



Anthony Desmond Niland

May 15, 1946 - February 3, 2021

Anthony Desmond Niland, 74, of Buford, GA passed away on Wednesday, February 3, 2021. He was preceded in death by his son, Dominic Niland. Mr. Niland is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Mona Niland of Buford; daughters, Judith (Francisco) Nunez of Buford, Jillian (Cyril) Tyson of South Africa, Claire (Justin) Carbis of Buford, Deborah (Bradley) Carbis, Buford; Antoinette (Vincent) Aglialoro of Brookhaven, GA; ten grandchildren; brothers, David (Elaine) Niland of Flowery Branch, GA, and John Niland of South Africa; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mr. Niland was born on May 15, 1946 in South Africa. He graduated from Grey High School in Port Elizabeth and from Rhodes University with a Bachelor's degree. Mr. Niland was a tennis pro. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in a stateroom of Flanigan Funeral Home.

Events

FEB **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

6

State Room of Flanigan Funeral Home
GA, US

Comments



“ This is my favorite picture of Tony and me, taken in January 2019 for ALTA Net News March/April 2019 edition.



Carl Michelakos - February 11 at 09:46 AM



“ Tony was by far one of the nicest, genuine, and caring people I have had the great fortune of meeting. He always had a kind word to say. I would look forward to my practice sessions with Tony and developed even more of a love of the game of tennis. I will truly miss seeing him at the courts and hearing him say "you were there" or "were you ready" (I always was even though I would answer no.). When trying to develop a new team in the neighborhood, Tony was always an invaluable resource. As my son was developing his game, Tony would always make sure to ask how he was doing. Being at the courts won't be the same without you Tony but I always hear your voice in my head. Special thank you to the Niland Family for sharing Tony with all of us. We are all better for having crossed paths with him.
My thoughts, prayers and love are with all of you.
Jill Pierce

Jill - February 08 at 09:51 PM



“ In my earlier post with thoughts on Tony, I meant to say his home in 'South Africa' and not 'Australia'. My apologies...



Mark Jones - February 07 at 09:06 AM



“ You were there!

Anthony “Tony” Desmond Niland
February 3rd, 2021
Rest In Peace

For more than 20 years Tony Niland was our Spalding Corners Tennis Coach. Loved by all who knew him, with a gentle voice and ball machine for an arm, yet the style and grace which is so much a part of this great game.

Before meeting Tony, I liked the game. But like so many of us, he truly brought me to a place where I love the game. And any time he was at the courts he always spent time with me, asking how I was, how my hip was, and how was Lisa.

He was a kind and gentle teacher, regardless of how good or bad you played that day, and always had an encouraging word for all who knew him.

From time to time I'd ask him about his home in South Africa, and when he would finally take me hunting into the brush, as he painted the most vivid mental pictures of lions and tigers, and all sorts of beasts. These were special times.

We will miss you dearly, Tony, and will see you some day again on the other side.
“You ARE there!”

Mark & Lisa Jones

Mark Jones - February 07 at 06:10 AM



“ Tony Niland is one of the very finest gentlemen I have had the pleasure to meet. I shall forever treasure my memories of his superb coaching and sitting courtside with him, laughing and discussing life and values -- Tony's were the best and highest values. It was true blessing to have spent so many happy hours with him.

I shall ever remember Tony's warm smile, the twinkle in his eyes and his welcoming outstretched hand. We all will sorely miss him.

I offer my deepest condolences to Tony's wonderful family.

Most sincerely,

David McClernan

David McClernan - February 06 at 04:58 PM



“ Tony was such a gentle soul who always had a smile and words of encouragement. He was more than a tennis associate and instructor to me and Dan, but he was a friend. Tony’s family is in our thoughts and we pray for comfort and peace. Go fly high our dear friend! You will never be forgotten. Dan & Sonya Miller

Dan & Sonya Miller - February 06 at 03:58 PM



“ Natalie Mildenhall Langlois lit a candle in memory of Anthony Desmond Niland



Natalie Mildenhall Langlois - February 06 at 12:56 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Anthony Desmond Niland.



February 06 at 11:55 AM



“ We will remember your smile, your quick wit, your crazy ball feeds, your encouragement to do our best, your council, your guidance...so many memories. Can't imagine not seeing you on the sidelines or having you coach our team on Monday nights. We miss you already. Our hearts are broken but you will live on every time we play. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Much love. Chris & Brad



Chris - February 05 at 04:39 PM



“ It's been tough this week trying to get my head around the fact that I won't be seeing Tony's friendly face around the courts, or having any more conversations about my game, other people's games, tennis in general, South Africa, his matches against Cliff Drysdale. I'll never again hear him say "Oh, you weren't ready" when I missed a perfectly good feed, or completely misunderstand the instructions he was giving me, or feel completely freaking spent after a lesson where he barely moved yet had me running around like a fool. I will miss him so much. Tennis just won't be the same without him.

Camille (Michelakos) Cantor - February 05 at 12:54 PM



“ Tony was a wonderful human being and a great tennis coach. He will be missed by all of us at Spalding Corners tennis. He took the time to attend almost all of our tennis matches over the 21 years that he coached us. He led us to seven city finals, four of which were city championships. We will miss his easygoing and complimentary style of coaching. He was more than just a coach; he was a friend and a joy to be around. We will never forget Tony.

Rest in peace, my dear friend.

Carl Michelakos



Carl Michelakos - February 05 at 11:50 AM



“ Sure will miss Tony, this is a big loss to the community. I will miss Tony dearly, my trainer & mentor. Tony's footprints across my heart are forever. Love you Tony, Joan & Ernie Jensen.

Ernie Jensen - February 05 at 11:25 PM



“ Tony was a wonderful human being and he will be greatly missed by all. Tony was our tennis coach for 21 years and helped take us to seven city finals and four city championships. He took the time to attend most of our tennis matches throughout the years. We will miss his great tennis coaching and his easygoing and complimentary style. We were all part of Tony's gang.

Rest in peace, dear friend.

Carl Michelakos



Carl Michelakos - February 05 at 10:23 AM



“ Tony was not just a coach, he was also a friend to so many of us over the years. A kind spirit who will be missed by all who were fortunate to spend time with him!

Stephen Carter - February 05 at 07:23 AM



“ How we used to laugh and he always had that belly laugh which cause everyone to laugh harder and him telling us stories which would prompt us to ask him to tell us more. He had such love for his family and a quick smile for anyone else. Uncles Tones your passing has effected us all so greatly and you will forever be in our hearts.

Tracey Niland Williamson - February 05 at 12:12 AM



“ I remember all the fond stories that Claire would share about her dad and how her face always lit up with happiness and laughter. I also had the opportunity of being coached in SA on one his trips to visit his daughters in SA. Claire and I had a weekly tennis game and her dad drilled us for the afternoon. A day filled with laughter and fun. He was just always smiling.

Carmen - February 04 at 11:46 PM



“ I remember laughing with your dad at dinners held at your home.

Laurie S. - February 04 at 04:37 PM



“ I have so many wonderful memories of our Tony, I wouldn't know where to begin. I worked with him for several years and and got to know him, Bonty and the girls well. What an absolutely wonderful family. Tony was the best husband, father, friend. The ultimate gentleman, such a treasure, and truly an honor to call my friend. He will live on in my heart.

Marcie Gray - February 04 at 04:37 PM



“ Not only was Tony my "tennis whisperer" and could fix my game mentally and physically but he was also simply a wonderful man. I really enjoyed his stories about South Africa, the farm, and his tennis and cricket adventures! Always such an encouraging and uplifting spirit. I will miss Tony immensely.
Megan Powell

Megan Powell - February 04 at 03:54 PM



“ We loved Tony and are heartbroken at his passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. May you take comfort in the memories and joy in a life well lived. He will be forever in our hearts.
Jeff, Donna, Leanne and Jenny Francis



Donna Francis - February 04 at 03:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jeff Francis - February 04 at 03:29 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tony's Tennis Family



Jeff Francis - February 04 at 03:19 PM