



George W. Shields III

April 22, 1951 - August 13, 2020

Dr. George W. Shields III, 69, of Louisville, Kentucky passed away Thursday, August 13, 2020.

George was an incredibly loving husband, father, grandfather (Didi), and friend. He was exceptionally accomplished having completed his BA in 1973, followed by his MA in 1975, as well as receiving his PhD in 1981 from the University of Chicago. He won the first Richard Campbell Smith Award in 1974. He went on to become a published author, writing many books and articles. George taught at Kentucky State University and was the chair of his division. He then went on to teach at University of Louisville from which he retired. He was not only a lover of education and learning but was an accomplished singer and musician. He was a proud band member in Copperfield, and later in life joined LB&E. He loved spending time with his loving wife, daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. His memory will forever be cherished by his family, friends and all those who knew him.

George III was preceded in death by his parents, George II and Clarice Shields.

He is survived by his loving wife Marsha Shields; daughter, Kirstin Tuttle (Jason); grandson, Elijah Tuttle; sister, Mary Johnson; and many loving cousins.

Visitation will be Tuesday, August 18th, 2020 from 5:00pm-8:00pm at Owen Funeral Home – Jeffersontown, 9318 Taylorsville Road. A memorial service will be held later.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **18**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Jeffersontown
9318 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-9655
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

AH

“ *Dr. Shields left an undeniable legacy at Kentucky State and I am forever indebted to him. My condolences to his loved ones.*

Andrea Harris - August 19, 2020 at 07:58 AM

JG

“ *A wonderful neighbor and friend, gone too soon. Keeping you all in my prayers for peace.*
Janice Gordon.

Janice Gordon - August 18, 2020 at 09:19 PM

DC

“ *George was the most relentlessly positive person I have ever know. He really focused on seeing the best that could be found in everything and everyone--including some people in whom, I admit, I saw very little good. So to me, in addition to being a wise guide through the wiles of academe and an ever-ready intellectual stimulus, George was also a moral and spiritual exemplar.*
Danny Collum

Danny Collum - August 18, 2020 at 04:45 PM

GW

“ There are many things I’d like to say about George, but to say them all would take a book. So, I’ll focus on just a thing or two. The conversations with him are what I remember most vividly. George would pop into my office excited to the nth degree over something he’d just read or an idea he’d just had. I would invite him to have a seat and he would be off and running. Some of the best times I had at KSU were with George in my office or his, discussing philosophy or the best way to approach reading the great books or playing guitar in open G tuning or considering playfully insane stuff like the relative hypothetical intellectual merits of legumes or tubers—if only vegetables could talk and do philosophy. I had a ball. Everyone who knew him did. And there was more to it than that. Those encounters had a way of transporting me, and I believe this is likely true of all of George’s friends, to a different place, a wonderful place where reason, and laughter, and human decency and the sheer joy of being alive and together prevailed.

That, of course, is just a part of what knowing George and sharing experiences with him at KSU meant. He will be missed deeply by many, but I, for one, cannot think of George very long without a smile coming to my face, no matter how sad I might feel. Even now he sparkles in my mind.

George Weick - August 18, 2020 at 08:58 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of George W. Shields III.



August 18, 2020 at 07:30 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of George W. Shields III.*



August 17, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ *The Thompson Family, Joe & Ann, Greg & Bill purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of George W. Shields III.*



The Thompson Family, Joe & Ann, Greg & Bill - August 17, 2020 at 01:03 PM

HS

“ George was a pleasure to know, and Gary Elliott got it right in referencing his outrageous sense of humor. He regaled many of his with his alternate- personalities narratives in the faculty dining room, using dinnerware as his dramatis personae. He was also the best administrator I've worked for anywhere because he was the most human, the most empathetic. He understood what it meant to be each of us. He was a pacifier rather than an antagonist. His departure leaves a hole in our lives. Years ago when I was on my way to a reunion of the Governor's scholars program, I asked him if there was any message to share with our former colleagues. "Tell em," he said, "I'm getting weirder and weirder." Unforgettable. I never saw him ruffled, steered by whatever example among the stars that guided the stoics. I loved George. LLP lost its great protector, a great exemplar of the liberal arts. How many rock guitarists could hold forth on Charles Hartshorne or deliver a campus address in rap style?

- Richard Taylor

Helen Smith - August 17, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of George W. Shields III.



August 17, 2020 at 12:39 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of George W. Shields III.*



August 17, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ *My FIRST ever memory was when I was eleven and new to the neighborhood. My brother and I were climbing in a house that was being built nearby. Upon hearing 'big boys' enter we hid in fear up in the rafters whereupon we secretly listened to two guys talking in 'detail' about girls. It was eye widening !! LOL Every girl was in love with sweet, gorgeous, talented George.*

Leslie Witten - August 17, 2020 at 12:19 PM