



## Bruce Abbott

March 23, 1959 - September 13, 2025

Bruce Halford Abbott, age 66, passed away unexpectedly at Riverside Methodist Hospital Saturday September 13, 2025, due to complications from a scheduled heart surgery. Bruce's inurnment will be held at Old Union Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio at 10am Monday, September 22nd. Bruce was born March 23, 1959, in Columbus Ohio, the son of Robert King and Ruthanne Abbott, and is a 1977 graduate of Whetstone High School. For decades, Bruce was a familiar and inviting presence in the restaurant business. Coming up in the 70s and 80s with TGI Fridays in its heyday, and Yesterday's in Ft. Lauderdale, Bruce developed a passion for wine. Furthering that, he studied wine extensively in France and California, becoming a distinguished sommelier and captaining the wine programs at Tucci's Dublin and Hills Market Worthington. Whether building private wine cellars, adding the perfect vintage to special occasions, or mentoring countless young people in the industry, Bruce was trusted and loved. He will be deeply missed. Bruce was also a collector--a love likely instilled by his father, a collector and restorer of Packard's. This love began with old magazine ads and culminated in Abbott's Antique and Paper Emporium in the Short North. A quiet scholar of collectables, Bruce ran many businesses dealing in them for years. "Old Ads" was a staple at the Ohio State Fair, Flowerchild Vintage, and several area antique stores. For Bruce, life was a love of games and friends, and he was constantly out and about, enjoying weekly poker night, teeing it up on the golf course, racking it up in his pool hall, and agonizing over the Browns with

friends with that booming groan of his that could make you laugh at even the worst interceptions. Bruce was a consummate storyteller with a knowing laugh, a friend to all, the stalwart of Cooke Road--a guy you could always drop in on--his chair is empty now but his spirit will remain with us forever. Bruce is survived by brothers Dave and Stephen, sister Sharon, nieces and nephews: Bill, Anne, Leandra, Austin, Greg and Alia, Omar, and Deena Lynn. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you raise a glass of your favorite wine in Bruce's honor and share a story about a time with him.

# Previous Events

## Burial

SEP **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Union Cemetery  
3349 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, OH 43202

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Several years ago, I had the pleasure to meet Mr. Bruce through the evergreen leaves in the early hours of one evening. I know what this sounds like, however; I can tell you its not what it seems. I am honored to be his brother's neighbor. Mr. Dave Abbott has helped shape and form me into the person I am now. We share more than a tree. I am and was very saddened to hear this terrible news as I know how much Dave loves his family. With that being said; I want to share my deepest condolences to everyone of his family and friends. The Earth again spun a wonderful man of the planet caravan. My thoughts and prayers are with each and everyone of you at this time and always.

With much love,  
Jasmine Hill

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**Jasmine Hill** - September 22, 2025 at 02:56 AM

TB

“ From all the children at Flower Child. Bruce sure was quite the character!!! We learned that Bruce was not joking around when it came to his love of his paper goods. He had so many return customers. I would say that haft of Columbus has an add hanging in their home, that they hand picked in the store. He will be greatly miss by all of us at the store and all the customers that loved talking to him as well. God Bless You Bruce

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**Tami Bentley** - September 21, 2025 at 09:53 PM

JS

*I remember one particular evening with Bruce and some mutual friends sipping some Brandy and a cordial or two I'd never heard of and probably couldn't afford if I did. Thing is, Bruce didn't care, he loved sharing his knowledge of wine and spirits and if that came with sip or a pull well then so much the better. The history and story behind the beverage was always fascinating and told with obvious knowledge and enthusiasm. Regretfully, I hadn't seen Bruce in a while; I remember him as an intelligent, generous man, he will be missed by all who knew him.*  
*Jack Shaffer*

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**John (Jack) Shaffer** - September 23, 2025 at 04:16 PM

FB

“ *From Poker buddies purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of Bruce Abbott.*



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**From Poker buddies** - September 21, 2025 at 06:03 PM

ML

“ *We met Bruce at Tucci's taking care of our wine selections. He was always entertaining making every bottle seem like it was the last one in the state of Ohio and he held it just for you. Over the years not only did he take care of our wine needs he became our friend!!! His dry sense of humor and kindness will be missed. RIP my friend Mike & Mattie Lukemire*

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**Michael Lukemire** - September 20, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ Bruce was a gem, didn’t judge me for my lack of taste in wine— as my favorite was a \$6 bottle of Black Opal, and always brought a smile to everyone he was around. I thought it fitting I share a photo of his prized fanny pack, doing the thing he did so well, talking about wine. Cheers to Bruce.



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**Becca Frederick** - September 19, 2025 at 09:13 PM



“ Love from Beth Nickel & Kathy Liebert purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Bruce Abbott.



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**Love from Beth Nickel & Kathy Liebert** - September 19, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ Craig L Barnum - Team Tucci’s planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bruce Abbott.

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**Craig L Barnum - Team Tucci’s** - September 19, 2025 at 12:37 PM

CT

“ *Craig L Barnum - Team Tucci's purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Bruce Abbott.*



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**Craig L Barnum - Team Tucci's** - September 19, 2025 at 12:37 PM