



## Antonio "Tony" J. Almeida

March 24, 2025

Antonio J. (Tony) Almeida -- a proud son of a Portuguese immigrant who fought with General George S. Patton in World War II -- was a passionate historian who lived a good life with multiple loves: of his family, Everyman's Bible Class, Vanderbilt University and Sigma Nu, the state of North Carolina, Duke Energy, and the Carolina Panthers. Tony died March 24 at Wake Forest Baptist hospital from a peritoneal bleed. He was 69.

Tony was born in Atlanta in 1956 to Betty Beckham, a retail saleswoman, and Antonio Almeida, who worked as a switchman for Southern Railway. Tony grew up in the Springlake neighborhood and graduated from Northside High School with honors. During high school, he became the regional operations manager for Baskin Robbins and was named Junior ROTC Brigade Commander, the highest-ranking cadet in Atlanta's public schools.

Tony studied history and economics at Vanderbilt University, focusing on the Cold War, and he formed his own band of brothers in the Sigma Nu fraternity.

After a short stint selling for Procter & Gamble, Tony joined Duke Power as a retail marketing assistant. He spent the next 32 years with Duke as an area manager, serving in Clemson, Shelby, Charlotte, High Point, and eventually Salisbury, working his way to become vice president of Economic Development. After retirement in 2011, he served as economic advisor to the

Governor.

Tony was a weaver of friendships and connections, and he was deeply committed to the communities in which he lived and served. He was an elder at First Presbyterian Church and a trustee of Hood Theological Seminary. He joined a sister church, Second Presbyterian, for 12 years when his wife served as pastor. He chaired the Charlotte Regional Partnership and served on the North Carolina Community College System Foundation Board. He was active in the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and United Way. He was a member of the North Carolina Economic Development Association, the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association, and the N.C. Chamber Manufacturing Council.

He was also a lifelong learner and purveyor of knowledge, taking courses at Hood and Catawba College. Tony began as a teacher in Everyman's Bible Class and moved to community builder. During the pandemic, he introduced the class to Zoom and the rest of the church soon followed. In 2017, he received the coveted Shucker of the Year award at the Annual Everyman's Oyster Roast.

Pops, as his grandchildren called him, found a way to bring joy to those around him. On summer vacations in Black Mountain, N.C., he created a tradition of buying his nieces and nephews one of whatever their hearts desired from a local drugstore. On holidays, he mixed a mean Bloody Mary for his extended family. And he always enjoyed watching The Wizard of Oz one more time.

Tony is survived by (and enjoyed the lifelong support of) Uncle Gordon, Aunt Joan, and Aunt Connie; his wife, Margaret; three sons, Joseph (Kathleen), Walter (Courtney), and Randy; seven grandchildren (Will, Julia, Bia, Lauren,

A.J. Lana and Taylor); and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. His brother, Mike, died in 2024.

Tony was the glue that held us all together.

A celebration of his life will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury at 11 a.m. on April 5. Visitation and reception following service.

Donations in Tony's name may be made to:

J. Randolph Taylor Fellows Program, Development Office. Montreat Conference Center, PO Box 969, Montreat, NC 28757; Everyman's Benevolent Fund, First Presbyterian Church, 308 West Fisher Street, Salisbury, N.C. 28144; or

Hood Theological Seminary, 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, N.C. 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Almeida family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
308 W. Fisher St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ I only just learned of Tony's passing, but want to extend condolences to the family and loved ones. While I did not know Tony well, personally, his kindness and mentorship proved critical to helping a young man along his way in state politics/policy during the McCrory administration. Add, 'great connector' to all the fine adjectives rightfully used to describe him; he connected me with people and opportunities that feature prominently in my career path. His kindness is featured every time I've share with a younger person "how I got here." He made me feel he genuinely cared about helping me and offered encouragement that gave me confidence in myriad pursuits. I'll always be thankful for him and join in offering prayers for his family. - Jeff Moore

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**Jeff Moore** - June 30, 2025 at 03:52 PM

PC

“ I was honored to work for Tony for several years at the Duke Energy contact center. He was a caring and passionate leader, from whom I learned so much. He will be missed. Penni Conner

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**Penni Conner** - April 23, 2025 at 12:27 PM

TC

“ Tony was in my cycling class at the ymca. He never taught the class, but it felt like his class. He sung Brittny Spears, cheered us all on, and always asked how things were going. He made people feel like they mattered. I'll miss him.

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**Tim Clark** - April 05, 2025 at 11:50 AM

MP

“ Growing up 4 doors down from the Almeida family made Tony and Mike brothers to me. From tossing AJC newspapers to Baskin Robbins, Tony was always there. I'll miss texting him every time Vandy beats Bama and every time the Falcons play the Panthers. Most of all I'll miss my brother Tony!



Mark Preetorius - April 04, 2025 at 10:34 PM

MD

“ Tony and I were friends and Sigma Nu fraternity brothers at Vanderbilt University. As two of the top six officers of the fraternity , we lived in the fraternity house together. He always had an infectious smile for me and everyone around him. Tony was so genuine, caring, trustworthy, and hard working. I am so saddened by his departure and yet so enriched by having known him. May God comfort the wonderful legacy of his family.

Mark Dyer - April 04, 2025 at 05:41 AM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" J. Almeida.



April 03, 2025 at 09:05 PM

BA

“ So sorry to hear this sad news. I send prayers and strength to the family during this difficult time. Tony will be missed by all.

Bobby Akers - April 02, 2025 at 09:30 PM

LF

“ Tony and I were neighbors and playing adventure stories and football and soccer after school together was a daily routine. He was always a voice of reason in disputes and was always one of the nicest and most approachable. I was so lucky to see him recently and laugh with him. May his memory be a blessing.

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**Lewis Friedlander** - April 01, 2025 at 09:36 AM

MT

“ I'm sorry to hear about Tony. My prayers for the family he was a great person to talk to I didn't know him that well. I was a friend of Mike's . Mike lived at my house for awhile and got to know Tony a little bit and he was a very kind hearted person and he will be missed along with Mike. They were great brothers and great people. I remember going down to Baskin-Robbins where they both worked and getting ice cream and anytime I'm down there I see the Baskin-Robbins it reminds me of them. Prayers

*Mark Thompson*

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**Mark Thompson** - March 31, 2025 at 07:07 PM

SM

“ Tony and I “competed” for best GPA at Northside, with him always the victor. Nonetheless, I held his friendship in high esteem. I'm saddened to learn of his passing and extend my condolences to his family. Love, Steve A. Massell

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**steve massell** - March 30, 2025 at 07:30 PM

CM

“ We were so very sorry to read about Tony's passing in the online Post. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. We remember him fondly from "Rowan Rage" days and know that he will surely be missed. Jim and Carla Mallinson

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Carla and Jim Mallinson - March 29, 2025 at 11:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Antonio "Tony" J. Almeida.

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March 28, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" J. Almeida.



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March 28, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" J. Almeida.



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March 27, 2025 at 08:06 PM

LG

“ It was an extreme honor to know and work with Tony in Shelby as well as Charlotte in numerous capacities. He was a great leader and mentor to many people. Gone too soon. Prayers Margaret for you and your family. Linda (Wesson) Gould. Wonderful family❤️ Rest in peace.

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**Linda Gould** - March 27, 2025 at 05:47 PM

SE

*I'm so sorry for Tony's passing. He was a great co-worker and a true friend.*

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**Shawn Ervin** - April 04, 2025 at 06:07 AM