



Christopher Henry Whitaker

May 31, 1969 - September 9, 2018

Christopher Henry Whitaker of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was born to Henry Irvin and Karen (O'Neal) Whitaker on May 31, 1969 in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma and passed from this life on September 9, 2018 in Andover, Kansas at the age of 49 years.

Chris grew up and attended school in Wynnewood. He obtained his B. S. in Hotel Management at Oklahoma State University. Chris worked as a realtor and was co-owner of JBF Children's Consignment Sales. In his spare time, he enjoyed shopping, researching, gaming and entertaining. Chris had a natural sense of humor and was full of joy. The highlights of his life were his family, nieces, nephews, and friends. He will be remembered for his infectious smile and instilling a sense of self-esteem in others.

Mr. Whitaker is survived by:

Partner: Ted Pennella of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Parents: Henry and Karen Whitaker of Wynnewood, Oklahoma

Brother: Ryan O'Neal and wife Michelle of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

Sister: Valerie Griffin and husband T. H. of Austin, Texas

Best friend: Ammie Carter Maltz and husband Michael and their children
Maecie & Carter

Nieces and nephews: Amelia Griffin, Savannah Griffin, Ava Griffin, Benjamin Whitaker, and Alexander Whitaker

A host of family and friends

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2018 at 11:00 am in

the First Baptist Church in Wynnewood, Oklahoma with Rev. Jarrod Kendall officiating. Interment will be in the Oaklawn Cemetery under the direction of Wooster Funeral home. You may send a condolence to the family at www.woosterfuneralhomes.com. The family will receive friends at the funeral home for visitation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 13th.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Cemetery- Wynnewood

Wynnewood, OK

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 13. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)
1601 South Chickasaw
Pauls Valley, OK

Service

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church- Wynnewood
1515 E. Robert S. Kerr Blvd
Wynnewood, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Christopher Henry Whitaker*

November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *I met Chris in the kitchen at Willham cafeteria while we were both working there and going to school. Instantly, we became good friends and had many crazy adventures. I have such wonderful memories filled with laughter with Chris. I had lost contact with him in the past few years...I did an internet search and found he had passed away. My heart goes out to his family and his partner.*

Robb Klint - March 25, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ *I only met him once but it was enough to leave a wonderful, lasting impression with hopes for more encounters. May his family and those he held dear find peace as they travel this new road.*

lisa fumia - September 14, 2018 at 11:10 PM



“ *Jenn Barry lit a candle in memory of Christopher Henry Whitaker*



Jenn Barry - September 14, 2018 at 09:27 PM

LL

“ Chris always had a warm and genuine smile for everyone. Every time I saw him, I was greeted with a big bear hug. He will be missed by so many. I'm honored to have shared a friendship through JBF. Continued prayers for Ammie and her family, Ted, Chris's family and all who shared the blessing of Chris in their lives.

Lorraine Lahdenpera - September 14, 2018 at 11:57 AM

AB

“ Chris Whittaker was a rare person. He made you at home, no take backs. His radiant humor, charm, kindness, biting wit and care for others is the first real memory I have of him. I remember how he made me feel. It caught ahold of me and I'm better for it.

He, Big, and Ted welcomed me warmly at the door to come inside for their yearly holiday party. I was nervous. It was my first invite to The Party and I just couldn't wait. Many fine friends greeted me as I came inside, friends I'd made from Oklahoma City's science fiction community. Friends who've become my dear family. Home for the holidays, to be sure.

When you find your people, you find your people. It's one of those funny things about life. It makes you feel wonderfully whole to have such kinship. Chris was someone who understood the importance of embracing joy and the love that's around you, to appreciate fellowship and to not take things too very seriously. It certainly made him a fantastic host. It gave him a lightness that filled a room to the brim and he made us all laugh, really deeply laugh, so many times that my heart is still full with that feeling.

He and I instantly bonded over jokes about Southern hospitality and the neurotic thrill of throwing a great party. The kind of parties that you see on TV that people remember fondly and take centerpieces from. He said he wanted his to be like the ones on Dallas. Why not a little glamour and sass, anyway?

In our time together, he and I could always pick right back up wherever we'd left off, cutting up and telling stories at get togethers. He stayed busy and it was a treat to get to spend time with him. He loved to share stories about his adventures with Ammie and nephews and nieces, his folks, Ted, and all of our friends. He was happy and settled in his life. He had love for so many people and he loved sharing it even more.

At my wedding, he made a point to tell me how beautiful I looked,

but also how much he thought of our ceremony and that he really felt honored to be there that day. He wished for our lifelong happiness and was never shy to tell us that, even recently. I've not forgotten how special that made me feel in the flurrying chaos of a wedding day. He'd mentioned the centerpieces being well done, too.

This summer after we wrapped the show and pictures started posting online, he was the first to comment that the dress I wore for opening ceremonies at SoonerCon was perfect. He'd said perfect and I'd finally felt the same that night (after a long struggle with not feeling that way at all). Perfect. He just had a way of saying things. It means a great deal to me that he cared to help me see myself as beautiful in that moment, a small spot of perfect, and that he celebrated the accomplishment of my success after working hard for something.

My thoughts of peace and love are with everyone who had the blessing and profound goodness of knowing Chris. He will always be a true friend and dearly missed by each of us who love him.

-Aislinn

Aislinn Burrows - September 14, 2018 at 12:34 AM

MA

“ *I am so fortunate to have met Chris through Ammie and JBF. Chris knew I was from the south and he always made me feel back at home hearing him talk with his southern accent. I could listen to him talk all day especially when him and Ammie would get to chatting together, loved it! Chris also had a smile that would light up a room. He was so kind to me especially recently during my battle with cancer. He had reached out and shared very kind words and thoughts. Chris - keep smiling down on us and thank you for making the world a better place.*

My linda Allen - September 13, 2018 at 09:27 PM

KB

“ Chris blessed me personally when he showed up at our Maple Grove, MN sale with his smile, excitement and love for JBF. He will be missed by many. Sending love to his family and friends, Kris Bishop, Minnesota.

Kris Bishop - September 13, 2018 at 09:07 PM

LS

“ Chris will be missed terribly. His impact on the JBF community is unforgettable. Having JBF conference with Ammie and Chris was truly a highlight for so many. Chris worked so hard and touched so many lives of those in the community. I am blessed to have known him for as long as I did. I love how Chris was always full of ideas and always wanting the best for those in his circle. Chris, you are truly a blessing and you will be missed by so many. We love you. Rest in peace my friend.

To his family - I am so sorry for your loss and no words will make the pain go away. Thank you for sharing him with us and raising an awesome human. I pray for peace and love during this horrific time. May God wrap his arms around you and comfort you.

Laura Staggs - September 13, 2018 at 07:30 PM

DF

“ Chris kept me laughing from the first time I met him to our last phone call just a week or two ago. He was such a joy and blessing to JBF Germantown and to JBF franchise system. He helped all of our businesses thrive! I am so sorry for your loss, because I know that it's greater than mine. But man am I going to miss him. Chris I know your looking down on us. I love you my JBF brother!



Deborah freeman - September 13, 2018 at 06:01 PM

Erin
Patrick

“ I feel so blessed to have known Chris. His smiles and hugs were the stuff that love is made of! He touched so many of us in the JBF family and we are going to miss him dearly.

Erin Patrick - September 13, 2018 at 05:47 PM



“ I will never forget the force of love and nature of Chris! His face was one I always searched for at Just Between Friends' conferences. His enthusiasm, whip-quick wit and ever-ready humor were undeniable highlights for me. He was just as quick to listen and show compassion. That's just his big heart. He and BF Aimee were fast to smile and invite others in to their world. To say this is a loss would be tremendously understating the impact of not having Chris here with us anymore. My heart breaks at this tragedy. Sending prayers for comfort for his family and the many many many who love him.

Autumn Lew - September 13, 2018 at 05:15 PM

DD

“ Chris was such a fun joy-filled person. We were so fortunate to have him as part of the JBF family. The room positively lit up when he walked in. He never met a stranger and was filled with love and kindness. I'm so thankful Ammie brought Chris into our lives. God bless his partner and family as you go through this difficult time.
Dianne Davis. JBF Corporate

Dianne Davis - September 13, 2018 at 05:13 PM

JH

“ Chris's JBF Family will miss him dearly! I remember very distinctly meeting Chris for the 1st time and having lunch with he & Ammie years ago - at a JBF conference of course! He was smart, absolutely hysterical and a joy to be around. One of those people you always look forward to seeing! He fit in perfect with the "JBF Tribe." He always had something encouraging to say and was full of creative ideas. What a beautiful friendship he and Ammie shared. He was a loved man by so many and I am happy I got to see in San Diego this past January! Sending love to Chris' family and friends, from Jen & Matt Hundley in Northern CA

Jennifer Hundley - September 13, 2018 at 04:46 PM

DT

“ Chris was such a good friend to our JBF family. We loved seeing him at conference! He was always smiling and friendly. Loved just being around him. He will be missed deeply. Daven Tackett

Daven Tackett - September 13, 2018 at 04:46 PM

SS

“ I met Chris at the first JBF Conference I attended 4 years ago. He and Aimee were always friendly, encouraging, and kind which was so meaningful, especially when I was a newbie. I remember telling Aimee that I wish I had an amazing friend like Chris who would always have my back. Chris gave great advice which helped so much. I'm very sorry for your loss but hope you find comfort in knowing how much Chris impacted others in a positive and beautiful way.

Sherry Sheridan - September 13, 2018 at 04:00 PM

CB

“ I feel so lucky to have met Chris at several JBF Conferences I attended. His passion for JBF was so inspiring. His smile was infectious and he made me laugh when we were supposed to be serious. He will be so missed.

Caryn Berg - September 13, 2018 at 03:47 PM

PH

“ I have many fond memories of Chris but what stands out to me most as how he always greeted me like lost family and always reminded Ted about being good hosts. For all the times he let a bunch of artists crash on couches, beds, and chairs for Soonercon. Or the times he greeted my girls like they were dear friends. That is what I loved about Chris. What I will miss the most and what will make crashing at the house tough is because I won't have him coming out making sure Ted has made me feel welcome.

Phillip - September 12, 2018 at 01:00 PM

DJ

“ I met Christopher only briefly through his dear friend Aimee (in Germantown), but I can still hear him laughing. He came out to dinner with a group of us girls and was absolutely hysterical. So jovial and his laugh was contagious. I am so very sorry for your loss. Sending thoughts and prayers.

Diane Jewell - September 12, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ He was so kind and gracious when we met. It is difficult to spend time with people who are strangers to you but not to others. He rose to the challenge and brightened our short visit to OKC.

Shelley Van Camp - September 12, 2018 at 09:35 AM

TP

I feel so blessed to have known Chris through our mutual ownership in Just Between Friends. Everytime I saw him, he made me laugh til I cried. He was a very special friend and a beloved member of our franchise community. May God bless all of you during this very sad time.

Tracy Panase - September 13, 2018 at 03:48 PM

SH

“ Chris and his partner Ted threw parties each year for the Oscars, Christmas, and summer cookouts. They and Big were always gracious hosts. Chris was warm, funny and leaves a big void.

Syd Henderson - September 12, 2018 at 07:48 AM



“ Chris' smile was the first thing I saw when I met him. He had the biggest smile and gave the best hugs. He will be sorely missed.

Becky Kyle - September 12, 2018 at 04:45 AM

TC

“ *Condolences to Ted, Chris's family, and all who loved him. He will be missed. Love and comfort to all of you.* ”



Tracey Claybon - September 11, 2018 at 11:59 PM

KD

“ *Chris found us our first home. He handled the real estate deal and I liked him from the beginning. He was just a joy to work with and was very helpful all the way through the sale and afterwards. He gave me a huge pewter serving tray as a first house warming gift at the conclusion of the transaction, which I still have and cherish today. At the time I didn't know how well I would get to know him and how much he would eventually mean in my life. I soon found out that he lived with an old friend of mine, Ted Pennella. Over the years of spending time with Ted and attending events and holidays at their home I got to know Chris better. Though we hadn't previously known each other we had a similar background and many shared experiences to confide in. Chris always projected a special joy from his personality that made everyone feel comfortable and welcome around him. He was a story teller and he possessed a captivating charm that transferred some of his infectious happiness to his listeners. He was talented, successful, and full of life and love and he shared those attributes with all those around him. I liked Chris from the first day I met him and that feeling has only grown over the years.* ”

Kevin & Dianna - September 11, 2018 at 10:36 PM

JI

Karen, I am so sorry to hear that you have lost your precious son. I just can not imagine anything worse for a parent. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Judy Irwin Weaver

Judith Irwin-Weaver - September 13, 2018 at 10:58 AM

JB

I was in band with Chris in high school. He was always in a good mood and knew how to make everyone laugh and have a good time. My thoughts and prayers are with not only his family, but with the multitude of friends he has. Chris will be greatly missed!

Jenn Barry - September 14, 2018 at 09:26 PM