



Scott Edward Hays

December 21, 1968 - January 25, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Scott Edward Hays on January 25, 2025. Born on December 21, 1968, Scott was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. He was preceded in death by his father, Duane Hays. Scott is survived by his loving mother, Carolyn Hays; his devoted sister, Lisa Rambo (James); and his caring brother, Jonathan Hays (Allison). He was a cherished uncle to Taylor Wiedemann (Brett), Matt Rambo (Sophie), Paisley, James, and Roma Hays, and a proud great-uncle to Landry Wiedemann.

Scott's memory will also be treasured by his aunts and uncles, Charlie and Jan Hays, Dale and Joyce Smeltzer, as well as his many cousins, Cheryl Good and her children Chase and Luke, Heather Sugar (Steven) and their children Joe and Hannah, Debbie York (Tom), Dianne Manning (Scott), David Smeltzer (Dee), and Daniel Smeltzer (Jamie). Scott was also survived by his half-aunts Cynthia Welbourn and Judy Moody (Kenny).

Although Scott had Down Syndrome, he did not allow it to define or limit his life. Early in his life, Scott enjoyed his active participation at Beechwold Church of Christ, and later, Worthington Christian Church. Scott was a pioneer in the schools he attended, culminating in his graduation from Worthington High School in 1989. Thanks to his family's involvement with ARC Chapter 19, Scott met his two best friends, Scott Horstmeier and Steve Langhirt, with whom he would go on to share a home in Worthington for more than 20 years.

Later, he shared a home with his friend Ricky Phillips. They were supported by a wonderful staff over the years who provided Scott with love and care, namely, Jokay, Alusine, James, George, Lawrence, Franics, Hawa, JT and Caleb, among many other loving caregivers over the years.

Scott enjoyed his time at Arc Industries with the help and support of Shirley, Robin, Michelle, Valerie and their wonderful staff. Growing up, Scott was actively involved in Special Olympics for many years, where he excelled at swimming, track and field, and bowling. He enjoyed spending Saturday nights with his friends through the wonderful programs at the Worthington Rec Center.

Scott loved vacationing in Hilton Head with his family, despite his demand to only visit the beach once and immediately upon arrival. Scott's idea of an ideal vacation was relaxing in air conditioning, enjoying food and drink, maybe some beer, while being entertained by his favorite TV shows, of which there were many (CHiPs, Dukes of Hazzard, Love Boat to name a few). Scott also had a love of music and enjoyed strumming his guitar while singing along to artists such as Greg Russell, Garth Brooks, Alabama, John Denver, and, much to his brother's chagrin, Shania Twain.

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful care and support that he received from the ICU medical team at Grady Memorial Hospital in Delaware, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Special Olympics of Columbus (<https://sites.google.com/view/columbusschoolsspecialolympics/donate>), Special Olympics of Worthington (<https://worthingtonspecialolympics.com/donate.html>), and Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (<https://dsaco.net/donate/>).

Visitation will occur at Rutherford Funeral Home in Powell, Ohio on Saturday, February 1st from 2 to 4 pm, with a short service to be performed at 4 pm.

Scott's warmth, kindness, and sense of humor touched the lives of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 1. 4:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Scott Edward Hays



Rutherford Funeral Homes - January 27, 2025 at 04:58 PM

TF

“ We lived across the street from Scott during his teen years and have many fond memories of him. Our prayers go out to his family.

The Bukovinsky Family - February 01, 2025 at 12:19 PM

AB

“ Andrew B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott Edward Hays.

Andrew B. - February 01, 2025 at 11:59 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Scott Edward Hays.



January 31, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Scott Edward Hays.



January 31, 2025 at 02:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Scott Edward Hays.

January 30, 2025 at 01:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Scott Edward Hays.



January 30, 2025 at 01:01 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Scott . He was a very special person and much loved by many including his Father Duane Hays who died Nov 22 024 and me his Step mother, Judy Hays. My condolences to all his family and friends

Judith Hays - January 30, 2025 at 09:56 AM

SA

“ I have known Scott and his family for many years. It began when our son Jason was born and I was invited to a ARC 19 meeting...there I met his Mother Carolyn. Several years later I founded the Columbus Schools Special Olympics program and Scott became one of my athletes. He enjoyed bowling and swimming. He could light up a room with his contagious smile. His sister Lisa became one of the volunteers and at our first State Summer Games she "lost" Jason...it turned out alright. Scott moved to Worthington and even though I was sad to see him leave our program, I still got to see him at events when he competed with Worthington. When we began our unified golf program Jim became Jason's golf partner...and still is. Lisa, Jim and entire family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Blessings to your entire family as you travel this journey together holding on to one another...Sherrie



Sherrie Andrus - January 29, 2025 at 09:44 AM

RR

“ Our friends, the Veachs owned property @ Apple Valley and had a speedboat. One Sun. afternoon Scottie arrived with Duane. Scottie immediately wanted to water ski. He was instructed to hold on to the rope and not let go AND to keep his knees bent. We'll, excitedly ready to go, the boat began to move. Scottie did all he was told to do!

However, when the boat accelerated, Scottie got wobbly and fell into the water; continuing to hold on to the rope he was being dragged in the water hitting him in the face - they forgot to tell him that if he fell "let go of the rope." The boat stopped and he resurfaced and tried again but could never really master skiing. Scottie had fun and that was what it was all about.

Ron Rabold who was on the boat and a good friend of Duane, Scottie's dad!

Ronald C. Rabold & Susan P. Rabold - January 28, 2025 at 09:58 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Scott Edward Hays.



January 27, 2025 at 02:44 PM

LM

“ I remember Scott fondly from both ARC North and West. He was always so kind to others and fun to be around. My sympathies to his friends and family during this difficult time. Linda Monroe

Linda Monroe - January 27, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SH

“ Scott was in our special group at Worthington Parks and Rec. We always had a great time in every adventure, a couple times each month when our group got together. He was in school with 2 of my kids! He will always be One of "the North Street Boys:! He always made me smile. You will always be in my heart and a part of my amazing memories, Scott.💕💕💕

Sue Hoffmannbeck - January 27, 2025 at 11:09 AM

AG

“ Audrey G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Scott Edward Hays.

Audrey G. - January 27, 2025 at 09:08 AM