



James Lawrence Mengwasser

July 12, 1960 - October 19, 2024

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Loved father and friend James “Mengo” Mengwasser, 64, passed away in his hometown Buford, GA, on Saturday following a long illness.

Born in St. Louis, MO, on July 12, 1960, to parents Judith Ann Thedinga and James Joseph Mengwasser, Jim is the second of their four children, including Judith Marie, Jeffrey Allen and John Steven, deceased.

When the family relocated to Navajo Trail in Atlanta, Jim came of age alongside children who would later become his friends and family, neighborhood gang turned lifelong companions. One of these neighbors was especially pivotal along Jim’s journey: first love and forever wife, Sally Mengwasser, a career nurse.

Jim attended Chamblee High School and was a drummer in marching band and a member of the basketball team.

Jim became a father in February 1987, when his daughter Ashley was born. Soon after, in March 1988, son Jim joined her. In accordance with his affinity for the breed, the couple raised countless golden retrievers (and the occasional basset hound) together in their family home in Buford, GA.

A local legend among friends and aspiring friends alike, Jim carried his moniker “Mengo” with the pride of a rockstar’s alter-ego. A drummer by hobby and lifelong musicophile, Jim attended countless concerts, played music ceaselessly, and, the highlight of his life, managed the late music career of his friend and personal idol, Grammy winning singer-songwriter Joe South (“Games People Play,” “Walk a Mile in my Shoes,” “I Never Promised You a Rose Garden”).

Like many rock-and-rollers, Jim battled his share of personal struggles.

Most memorable is his indiscriminate friendliness, his magnetizing persona, and his mission to make others feel good. Jim looked out for everyone he knew with the same zeal, regardless of their tenure in his circle. His enduring refrain “laughter’s what we’re after” radiated into his many connections, bearing the trademark of his clear credo in this life: make others laugh, and enjoy seeing them do it.

Jim is survived by his wife Sally Mengwasser of Buford, children Ashley Mengwasser (Canton) and Jim Mengwasser (Buford), his father James Mengwasser (Chamblee), his siblings and their spouses Judy Collins and Shane Murphy (Lawrenceville), Jeff and Amanda Mengwasser (Gainesville), Andy and Stephanie Ulrich (Lawrenceville), and Donna Eggleston and James Keever (Flowery Branch), along with nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins on both sides.

Jim fought bravely against pancreatic cancer, but ultimately succumbed. Throughout life, his body seemed unfit to contain his zest for living.

The Celebration of Life Service is scheduled on Friday, October 25 at 7 PM in the Chapel at Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford. The family will receive friends

from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home prior to the Service.

Remembrances can be made in Jim's honor through contributions to the Humane Society of Northeast Georgia. <https://humanesocietyofnortheastgeorgia.org/make-an-impact/>

The Mengwasser family is thankful for your generosity and commitment to remembering the unforgettable gold-chain-adorned, leather-jacket-clad "Mengo," who always had a pair of drumsticks close by.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home
4400 South Lee Street
Buford, GA 30518

Celebration of Life

OCT **25**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Sally, Ashley & Jim;
You are in my thoughts at this time. Jim was
always full of life & never met a stranger. I
know y'all will miss him. It is never easy to say
good bye to your loved one. Terry Skipper*



Terry Skipper - October 24, 2024 at 10:11 PM

MI

“ *To the man who Loved his Family, his Dogs ,
his Music and Friends . We shared a lot of
laughs and swept a lot of glass. Until we meet
again my brother.. Green Grass and High
Tides Forever !*



Mikey - October 23, 2024 at 08:30 AM

JB

“ *It was an honor to know Mr. James through Ashley. He had a larger
than life personality and was a bright light. I truly believe that he
never met a stranger. My condolences to Ashley, Ms. Sally, Jim and
the rest of the family.*

Jakevia Brown - October 21, 2024 at 12:28 PM