




John Sanderson Doyle

January 13, 2022

Our kind, funny and loving youngest brother, John Sanderson (Sandy) Doyle passed peacefully Thursday, January 13, 2022 from renal failure in Blacksburg, VA, with family by his side. We take great comfort in imagining him now with our mother, to whom he was devoted. Sandy's compassion and care for her at the end of her life will be forever remembered and greatly appreciated by our family. Sandy was always ready to laugh and share his sense of joy and irreverent views on life. He was the center of attention at every family gathering and his unique humor and gentle ways endeared him to everyone he met. In 1975 Sandy graduated from First Colonial High where he was a skilled basketball player. He later played ball at Virginia Wesleyan College. In October 1985 he received a kidney donated by his brother Jim. Twice Sandy competed in the National Transplant games held in Indiana (1500 meters) then California (tennis). His declining health played a key role in his decision to become an executive chauffeur. Holding this position for more than 10 years is testament to Sandy's discretion, reliability and service. In 2003 he joined the Teamsters Union in Wilmington, NC and worked in the film and television industry as a driver. His professionalism was respected and appreciated by everyone. He loved this wonderful friendships he made with the cast and crews of his assigned films and shows, especially "One Tree Hill." Sanderson's big, caring personality will be missed by many, most deeply by his three brothers and three sisters who adored him: Stephen and Jana Doyle of Blacksburg, VA; Jim and Kerry Doyle of Severna Park, MD; David

Doyle and Annabel Grice of Newcastle NSW, Australia; Cherry Reynolds of TBD; Holly and Steve Hepner of Stephenson, VA; and Sally and Marvin Miller of Sterling, VA and his lifelong friends, Winston and Molly Carlyle of Richmond, VA. He was a beloved uncle to many nieces, nephews and their children. Thank you to the staffs at Lower Cape Fear LifeCare, Wilmington, NC and Carilion Clinic New River Valley, Radford, VA for their excellent care of Sanderson and his family. If possible he would express his love, sincere gratitude and appreciation to his wonderful family for all their support, compassion and encouragement throughout his lifetime! "Be happy, healthy and safe!"

Tribute Wall


Timothy
Bailey

“Wow, even knowing about his serious health issue. I just never thought I would read HIS obituary. I am very sad to read this and I hope that his brothers and sisters can find peace in remembering this very remarkable guy.

I met Sandy when I accepted a position with the phone company in DC. It was around 1982. Sandy and I used to frequent a real "Cheers" style of bar. He was a bike messenger when I met him and in very good shape. He used to say "you should see me with two kidneys!". It was around that time that he switched careers and became a chauffeur. One of his first clients was Stevie Wonder. I asked him how it went and he said "Fine, he was really nice. The only thing was I didn't know whether to call him Stevie, which didn't seem respectful, or Mr. Wonder which sounded kind of daffy". Yes, he had a different outlook on life and he never failed to Crack me up.

I've always felt that Sandy was my best friend in DC, one of my best friends ever. But, we were young guys and mobile. When it was our time(s) to leave DC we left and over the years kind of lost touch. I was 24 then, I'm 66 now and I can still clearly see that million dollar grin.

Unforgettable guy, a real loss, my very deepest sympathies ... Tim Bailey

Timothy Bailey - September 14, 2022 at 06:55 AM

CD

“ *To my Uncle Goober!*
I love all these stories & the many I've heard all my life or witnessed. I am so lucky to have such an amazing family. I promise I will always try to keep up with the Doyle humor, chasing the swell, keeping you proud with the Doyle swoosh (bball or peer pong), & all around firecracker Penny/Sanderson personality you taught us. I miss you & our chats everyday! love always, your goober niece ❤️

Thank you friends & family for sharing these stories! 💕💕💕

christian natalie doyle - July 12, 2022 at 11:17 AM

CD

Beer he put me up to it!*

christian natalie doyle - July 12, 2022 at 11:18 AM

CE

“ Learning of Sandy’s passing came to me without warning. I have not seen, or spoken with him since the ninth grade at FCHS. I have however carried a most funny memory he gave his seventh grade classmates at Alanton Elementary School one morning.

You see, Sandy’s mother was our math teacher, and a good tough one at that. She always insisted that Sandy refer to her as “Mrs. Doyle”, ensuring in her own way, that she was not showing him any favoritism while on school property.

That special morning, we were all waiting for Mrs. Doyle to arrive and start class. When she walked in and approached her desk, Sandy stood up and met her with his math book open, and was holding it with one hand, he said quite convincingly “Mrs. Doyle... there is a math problem in our homework I just do not understand”. Not wanting to not take her son any less than seriously, Mrs. Doyle replied something to the effect of “Well Sanderson, let’s take a look at it”. As she began to sit down, we all saw Sandy slip a well inflated woopie cushion from behind his back on to Mrs. Doyle’s chair... his timing could not have been better. The resulting reverberating sounds, combined with her wide open mouth and priceless reddening facial expression had us all in utter stitches. “April Fool’s, Mrs. Doyle!” quipped Sandy as he returned to his seat. It took us all 5 or 10 minutes to recover. Lord knows what it was like in the Doyle household that night.

This humorous moment still gives me a belly laugh whenever I think about it.

Friendship never ends Sandy, you will always be remembered.

Charley Earley
Winterport, Maine

Charley Earley - February 13, 2022 at 06:28 PM

DG

“ Sandy and I played basketball against each other in high school and together at VWC and had a lot of great memories. We didn't miss a chance to have as much fun as we were allowed. I am carrying a very heavy heart since I heard the news of my dear friend. I hope Sandy remembers to tell Helen (Penny as we called her) that I said Hi, she was always a sweetheart to me. All of my Love and Prayers go out to this wonderful Family and I'm just so sorry for the loss of this Great Guy, who I loved like a brother.

David Gilliam

David Gilliam - January 22, 2022 at 09:29 AM

JR

“ Sandy was always tagging along with us in what ever we were doing. First Colonial High School and Alanton will never be the same without the Doyle's. I miss all of you..

Janet Deary Ramsey

Janet Deary Ramsey - January 21, 2022 at 02:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Sanderson Doyle.



January 16, 2022 at 01:04 PM

MO

“ A gentle man, a kind heart... no crisis too large or party too small he always showed up in every way possible. Loyal to a fault... never had a conversation where he didn't ask how you were... and listened.. and remembered.. my very best... boy friend.. rest easy my lovely friend.. hope the waves are huge and the sunsets spectacular.. love you forever!

molly - January 16, 2022 at 12:25 PM

DO

There'll never be a day in my life that I won't think about and miss that special person in my life.

donita - January 28, 2022 at 02:11 PM

NW

“ I was an assistant Basketball Coach at First Colonial, when Sandy played for us! He gave you everything that he had ALL the time, and his character was beyond reproach! My condolences to his family and friends!

Norbie Wilson - January 15, 2022 at 03:42 PM

DE

“ Giving an Albert Pujols hug to the entire Doyle family, and friends. I will always hold memories of Sandy close to my heart.

David Eubank - January 15, 2022 at 02:45 PM