



## Jeffrey "Jeff" Thomas Ryan

March 12, 1957 - December 3, 2023

Jeffrey "Jeff" Thomas Ryan, age 66, of Tallahassee, peacefully passed away at his home on December 3, 2023, surrounded by his loving family, after bravely battling early-onset Alzheimer's.

Born in Ft. Lauderdale and raised in Dania Beach, Jeff was a man of outstanding accomplishments and unwavering dedication to the causes he believed in. After graduating from Hollywood Hills High School, earned his degree in Criminology from Florida State University in 1982. Jeff embarked on his distinguished political career in Washington, D.C. as an aide to U. S. Senator Lawton Chiles. He returned to his home state of Florida, contributing significantly to various roles including Executive Director for Broward County Legislative Delegation; Senior Policy Analyst for the Department of Commerce; Senior Policy Analyst for the Governor's Office; Broward Campaign Manager for the re-election of Governor Lawton Chiles; Finance Director for the Florida Democratic Party; and All Florida Solutions as Fundraiser and Lobbyist. His work journey concluded with a fulfilling chapter at Publix in Tallahassee.

Jeff's commitment to community service was evident throughout his life. He held leadership positions in several organizations, reflecting his passion for making a positive impact. A devout member of Blessed Sacrament Church, Jeff actively participated in the Knights of Columbus, CRHP, and the Choir. He volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Operation BBQ Relief. He also served as member, President, and Treasurer of The Capital Lions Club; President,

Board Member, and Chairman of Capital Tiger Bay Club; Board Member of the Tallahassee Museum; and Board Member of Springtime Tallahassee, as well as Twentieth Century Krewe Chief.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jeff was a devoted fan of the FSU Seminoles and the Miami Dolphins. He found joy in boating, swimming in the ocean, and, most importantly, cherishing moments with his family. Known for his mischievous side, Jeff delighted in playing pranks and sharing laughter with friends, a trait that persisted during his time at the Alzheimer's Project Day Respite and Elder Day Stay.

Despite the challenges posed by his illness, Jeff maintained his social graces and was always a true gentleman. His sense of humor remained a constant source of joy, and his love for family and friends never wavered. He leaves behind a legacy of infectious laughter and unconditional love.

Jeff is survived by his loving wife, Cindy Ryan; children Pierce and Madison Lee; siblings Arch Ryan (Karen), Michael Ryan (Barbara), Tim Ryan (Debbie), Chris Ryan, Liz McCain (Dr. Joe McCain), and John Ryan; mother in law, Joyce Ellis; devoted best friend Shawn Banner (Tracy); and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Archibald John "AJ" Ryan and Johanna Ryan.

Donations can be made in his memory to Big Bend Hospice Foundation, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, 32308,

[bigbendhospice.charityproud.org/Donate](http://bigbendhospice.charityproud.org/Donate) or Alzheimer's Project, 2344 Centerville Rd., Suite 105, Tallahassee, FL 32308, [alzheimersproject.org](http://alzheimersproject.org)

The family sincerely thanks all caregivers and health professionals who supported Jeff over the last several years. Special thanks to the compassionate staff and volunteers at Big Bend Hospice, the caregivers of Angel Hands Loving Care, Frankie Fudge, the Magnolia Garden Club, the incredible neighbors on Washington Street and the dedicated AmeriCorps volunteers Drew and Natalie. A memorial mass will take place on Friday, January 12th at 11:30 am at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Tallahassee, FL. Reception will follow at The Governors Club at 202 South

Adams Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. Reception to follow with details to be provided at a later date.

Arrangements are entrusted to St. Johns Family Funeral Home, St. Augustine, Florida. [www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

JAN 12. 11:30 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
653 Miccosukee Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

## Reception to follow

JAN 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Governor's Club  
202 South Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall

HN

“ Heidi Lee Neville lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey "Jeff" Thomas Ryan



Heidi Lee Neville - January 10, 2024 at 11:59 AM

HN

“ I am a childhood friend to Jeff, and was shattered to hear of his passing. I have scores of memories of being with Jeff and his family. My father and his father were also childhood friends in Dania. God bless his wife and family for going through Jeff's condition with him. I know his family lived through many struggles, but they always rose above the fray with their strength and fortitude, and continued to be the most fun family in our neighborhood. You will be missed here on earth, dear Jeff. See you again one day on the other side! xo

Heidi Lee Neville - January 10, 2024 at 11:57 AM

NP

“ I worked with Jeff for several years at the Florida Democratic Party. We used to joke that Jeff came with the building because he was one of the longest serving staffers. I was a young man at the time and looked up to him and appreciated the advice about politics and life he would give me along the way. I remember him saying there are good candidates, good districts, and good money, if you have 2 of the 3 you're doing alright. I especially remember him as a family man, and a gentleman. I had not seen him in several years, but though about him every time I would see a green Jeep roll by. God Bless you Jeff, I will miss you.

Nicholas J. Pellito - January 05, 2024 at 01:17 PM

EH

“ Jeff, I will miss seeing you at Publix. I always picked your line. You remembered me from our time working in the Governors office together. You were one of those "political hires" that we were prepared to dislike...but we just couldn't. You were so much fun and your enthusiasm for the process and life in general was priceless. I think I still have the PB squared buttons you made for all of us. RIP your friend, Eliza Hawkins

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**Elizabeth Hawkins** - December 12, 2023 at 01:36 PM

JE

“ Dear Jeff, thank you for loving my daughter Cindy (you often called Lucinda Lee or Cinderella), and giving me two wonderful perfect grandchildren, Pierce and Madison. I will always have loving thoughts of you. We miss you so much. Joyce Ellis (the Oma)

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**Joyce Ellis** - December 09, 2023 at 01:59 PM

ML

“ There's a term "good people" used in the legislative process to describe those who are good to work with, uncompromising in their principles, committed to their principals, and whose integrity is beyond question. Jeff epitomized the meaning of "good people."

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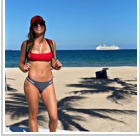
**mark landreth** - December 09, 2023 at 11:00 AM

MJ

“ I've known Jeff since the 80's and worked with him on many political endeavors. ALWAYS a gentleman and kind. He made an impact. Prayers for peace and comfort to all of his family

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**Marian Johnson** - December 08, 2023 at 10:16 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Jeff got to spend Christmas with my family last year in Orlando and I'm sad to know it was our last one together!! He was so happy and played a fun game with us with fake snowballs! His laughter carried throughout the night! He was so loving and sweet. Thank you Chris for bringing him around. We will miss him very much.*



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**Melanie Gonzalez** - December 08, 2023 at 09:49 PM

RF

*Chris, thanks for sharing. My sincere condolences to you and the entire Ryan Family. May the memories of your brother never fade. RIP Jeff, you will certainly be missed!*

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**Richard Farina** - December 10, 2023 at 05:12 AM