



Jeffrey Todd Woodruff, Esq.

August 5, 1964 - December 28, 2021

HOLDEN – Jeffrey Todd Woodruff, Esq., 57, beloved son of Roger and Joyce (Schermerhorn) Woodruff, passed away after a short illness on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at UMass Memorial Health Care, University Campus.

A gregarious storyteller and devoted friend, Jeff spent most of his adult life in Santa Monica, CA, where he was a litigation attorney. “Woody” is remembered fondly by his friends as the life of the party, enjoying film, fine dining, conversation, and the beach. He was a generous man, a fun uncle, an amazing storyteller, a brilliant legal mind, and a hard worker.

Jeffrey was raised in Holden and graduated from Wachusett Regional High School. He loved sports, particularly pitching in little league baseball, as well as playing basketball, and football. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado Boulder, where he majored in psychology and pursued his interests in film, skiing, and rock climbing. Jeffrey entered UC Hastings School of Law where he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1990. Jeff practiced law in Los Angeles, CA. He was known for his ability to provide briefs of outstanding depth, insight and quality.

Jeffrey will be lovingly missed and remembered by his parents, Roger and Joyce Woodruff of Holden, brother Dennis Woodruff and sister-in-law Meg Woodruff of Rutland; nephew Jacob Woodruff and wife Aisha Woodruff; niece Elizabeth Woodruff and husband Andrew Gary; niece Anna Woodruff Roubos and husband Jeffrey Roubos; and two great-nieces, Nora Woodruff Gary and Theodora Roubos.

Out of concern for everyone’s health and safety, no calling hours will be held. A service and burial will take place for immediate family.

A gathering to celebrate Jeff’s life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 11 at 75 Muschopauge Road, Rutland.. To share a memory or offer a condolence please visit "The Tribute Wall."

Previous Events

A Gathering Celebrating His Life

JUN 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Jeffrey Woodruff
75 Muschopauge Road
Rutland, MA 01543

Tribute Wall

DC

“ I'm terribly grieved to lose Woody, my friend of several decades. He had a big brain and a lightning wit. We had too many fun childhood memories to count. We went to the first Star Wars movie on opening day 45 years ago. We saw our first meteor on his front lawn, at first mistaking a passing satellite. He passed his paper route on to me in 6th grade. (I don't think I've stopped working since.) He introduced me to all sorts of rock bands when I was 10: Ted Nugent, Foghat, Led Zeppelin, and so many more.

He was the super cool kid next door, the neighborhood James Dean, P.J. O'Rourke, and Han Solo rolled into one rare human being. His humor was full of insights and jovial cynicism. He somehow understood the machinery of the human mind at age 12 and laughed at it, pointing out the incongruities and hypocrisies of any institution or high-minded person that crossed his path. The junior high and its teachers were frequent targets, as was the vice principal in charge of discipline at the high school, or the English teacher whose name he pronounced backwards because "the guy was a phony."

I never stopped laughing. And if he started telling a story, make some popcorn, pull up a chair and strap in. Move over Arlo Guthrie. You're going for a ride.

More recently, at a transition point in his career I asked him what he was going to do next. Without missing a beat, he deadpanned, "Total world domination." For Woody, that was a dumb question and I got the answer I deserved. I was the slightly younger kid next door, a whole grade lower, and way less cool. But it was the perfect answer.

He had a huge heart. He profoundly cared, even if he disguised it in wit. He never let his older friend group give me a hard time. "Hey, get on him for something else," he'd say, "but not that." Yes, it was always somewhat backhanded, but credible. No one could argue with him.

We lost touch in recent years. Lesson learned. But I loved this guy. He was a huge part of my childhood. Our constant psychological sparring helped shape who I am today and what I do. I couldn't keep up with him, of course, but I'm a better person for having known him. In the past couple of months, I can't tell you how often I've wanted to pick up the phone and call him. He is deeply missed already, taken from the world far too soon.

My heart goes out to his parents and his brother and all of his extended family. You're in my thoughts. Jeff will never ever be forgotten.

Dennis Connelly - March 28 at 12:12 PM

AH

“ Roger and Joyce, so sorry to hear of your son's passing. May God give you peace and comfort during this difficult time....Alan Harty

alan harty - January 10 at 11:33 AM

SR

“ I was fortunate to have had Jeff as a student when he was a high school sophomore and I was a young English teacher. To this day, I remember his antics - and his intelligence. He kept me on my toes, made me laugh more times than I can count, and made me glad that I was a teacher. In my mind he will be forever fifteen.

I send heartfelt condolences to all his family. His death is a terrible loss, but I know that all of us who knew him – and I can only guess that Jeff made many, many friends throughout his life – will keep him alive through the stories we tell about him. We were so lucky to have known him.

Susanne Rubenstein

Susanne Rubenstein - January 08 at 09:58 AM

RD

“ Rosie Davies lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Todd Woodruff, Esq.



Rosie Davies - January 08 at 04:00 AM

MP

“ I want the Woodruff Family to know I am so sorry for your loss. Woody was a best friend and mentor of mine. He helped me navigate the ways of the legal world and the world of Southern California. I was bummed when he moved back east and am now just can't believe he is gone. I will certainly miss the random emails discussing old, fun times, or other crazy things.

Although the world will miss Woody. please know that Jeff will never be forgotten. I've been telling my family and other friends Woody stories since I met Jeff in 1992. I suspect I will continue telling the stories for years to come (as my kids need to get older to hear a few of them). Woody was such a good and fun guy. I will miss him, but have him in my thoughts forever.

Mark Peck

Mark Peck - January 07 at 01:19 PM

KT

“ To the Woodruff Family:

I am so sorry for your loss. Jeff (Woody) was such a special friend! I graduated with him from Wachusett in 1982 and I have been extremely fortunate that he and I never lost contact over the years. I visited him when he was living in San Francisco and we walked all over the city and laughed so hard all day! Fast forward to 2016 and as I was driving home from work one day, I saw Woody walking in the center of Holden and I quickly turned around and picked him up. We drove to Goodhile's and sat there and talked for at least 3 hours.

Over the years I was most honored to be a (secret) part of Woody's "Email Crew" which included Haley, Chuck, Benny and Brick. They may not have even known I was in the group because Woody always blind cc'd me in! :) The things he sent to us were beyond hysterical! When I heard of his passing, I instantly (and selfishly) thought about how much I am going to miss his random observations and mind boggling stories he shared in all of his emails!

When my nieces and nephews and my son were growing up, they all loved to hear stories about Woody and I enjoyed telling them over and over again my favorite memories of him throughout the years. They were the first ones I told about his passing because I felt like they understood how important his friendship was to me. He made me laugh so hard anytime we connected!

I miss him so much and I thank you for sharing such a unique individual with the world!

Love,
Krissy Palermo Teevens

Krissy Palermo Teevens - January 05 at 09:00 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Todd Woodruff, Esq..*



January 04 at 12:10 PM