl Meyer - March 30, 2024 at 08:34 PM

CM

*My better half will be missed... love you dear brother.*

Cheryl Meyer - March 30, 2024 at 08:36 PM

GJ

“ *Greg Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Mark Tait Johnson*



Greg Johnson - March 30, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ Mark and Vickie, my best friends, brother, and sister. When you moved to Texas, it left a hole in my heart. You may not even know how much I love you. It was like losing part of my family, but it took a tragedy such as this Too express my true feelings.

Memories that I do have of you; dinners at your house, enjoying music with you both, playing pool with Mark and just talking about music and common interests. I will miss that with Mark but I will continue to communicate with you Vickie.

Because you are dear to my heart. I really did consider Mark the brother I never had. I will forever try to live up to the standard that he wanted for me. And Vickie, please count on me to fill in any time you want to talk. I'm here for you...

Love you both forever.

Doc

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Jeffrey Wixson - March 30, 2024 at 03:35 AM



“ Mark and Vickey, my best friends, brother, and sister. When you moved to Texas, it left a hole in my heart. You may not even know how much I love you. It was like losing part of my family, but it took a tragedy such as this Too express my true feelings.

Mem that I do have of you, dinners at your house, enjoying music with you, both, playing pool with Mark and just talking about music and common interests. I will miss that with Mark but I will continue to communicate with you Vickey. Because

you are dear to my heart. I really did consider Mark the brother I never had. I will forever try to live up to the standard that he wanted for me. And Vickey, please count on me to fill in any time you want to talk. I'm here for you...

Love you both forever.

Doc

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Jeffrey Wixson - March 30, 2024 at 03:31 AM



“ Mark & I met in college. We were not at first friends. In fact we were far from it. However as the years worn on we became very good friends..Once someone got to know Mark it was hard not to be his friend...he possessed an incredible sense of humor....plus he was always up for something....we both shared a life long love of audio & music....he was unique & irreplaceable. I will always miss him ' cause there will never be another. Rest in peace buddy...you were/are one of the good ones.

Carroll Aldridge

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cwhitneyaldrige - March 29, 2024 at 07:56 PM

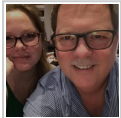


“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Distinctive Life Cremation and Funeral Services** - March 25, 2024 at 01:10 PM



*Mark and Vickie, my best friends, brother, and sister. When you moved to Texas, it left a hole in my heart. You may not even know how much I love you. It was like losing part of my family, but it took a tragedy such as this Too express my true feelings. Memories that I do have of you, dinners at your house, enjoying music with you, both, playing pool with Mark and just talking about music and common interests. I will miss that with Mark but I will continue to communicate with you Vickey. Because you are dear to my heart. I really did consider Mark the brother I never had. I will forever try to live up to the standard that he wanted for me. And Vickey, please count on me to fill in any time you want to talk. I'm here for you...  
Love you both forever.  
Doc*

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**Jeffrey Wixson** - March 30, 2024 at 03:29 AM