



## Keyworth "Buddy" Birch

September 15, 1937 - June 3, 2014

Keyworth "Buddy" Birch passed away on June 3, 2014. Buddy lived in Denton with his life partner, Larissa Kitenko, and beagle, Serena.

Buddy lived his life with a spirit of curiosity and adventure which drew him to the sports of hang gliding, wind surfing, roller blading, motorcycle riding, kayaking and cycling. He carried this adventurous spirit onto the dance floor and even to an opera! He was moved by the way music and lyrics, particularly blues and jazz, captured the struggles and joys of living and the equanimity that is possible.

Born in Arlington, VA, Buddy was the son of Keyworth and Sylvia Birch both of whom predeceased him.

After a tour of service in the Army, he traveled to Ocean City for a visit in the 1960's and never looked back. After relocating to Cambridge, he was instrumental in starting the Children's Bus Ministry at the Open Bible Church. For years afterward, those "bus kids," now adults, would come up to "Mr. Buddy" whenever they saw him. He would express surprise that they could still recognize him saying, "I've gotten better looking since you last saw me!"

Buddy trusted this process of living and his sense of knowing when to make change. Consequently, he knew when to leave his career as an independent

paint subcontractor and take on the rigorous study and practice of muscle therapy. He realized his talent and intuition of the body in that healing profession thus benefiting his many patients. Buddy became a volunteer for the Talbot Hospice Foundation and used this therapy to provide comfort to hospice patients. He also volunteered for organizations involved in recovery.

Buddy is survived by his stepson and wife, Bill and Chris Ruark; stepgrandson and wife, Daryle Ruark, MD and Michelle; step-granddaughter, Liz Barton; stepgreat-grandsons, Ryan, Michael and Derek; aunt, Jane Herbert; and cousin, Eileen Daly.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at Third Haven Friends Meeting in Easton to celebrate Buddy's life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Talbot Hospice Foundation of Easton to further the incredible work that they and their volunteers do.

Buddy was a wonderful companion, friend, and therapist. We all miss him dearly, particularly his strength, vulnerability, compassion, and sense of humor. And to end with a line that Buddy would often use when saying good-bye: "I'm glad you got to see me....."

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Third Haven Friends Meeting  
406 S. Washington St.  
Easton, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Keyworth "Buddy" Birch*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Keyworth "Buddy" Birch*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Keyworth "Buddy" Birch*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *When I was a stress reductioneer, I did not know Larissa married Buddy. I will always be glad I got to see him at the Center. Sue Corkran*

**Sue Corkran** - June 16, 2014 at 02:45 PM



“ *Buddy was a healer -- not only with his hands and therapy skills, but with his heart. Time with him was a chance to talk about anything on your mind -- and you came out of a session feeling whole and healed. Fred and Lesley Israel*

**Lesley Israel** - June 11, 2014 at 08:38 AM

LM

“ *The "street people" have heavy hearts since last Tuesday when we lost one of our own. Buddy was such an integral part of our gatherings and will be missed dearly. We have been truly blessed to have been next door neighbors to Buddy and Larissa for many years now, and I can honestly say life in Forest Landing will never be the same. We will always be here for Larissa and Serena....goodbye, friend, until we meet again:(*

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**Linda & Bruce Moore** - June 09, 2014 at 07:59 PM

  
Cynthia  
Love

“ *Words seem so inadequate to describe the specialness of Buddy. I thank him for showing me not to take myself too seriously, and reminding me to laugh more often. I remember on time, in particular, we sat in rocking chairs in the furniture section of a large department store. We pretended to be senile, and carried on a crazy conversation in our best old people voices. We had some very odd stares, but that made it all the more funny!  
He was a great guy with a BIG heart. He brought joy to a lot of people.  
Miss you Buddy, it's just goodbye for now.....until we meet again.  
Cindy Love*

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**Cynthia Love** - June 08, 2014 at 08:19 PM

JE

“ *Thru streams of tears, after reading the Most beautiful and So appropriate tribute to our Precious Buddy, I want to thank Larissa and whoever may have helped to write these Touching words! You "captured" Buddy's "being" even for those who did not benefit from knowing him. Thank God, we were lucky to have "gotten to see him!" He touched our lives in such a big way and we will NEVER forget him!! We thank God that we were fortunate to have had Buddy in our Lives for nearly three years.....WAY too short a time, but....how he helped us both physically, and Most Importantly, Mentally and Spiritually. Buddy was the much-needed Sunshine in my life after my brother's sudden death on Father's Day last year!*

*There will Never be enough words to express how MUCH Everyone Loved this Most Adorable and Special man!! He always made us "Happy"!!*

*Jeanne and Tom Everngam*

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**Jeanne and Tom Everngam** - June 08, 2014 at 05:55 PM

FH

“ *Buddy was truly a fine person, and I can hardly believe that he was taken from us while he was still so young in spirit. Like many others, I found that sessions with him were healing not just for my body but for my soul. I looked forward as much to our conversations as to his sophisticated and effective massages. He had the wisdom of a good philosopher, and shared his insights willingly and yet modestly. He has a community of clients and friends who will miss him dearly. Our thoughts are with you, Larissa, as you cope with your loss.*  
*Forest Hansen*

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**Forest Hansen** - June 08, 2014 at 01:52 PM

JW

“ A visit with Buddy always brightened my day: physically, mentally & emotionally. You are irreplaceable. Rest in peace, gently soul. Judy & Alan Werner

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**judy werner** - June 07, 2014 at 11:18 AM

JE

“ Like Everyone who knew this most Special man, we are totally devastated to lose "Our Buddy." We feel sorry for those who did not have the Privilege of knowing him. It was always such a Joy every time we saw him. Not only did he have "gifted hands" that could ease our physical pains and aches, he had another wonderful gift: bringing mental comfort as well. We will miss the challenge of trying to "one up him" with our senses of humor!

*I lost my brother a year ago this Father's Day and I want to share the inscription that is on his small marker. I hope it will bring some comfort to Larissa and the hundreds who loved him so.*

*"Death Leaves a Heartache.....No One Can Heal---  
Love Leaves a Memory.....No One Can Steal"*

*Wish Aching Hearts,  
Jeanne and Tom Everngam*

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**Jeanne and Tom Everngam** - June 06, 2014 at 02:04 PM

JG

“ Our hearts are so heavy. This dear man will be missed by so many - but his wise words and influence on our lives will remain. Rest in peace, Buddy.

*With love,  
Dick and Jan Gnospelius*

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**Janice Gnospelius** - June 04, 2014 at 07:34 PM

JG

“ *My heart aches that this gentle soul has moved on. Buddy's sense of humor and positive look on life will be sorely missed. My thoughts are with Larissa and all of his loved ones.*

*Judy Grillo*

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**Judy Grillo** - June 04, 2014 at 04:58 PM

CL

“ *Connie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Keyworth "Buddy" Birch*



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**Connie Lewis** - June 04, 2014 at 01:29 PM

BS

“ *I am so sad today. We have lost a true friend and angel. Buddy will always be a shining star in my sky. Words cannot express my sorrow.*

*Bev Spurry*

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**Bev Spurry** - June 04, 2014 at 10:01 AM

PP

“ *I am so sad today, my heart goes out to his family..... He was always able to brighten my day.....and make me smile. I will always remember his love and zest for life and in days gone by the impact he had on children's lives In our community through the church bus ministry that he created.....he and Mr. Bill Bloodsworth touched so many.....Buddy will never be forgotten....we will miss him*

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**Penny Pink** - June 04, 2014 at 09:43 AM

JP

*My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. You were a good and faithful servant and I know God has welcomed you into his arms.*

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**Janice Pritchett** - June 04, 2014 at 12:43 PM