



## Mark Alexander Messer

June 2, 1962 - April 23, 2023

Mark Alexander Messer, 60, of St. Augustine, passed away on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at the Community Hospice Bailey Family Center for Caring in St. Augustine, following a brief illness.

Mark was born in Palatka, FL to the late George Alexander and Lila Mae Messer. He was a fiber optics engineer in the aerospace industry. He was employed at Carlisle Interconnect Technologies and had worked there for almost 25 years. He served honorably in the United States Navy.

Mark enjoyed traveling, hunting, and fishing. He was an avid golfer. He loved to read books, play games, watch Navy documentaries, and old movies, especially Casablanca, which was his favorite. He also liked to go wine tasting.

Mark is survived by his wife Lourdes Narcisa Messer; a daughter, Tori Alexis Gardner Messer; sisters, Janice Messer Freeman, Joan Messer, Melanie Messer, Merry Messer Cook, and Wendy Messer.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine.

Burial, with Military Honors bestowed by the United States Navy, will be held at Bostwick Cemetery in Bostwick. In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

<https://www.stjude.org>.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine is in charge of arrangements.



# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home  
385 State Road 207  
St. Augustine, FL

## Burial

MAY 3 (ET)

Bostwick Cemetery  
Bostwick Cemetery Road  
Bostwick, FL 32177

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Mark was a knowledgeable and talented expert in his field and held immense respect among colleagues, customers, and other collaborators across the industry all around the world. He was a determined and enthusiastic advocate for fiber optic technology and had an exceptional passion for his work.

One of the many traits that made Mark such an effective professional and friend was his openness and affability. Mark naturally recognized the best in other people and looked beyond faults, he saw everyone as a potential comrade and from this positive outlook built an extensive network of friends and associates all of whom feel the loss of his passing.

Mark measured value in terms of the places he had been, the people he had met, the friends he had made, and the laughter and good cheer he had shared with others, and by this standard, he was very rich indeed. The memories and stories he leaves us with are priceless.

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**Daniel Bagby** - June 26, 2023 at 01:15 PM

CM

“ My most sincere condolences to Mark's family. He was a member of VP-62, Crew 4,7 & 11. I flew with him for years on Crew 4 & 7. He was a good friend and we shared a few beers in St. Augustine (Mehans Irish Pub) 2 years ago. RIP my friend and fellow crewmate. I am lost for words.



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**Corky Miller** - June 03, 2023 at 06:29 PM

TB

“ *Worked with Mark for several years, he was very truly one of the good guys to work with.*

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**Thom Bederka** - May 05, 2023 at 12:25 PM

BJ

“ *Hi Lordes and Olga!*

*My words re Mark:*

*Mark's exit may seem early but gosh ... 2 languages, fatherhood, military life, exotic caring wife, mastery and contribution to a scientific passion, Florida lifestyle, friends around the globe near and far, cerveza connoisseur, worldly travels ... I'd say Mark savored life without too much need to say "I wish I'd done more!" Mark's humility and good spirit are his qualities I most remember. Will miss ya my friend! -Blair*

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**Blair Jadwin** - May 04, 2023 at 09:21 AM

TG

“ My father was an amazing man, I will always cherish going to work with him as a little girl, Universal Studio trips with him and my stepmom. Can't forget Halloween Horror Nights. He always loved making breakfast, his favorite to make us was blueberry pancakes or banana, as well as ham & cheese grits. He loved to grill whether it was burgers or bacon wrapped BBQ shrimp. I will miss our hiking trips, going to Publix to help him pick out flowers for my stepmom, Saturday movie nights, ordering Papa Johns thin crust pizza & eating Publix frozen yogurt for dessert. I wish I had more time for more memories. But I will cherish the ones I have in my heart, the ones listed as well as the million others I have no room to type. I was and always will be daddy's little girl, despite differences we had, we had amazing times. Daddy, you are so precious to me and I wish I could tell you that I love you and how much I appreciated you working weekends and becoming jet lagged to support us. But none of that matters now cause God wanted you home & I believe, not out of just wanting comfort, but in faith that you are happy and resting with Jesus & I will see you again some time ❤️



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Tori Messer Gardner - May 04, 2023 at 01:10 AM

MS

“ I have known Mark for many years. He was a great engineer, but an even better man. We shared meals, golf and favorites (casablanca). Mark was always smiling, warm and friendly and made friends wherever he went. St Augustine will never been the same without him and the world is a now lesser place.  
I raise my glass one last time to you, my friend. I will miss you

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**Marc Simms** - May 03, 2023 at 04:49 PM

MS

“ I have known Mark for many years. He was a great fiber optics engineer and an even better man. We shared food, favorites (Casablanca) and golf together and I will miss him, as will everyone. Mark was always friendly, warm and kind. The world will be a lesser place with out him. I raise my glass to you one last time, my friend.  
May you rest in peace



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**Marc Simms** - May 03, 2023 at 04:38 PM

YL

“ How very sad my friend. I guess I have been processing the news since I heard but I am still stunned. Mark has been so much part of my professional life, overflowing on my personal life as well. He was a great and passionated engineer but more than that, a good man and a friend you enjoyed being around. I will miss our times together drinking wines or beers and I will never see Saint Augustine with the same eyes. All my thoughts for Lourdes and Mark's family.

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**Yann Le Luyer** - May 03, 2023 at 03:16 PM

SG

“ mark will be missed dearly he was not only a work colleague but a friend. we had lots of good memories. it will not be the same when we go to St. Augustine and not be able to visit with our friend. RIP buddy

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**steve graeser** - May 03, 2023 at 01:06 PM

RR

“ I had the pleasure of seeing Mark several times a year for the better part of a decade. He was always willing to help in any way that he could and his welcoming and friendly demeanor was such an asset to the standards groups, especially to a relative novice like myself. I was fortunate enough to share many meals with him in cities across the country, as well as his local golf course, and his companionship will be missed.

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**Rex Radabaugh** - May 03, 2023 at 10:51 AM

TJ

“ Mark was an integral part of the ARINC Fiber Optic Committee by the time I joined the committee. He was very welcoming and always a friend. I am so grateful for being able to know him. It was great hanging out with him and Lourdes at their house. My heart and prayers go out to Mark's family. May the God of all comfort hold you close to His heart. May He carry you through this and show you how much He loves you and how much Mark cared for you.

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**Tom Jaeger** - May 03, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ I've known Mark for as long as he was representing Tensolite (now Carlisle) at the SAE AS3 fiber optic standards meetings. Mark was always very professional, skilled and willing to pitch in to help standardize fiber and fiber optic cable. He was more than a knowledgeable engineer, he was a warm friend, interested in others over dinners and outings outside the standards meetings. I was so sorry to hear of Mark's sudden passing and I will miss him very much at any standards or OFC shows I participate in ahead because he was always there and he always brought a smile to my face. Mark often hosted our meetings in St. Augustine and many of us got to know favorite restaurants and places there through Mark's recommendations.

*It has been an honor to know Mark and I pray that he is at total peace for eternity, and prayers also for Lourdes and Mark's extended family. I am sorry I cannot attend his memorial service tomorrow morning. I hope someone will post the memorial service folder or even the service on video.*

*Sincerely, Douglas Parker, Camarillo, California*

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**Douglas Parker** - May 02, 2023 at 11:22 PM

DB

“ Mark was an old school chum who used to meet me after school and play basketball with me probably because we were both short and I was a girl (he always beat me). We have stayed in touch over the years via fb and when he was in the Swiss alps I asked him to take his shoes off and walk through the hills for me, he said he would and probably did! So long friend until we meet again. Love and prayers to your family.

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**Dawn Williams Baggs** - May 02, 2023 at 09:29 PM

DZ

“ *Mark and David at the Blues Hockey game. October 2018.*

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**David Zika** - May 02, 2023 at 09:02 PM

LB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Lew Balance** - May 02, 2023 at 04:32 PM

LB

*When the call came, there was shock followed closely by sympathy, and sadness. Surprise that he was gone, sympathy toward Lourdes and Tori, and sadness selfishly for me. So many memories.*

*When I worked with him at Carlisle, we saw each other everyday, (when he wasn't traveling that is) we talked about shared interests; fishing, a strong affection for Guinness, golf, and of course Pink Floyd. From time to time we indulged in those shared interests.*

*Working at Carlisle made it easy for us to walk over to the then Mile Marker Brewery across the road, play darts and down a brew or two, all to the sound of Floyd of course. See, to Mark, Pink Floyd was party music.*

*So when Roger Waters performed the entire 'The Wall' concert in Orlando, I drove us down.*

*After Carlisle, I slowly lost touch with him, he was traveling even more, I was retired, and the drift began.*

*We talked of getting together numerous times, but it just never seemed to happen. My last contact was October when I sent him a Halloween party invitation text. His response was "will do brother". But he didn't make it, and I didn't get to see him again.*

*So to Lourdes and Tori, my heart and prayers are with you. Hang in there.*

*And to you Mark, thanks buddy. I will toast our friendship with a Guinness, and 'Wish You Were Here'.*

*Lew Balance*

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**Lew Balance** - May 02, 2023 at 04:40 PM

DJ

*“ I graduated with Mark in 1980 at Palatka High School and he was a very sweet man. And I am so sorry to hear of this. May God bless his wife and his children. And his family*

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**Dee Boggan Johnson** - May 01, 2023 at 09:59 PM

MP

“ I’m not sure I have the words for this. I’m still a bit stunned.

*I left Mark a voicemail and Lourdes sent me a text back from the hospital.*

*Next thing I knew .....*

*I will hit Cucina Giovanni on future trips to St. Augustine but I’ll sure miss Mark sitting across from me.*

*Sorry we never got that round of golf in - maybe on the other side.*

*Mike Pichette  
Leoni / Weinert Fiber Optics  
Williamsburg, VA*

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**Mike Pichette** - May 01, 2023 at 04:36 PM

RS

*Wow, what a loss. I worked with Mark off and on as one of his suppliers, and we would manage to slip in a days fishing now and then. We were chatting a bit about scheduling another day on the water when I got the news. He will most definitely be missed.*

*Rick Schultz  
TE Connectivity - Retired*

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**Richard Schultz** - May 05, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 01, 2023 at 04:02 PM

JM

“ Mark was a treasured friend who succeeded me as the Chair of the SAE AS-3 Fiber Optics and Applied Photonics Committee. He was valued by everyone in the committee for his abilities in fiber optics engineering, but even more as a warm and dependable friend. Losing Mark so quickly is tough on us all, but we can be sure that he was hand picked to lead a project upstairs!! Sympathy to Lourdes and family.

John Mazurowski - April 30, 2023 at 08:13 PM

BT

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Lourdes and Mark’s family and friends. Mark made a big impact on many people including me. He was a special man who was blessed with brilliant mind and big heart.



Brian Teague - April 30, 2023 at 07:15 PM

JC

“ Mark was a great friend who I was lucky enough to know, and to share many good times and laughs. He is sorely missed. Sleep tight my friend.



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**John Cotterill** - April 30, 2023 at 11:52 AM

PW

“ We have known this family since children living next door to each. We are so saddened to hear this. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love to you all.

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**pat gainer wooten** - April 29, 2023 at 09:10 AM

WC

“ Mark was a family friend for all his life. He the brother growing up that I never had. May God be with the family and friends through this difficult time. My heart and prayers go out to all.

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**Wanda Gainer Caiola** - April 29, 2023 at 09:09 AM