

Anthony "Tony" Kris Velo

May 12, 1998 - July 14, 2024

Anthony "Tony" Kris Velo, age 26, of Suwanee, GA, passed away on Sunday, July 14, 2024. He was preceded in death by grandmothers, Agnes Wood Wesse and Maria Antonieta Amparan; grandfather, Eziquiel Velo-Torrez. Tony is survived by his grandfather, Charles Wood of Snellville, GA; parents, Leo and Cathleen Velo of Suwanee, GA; brother, Andy Velo of Nashville TN; sister, Antonia (José) Bahena of Lawrenceville, GA; "sister", Stephanie Lewis of Duluth, GA; aunts, Charlene (Norman) Cheng of Burlington, Ontario, Canada; Linda (Frank) Cash of Rockvale, TN; Maria (Theodoro) Velo of Juarez, Mexico; uncles, Charles (Mao) Wood of Bondsville, MA; Alfredo Velo of Atlanta, GA; godparents, Ruthanne and Stephen Lewis of Suwanee, GA and numerous devoted cousins. Tony was born on May 12, 1998, in Lawrenceville and was a 2017 graduate of North Gwinnett High School. He was a student at Georgia Gwinnett College where he was a member of the Wesleyan Group. As a life-long member of Church on The Hill, Tony loved to serve others and enjoyed being an elementary and youth leader. He loved North Gwinnett football, UGA football and the Atlanta Braves. Throughout his life he was dedicated to supporting pediatric brain tumor and other cancer charities. In February 2024, after a four-year wait, he was thrilled to finally receive his guide dog, "Flex", from Leader Dogs for the Blind. Tony and "Flex" quickly became best friends. Most of all, Tony was a man who loved the Lord with all his heart, and he now sees Jesus' face with his fully restored sight. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Church on The Hill (4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Sugar Hill, GA) with pastors Rev. Jeff Coleman and Rev. Brian Butcher officiating. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Flanigan Funeral Home and at the church on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. prior to the Service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation: (<https://team.curethekids.org/tonyvelo>) in memory of Anthony "Tony" Velo.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home
4400 South Lee Street
Buford, GA 30518

Visitation

JUL **24.** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Church on the Hill
4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd
Sugar Hill, GA 30518

Memorial Service

JUL **24.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Church on the Hill
4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd
Sugar Hill, GA 30518

Tribute Wall

JF

“ Me and Anthony met in science class back in middle school Anthony Velo. I’m gonna miss your brother rest easy.

Joshua Farr - August 01, 2024 at 03:28 PM

KW

“ Kristie Walsdorf lit a candle in memory of Anthony "Tony" Velo



Kristie Walsdorf - July 30, 2024 at 03:15 PM

KW

“ I only met Anthony in the spring when he took my Golf class at GGC, but it was an experience that I will always cherish. He pushed my teaching knowledge beyond the normal boundaries and taught me how to be creative in ways to teach him golf. He brought the best out in all of us at GGC. He was an amazing individual and I will never forget him and, of course, Flex!



Kristie Walsdorf - July 30, 2024 at 03:14 PM

PC

“ We first met Tony when my daughter and son joined the children's chorus at SHUMC. That was over 16 years ago. He was so supportive and such a leader to the younger kids. My daughter was really scared to sing in front of a crowd, and he just put his arm around her and kept telling her that everything was going to be okay and giving her such encouragement. That was Tony. He was always lifting others up and never had anything but a kind word for everyone.

Even when I could see that he was dealing with things in his life, he always had a kind word and smile. His faith in God and love for others always shone through in every interaction I had with him. I aspire to be more like him.

We are mourning for you, Cathy, Leo and Andy. And we are mourning our loss as well, because he made our world a brighter place filling it with His light.

We know that Tony has gone home and is in the Lord's arms. He has called home this beautiful angel. We will see your beautiful smile again one day.

Pam Carlson - July 24, 2024 at 11:18 AM

VW

“ Tony was one of my more challenging and memorable patients over the years. He made such an impact on my life and career. I remember him digging his heels in refusing to work or crying through it all but he kept on trying. Tony was a shining light. He could have given up each time there was a setback but he didn't. I am grateful to have been part of his journey. Sorry I can not be there for his service but we are out of state now. Will be thinking of him and sending good vibes.

Victoria Wood. OT

victoria wood - July 23, 2024 at 08:17 AM

CB

“ *Cathy, Leo, Andy & Family*
I am so sorry for your loss. Tony was a sweetheart. He was so happy to get Flex. I met Cathy because I was friends with her Mother Agnes. I became good friends with Cathy after Agnes passed. Therefore when I was in town we would meet up for brunch and Tony would sometimes come along. He was a smart, kind and patient man. God will take care of him now, he's up there with Agnes now. Cathy Betza

Cathy Betza - July 20, 2024 at 09:32 AM

TF

“ Hugs and love to you Cathy, Leo, Andy and ALL those that were blessed to have known Tony. His life was an inspiration and had such a huge impact in so many ways. We were truly touched by his courage, his smile, and his awesome zest to make a difference in our world. Each day was a gift to be by his side and experience his presence. We will always cherish the times and celebrations we shared with Tony in his younger days of preschool at Sugar Hill United Methodist Church. I remember the play date at McDonald's. I remember when Tony came to Jacob's 5th birthday party and they played putt putt. We were blessed to witness Tony's love for God and his enthusiasm for life. We hope the pictures of these memories help bring you peace and comfort.



The Engstrom Family - July 18, 2024 at 09:49 PM

AM

“ Tony and I have been more like brother and sister ever since we started becoming really close friends in middle school. He has always been there for me through everything. I will forever cherish the time that we spent together. I'll miss you forever big brother ☐



Anabela Mendoza - July 18, 2024 at 05:48 PM

NH

“ I had the honor of meeting Tony and Flex on March 6th of this year while celebrating Nathan Lippert! He shared his journey, his plans for school, his mission to support and encourage others and his faith in our Lord! I was moved by his courage! He made a huge impression on my heart! We are all better because of his example.



Nancy Herring - July 18, 2024 at 05:31 PM

CK

“ Tony was a good friend to me in middle school, I still have fond memories of sitting next to him in our history class and joking around together. May his soul rest in peace.

Cole Kitchens - July 18, 2024 at 04:40 PM



“ I first met Tony in 8th grade. We met through the football team. I was awful at football, and really any sport I came across. I was a scrawny, odd, emotional, and very shy person. As a result I was picked on a lot through middle school and for playing on the team. Tony was one of the only people who made me feel like it was ok for me to be there. Like I belonged in a time where I felt like an outcast. Like I wasn't a burden to the people around me. He made a genuine effort to get to know me, and just had a way of making you feel special. He was relentlessly positive, and he showered everyone he met with that love. He sat with me and a couple other buddies during lunch in 8th grade and had us all talking each others ears off, laughing, and cracking jokes. He kept me company on the benches on the sidelines during practices and games. I would describe to him what was going on in the games, and he cheered for us louder than anyone in the crowd, encouraging me to do the same. He brought me a little out of my bubble, and I will never forget the light he brought to my world. I'm certain he had that same impact on many more people than me. Rest easy my old friend. I'll do my best to try and honor you everyday and follow in your example. Thank you for everything.

Griffin Abbagnaro - July 18, 2024 at 03:40 PM

HJ

“ I've never been a "kid person." I simply didn't notice people below a certain age/height. Because of Sidney, I became aware of Tony. Because of her, Cathy & Tony himself, I came to see, know & love him. To everyone he met, he was their hero, an amazing young man. The world is darker without him in it but Heaven is so much brighter.

Holly Jones - July 18, 2024 at 07:40 AM

PE

“ Raising funds for PBTF I met Tony at our golf events. He was such a gentleman and showed his strength and resilience. He has left us with many great memories and I send my prayers to his family.

Pam Ellis - July 17, 2024 at 09:32 PM

LR

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Tony's passing; I pray you all feel the Lord's presence right now and know exactly where Tony is. I met Tony at church and he was a wonderful friend. He was someone that just brightened my day every time I got to see and talk to him. I'm so grateful I got to know him over the years. His kindness and love for the Lord will always be remembered and a part of my life, and I'm sure for many others!

Lexy Richardson - July 17, 2024 at 06:53 PM

AR

“ I met Tony our 8th grade year when he was the football manager of our rec league. Every year since then Tony and I bonded over being on the sidelines. My conversations with him will be cherished forever.

Allison Ramers - July 17, 2024 at 05:32 PM

RQ

“ I met Tony because his older brother used to babysit me and my siblings when we were kids. Then we got older and moved away, but Tony and I always kept in touch. He was a great person and an amazing friend. I went to a few school dances with him, and that's one memory I will never forget. The dances were so fun, and Tony even won Prom King at one dance! He will be so missed. Tony was one of a kind. A true friend that I will never forget.



Rachel Quinton - July 17, 2024 at 05:15 PM

JG

“ Prayers for God to wrap you all in his love and comfort. I am so sorry for your loss. Please find comfort in knowing that he is now home with our Lord and Savior. No more pain or suffering. God bless..

Jay Gallup - July 17, 2024 at 04:56 PM

LP

Goodbye young man. I see you got your wings. The world is a lot better off because of you having been a part of it. I thank God for you showing me and the rest of the STARS and CVI family what courage, humility, honest caring and genuine love look like.

Lorenzo Powell
Former Counselor
STARS Program
Center for the Visually Impaired

Lorenzo Powell - July 17, 2024 at 06:29 PM

CH

“ I remember going to see Tony in his room, bringing my IV pole to his room in CHOA...
I remember watching Blues Clues with him... I remember what a beacon of Light he was 🥹❤️ He'll forever be missed

Courtney Hickman - July 17, 2024 at 11:02 AM

MF

“ Tony and I went through treatment together and have known each other since we were pretty little. This summer Tony joined me in attending the Heads Up Conference with the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation in Montana. We were in the same cabin. Before we left for camp, I had told Tony that I'd be there to help him. From what I can tell Tony had the best time ever at camp and was looking forward to next year. Even with this year having been Tony's first year, he made such an impression on people that everyone had great memories and great things to say. At the Heads up conference, we are a community that sticks together and Tony will forever be a part of it. Tony we've know each other a long time and I am so glad to have gotten to share the week at camp with you. You have made a mark on me and a lot of other people and will be forever remembered.

Your buddy
Marshall

Marshall Fine - July 17, 2024 at 10:45 AM

KW

“ For as long as I've known The Velo Family, Tony was this fun, energetic, optimistic young man. I have nothing but wonderful memories of him and the whole family. The news of Tony's passing breaks my heart and goes out to The Velo Family. He was a true blessing from God.



Kristy Wingate - July 17, 2024 at 10:24 AM

MV

“ Tony had a beautiful heart and smile! We had Sunday School together and he was a sweetheart- he'd give a grin and a smile on answering a question and he was a very strong young boy who grew into a man...we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends...we wrap you all tightly with Love...God Bless you all during this most difficult time.



Michelle VerSteege - July 17, 2024 at 10:11 AM

KR

Thr first time I met Tony was at a summer camp in the preschool. I continued to see him at church throughout the years. Tony was always helping out in the Church kids Programs and even would come to my PE classes at the Academy and help with my students. I remember when Tony was making bracelets and he specifically asked My granddaughters, what kind of beads they wanted. He designed them the way they asked and they wore them for years! Such a generous kind heart. One of my favorite memories of Tony was when I was teaching him karate. He and Katie had so much enthusiasm and energy. Tony always worked hard, built up a sweat, and progressed every week. Heaven has gained an amazing angel, and I can't wait to see him again.

Kathy Reinertson - July 18, 2024 at 07:40 PM

FL

“ Fran and Dave Ludwig lit a candle in memory of Anthony "Tony" Velo



Fran and Dave Ludwig - July 17, 2024 at 08:02 AM

CB

Cathy, Leo & Family. I am so sorry for your loss. I am so glad Tony joined us for lunch the last time we got together. He was a special guy. Prayers and hugs go out to all of you.

Cathy Betza - July 17, 2024 at 09:40 AM



“ Tony was a smart, kind, and beautiful person. I am so very sorry for the family's loss. Danita Snulligan

Danita Snulligan - July 17, 2024 at 07:46 AM

KW

“ Leo, Cathy & Andy, I am saddened, yet rejoicing to hear of Tony's home going. Saddened because he leaves a huge void, not only in your lives but in the lives of so many others. Tony was such a fighter. He never gave up. He was like the Energizer Bunny- he just kept on going. You all poured into Tony's life & helped him through it all. I asked the Lord to give you each the peace that passes all understanding to help you through this time. Tony may have changed his address but he will always be remembered here. You all are in my thoughts & prayers. ❤️ 🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏

Karen Williams - July 17, 2024 at 06:59 AM

MD

“ I am so very sorry to hear of the death of Tony. I was privileged to meet him at Camp Mak-A-Dream in June with his awesome service dog, Flex. He was happy to share his life story, including the history of his service dogs. What a positive young man he was, truly an inspiration to all who knew him. My heart goes out to all his friends and family.



Marylue Durff - July 16, 2024 at 09:38 PM

CC

We are so very lucky to have had Tony touch our lives. We met Tony and Cathy on the beach at Seaside with our therapy dog Jake. Jake was off duty at the beach but took to Tony immediately. It was mutual. Tony felt the love from Jake. Tony was at seaside for camp, and Jake wanted to spend time with Tony. We even went to Tony's closing recital. Jake has now passed but he touched so many lives just as Tony did. We prayed for Tony and told his story every year at the beach. We are so proud of his career. We're so glad he got Flex. We are honored to have known Tony and will continue to tell his story.


Cathy and paul Casarona - July 17, 2024 at 01:59 PM

KD

“ I cannot express my love for you all right now. Many hearts are broken, but rest assured heaven has gain an extraordinary angel. Tony has left a huge impression on us all. Our deepest condolences, Karen, Taylore, and Catie Deffler

Karen Deffler - July 16, 2024 at 09:17 PM

BO

“ Tony encouraged us all with his loving and caring  heart. He inspired us and humbled us with his incredible faith. He was truly a precious gift from God.

Bob O'Rear - July 16, 2024 at 07:22 PM

SL

“ To summarize a life like Tony's seems impossible, to summarize his impact is unfathomable. With every hurdle, he seemed to find a way to glide right over (or bulldoze through, at times) anything that stood in his way. He always made sure to let people know that even when tomorrow is uncertain, right now is promised.

Just take it day by day and live your life.

I love you so much, little brother. Growing up, you gave me purpose in ways I'm not sure I ever spoke to you about. I am so grateful for the time we got to spend with you. You taught all of us so much about the meaning of LIFE without fear; to have hope in the presence of uncertainty.

It is impossible to think that I have to listen to your silly laugh through videos and see your cheeky grin through photos from now on. But, I am so thankful that I can. You are so missed, and I am forever better because you existed in this life.

Put in a good word for us up there.

Stephanie Lewis - July 16, 2024 at 05:58 PM

PG

“ Sending along thoughts and prayers to Tony and the Velo family.
Phil Grieco, Monster Energy

Philip Grieco - July 16, 2024 at 05:22 PM