



George "Duff" May

August 26, 2023

Duff May, 75, of Vero Beach, Florida and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, August 26, 2023 in Budapest, Hungary while on a trip to Europe. He was born in Lancaster to George D. May, Jr. and Mary Katharine "Kate" May Shirk.

Duff and his wife, Jess, had just finished a bicycling tour through Germany and Austria and were traveling through Hungary when he died unexpectedly from a heart attack.

In addition to travel, Duff loved being with family and friends, biking, tennis, skiing, hiking, learning romantic languages, driving beautiful old cars, fine dining and fine wine. He enhanced any event with his wit and storytelling. His entertaining stories always had a grain of truth somewhere. His charm and love of life was evident to all who met him.

Duff will be missed by his wife Jess; three sisters, Kate, Laura, and Caroline (husband Paul); his children, Scottie and Boyd (wife Melanie); grandchildren: Alex, Parker, Jackson and Cara; and by the Shirk family, in-laws, nieces and nephews, cousins, and many friends.

A celebration in his honor will be held at The Hamilton Club, 106 E. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 4-7 p.m.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service in Florida at a later date.

If you would like to make a donation in his memory, please consider giving to the Lancaster Conservancy, the Lancaster County Food Hub or the Environmental Learning Center of Vero Beach Florida.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

OCT **14**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Hamilton Club
106 E. Orange St.
Lancaster, PA

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of George "Duff" May*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 02, 2023 at 04:36 PM

DM

Jessica, Mary Jo and I are so sorry to learn of Duffy's passing. We extend our deepest sympathy to you and family. We know he had a good and full life, including the activities of the Lancaster Ski Club. Take care.

Don Benninge, Mary Jo Murphy - October 12, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ *George "Duff" May*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

RB

“ *Dear Jess, we just heard about Duff's death. We are in Greece for a few months and news arrives here slowly. We are so sad and send you are deepest condolences. Duff was a wonderful man. We always enjoyed running into him and always walked away smiling. Our thoughts are with you. Love, Rich Bidgood and Ann Steiner*

Richard Bidgood - October 16, 2023 at 04:04 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Sands - October 13, 2023 at 07:25 PM

MS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Sands - October 13, 2023 at 07:20 PM

MS

“ Uncle Duff had a giving and caring heart. I'm sure Jess, Boyd, and Scottie will grieve this loss for some time along with other family and friends. I will miss him. Mary Sands

Mary Sands - October 13, 2023 at 06:20 PM

MD

“ Dear Jess, I am so saddened to hear about Duff and his tragic loss of life. I enjoyed meeting him around the tennis courts and will be forever grateful for having met him. My condolences to you and you family.

molly downer - October 10, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ *The photo of Duffy (how I knew him in grade school) with his parents and sisters, rolls back the years! I remember him as a boy who was always smiling, bright, a friend to all and athletic. My condolences to his family and friends. Marylu Slaugh Tyger*

Marylu Slaugh Tyger - October 08, 2023 at 09:40 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 03, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ *91 files added to the album Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 02, 2023 at 04:35 PM

KN

“ Jess - Dave and I were so fortunate to have gotten to know you and Duff a bit. And, we are so sorry you have lost a one-of-a-kind partner. When we think of you two, it's always with wonder and admiration at the way you met the world as a couple. Thanks for sharing that with us.

kerry nelson - September 20, 2023 at 03:20 PM

ER

“ Dear Jess san - Hiro and I am very surprised and saddened to hear about Duff san's passing.
I remember the first time I met him in Japan.
He was always very kind and warm-hearted and had a smile and a kind word and taught me English.
I would love to say how much great you made my life and how much you gave me thoughtfulness, and how much I miss you.
I will never forget his kindness and our friendship will be forever.
Jess san, You will always have me to rely on even if I cannot be there right now.
Please accept our sincere condolences. Hiro and Eri

Eri - September 19, 2023 at 12:29 AM

LR

“ Dear Jess and Family – I was shocked and saddened to hear of Duffy's passing. I always enjoyed seeing and talking with him when walking around town. Great conversations. Ready smile. Quick wit. He was a joy to be around. Sincere condolences to you and your family.

Larry Roskos - September 16, 2023 at 02:20 PM

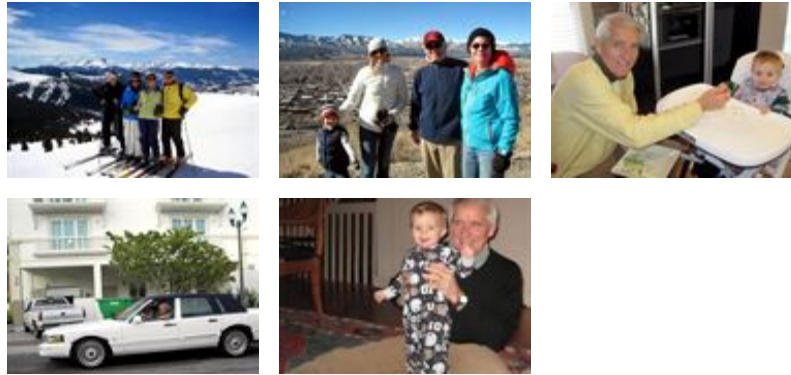


“ Dear Jess, we are so sad to hear of Duff's sudden passing. We send our condolences to you and the rest of the family. Judy and Paul Ware

Paul Ware - September 15, 2023 at 03:59 PM



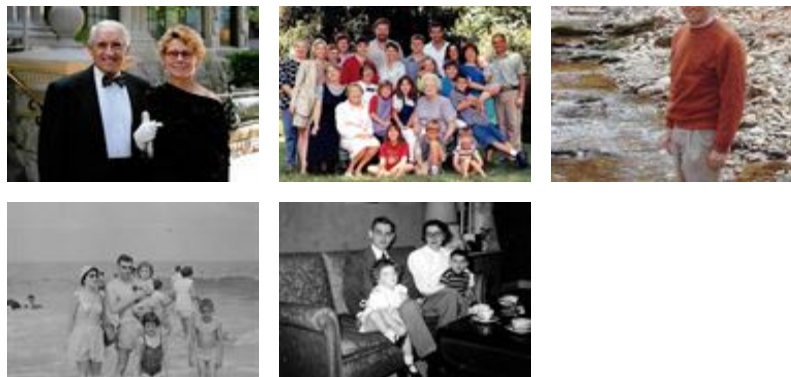
“ 6 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 12, 2023 at 01:43 PM



“ 18 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 08, 2023 at 01:25 PM

PF

“ *Jess, I am so sad to hear of this. I enjoyed our many conversations and interactions over the years. I am so sorry for your loss. - Paul Fulmer*

Paul D. Fulmer - September 07, 2023 at 01:59 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 06, 2023 at 04:56 PM

SH

“ *A dear soul suddenly left us. We are deeply saddened and send heartfelt condolences to Jess and the rest their family.
With a huge hug,
Stefanie Valar and Ed Hauck*

Stefanie Valar & Ed Hauck - September 06, 2023 at 04:37 PM

NH

“ *We all on the tennis courts at Sea Oaks will truly miss Duff, for if he was on the court with a few of us, whether on my team or the opponents, we knew it would be fun, entertaining and competitive. What a lively spirit.
I feel for Jess and his family with the very sudden loss.
Nick Harvey*

Nick Harvey - September 04, 2023 at 05:55 PM

RS

“ Dear Jess and family:
We had a lot of wonderful on court experiences with Duff. He was always a cordial and fair competitor.
So glad you had so many fond memories and travel experiences. All ended well except the last one.
Wishing you the best.
With deepest sympathy.
Ron and Dee

ron smith - September 03, 2023 at 02:29 PM

BO

“ Duff always had a huge smile on his face along with a kind word. He was a joy to be around. He will be missed by Chris and myself alj g with everyone else here at Sea Oaks. Our hearts and thoughts are with jess and family.

Beth and Chris OConnell - September 03, 2023 at 07:55 AM

BS

“ My heartfelt condolences to Jess, and the family. Duff was an awesome guy who was always so kind and engaging.

With respect & sincerity, Brad Schmitt

Brad Schmitt - September 03, 2023 at 07:01 AM

GK

“ What a gift this charming man was to our lives/from the always warm welcoming eye twinkling hello to the sage contributions to our book group, and discussions about all things Ford from our Flex to our Mustang. We are stunned and saddened beyond words and send abundant hugs to Jess and the family
Ginny and Dick Keim

ginny keim - September 02, 2023 at 02:23 PM

CR

“ As so many others have noted, Duff and Jess were some of the first people we met at Sea Oaks. As ambassadors of good will they welcomed us and made us instant friends. So many wonderful memories will serve as a lasting tribute to Duff. He was a gem who brought a smile and laugh to everyone! We are better for having known and loved Duff! Our condolences to Jess and family. Loving thoughts to help you all through this difficult time.

Chris & Don Rothman - September 01, 2023 at 07:21 PM

SN

“ Holding you and the family close in our hearts. Duff made SO shine with his sparkling personality, humor and zest for life. We are so grateful for knowing him and will share fond memories forever. Sending much love and support to you Jess. Sue & David Nicholson

Sue & Dave Nicholson - September 01, 2023 at 01:43 PM

JK

“ A great loss for our Sea Oaks and River Homes III communities. Sad news, indeed.

Jim and Suzi Keegan

Jim Keegan - September 01, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ We are so deeply saddened to read the news of Duff's passing. He was such a gentlemen, athlete, and scholar. His input to our book group was always brilliant and witty. We will miss him very much. John & Debbie Flanagan

Debbie Flanagan - September 01, 2023 at 12:42 PM

SB

“ Sorry to hear this news. Duff was one of the first persons that Sue and I met at Sea Oaks! What a wonderful gentlemen! He will be missed! Our heartfelt condolences to Duff's family and friends.

Sue and George Burford - September 01, 2023 at 12:27 PM

BH

“ Goodness -- such a wonderful guy, gone much too soon. We only knew Duff a short time, as we are relatively new to Sea Oaks, but with his wit and wisdom (both of which were frequently on display), Duff made sure we felt warmly welcomed into the community. So with a heavy heart we say good-bye to a brief but good friend. We will miss you, but will not forget you. -- Glen and Brad Hume

Brad Hume - September 01, 2023 at 12:21 PM

JN

This is very sad news. I am a neighbor and met Duff shortly after they moved in
He had a Jaguar as I have. I gave him my mechanics. He was very grateful. Great neighbor. Always smiling. A loss to SO and R H 3. Julie Norris

Julie Norris - September 01, 2023 at 01:41 PM

CM

“ We are in shock. Can't believe this. Duff was wonderful, witty, funny, a delight. Jess, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Chris Williams and Elaine Mariner - September 01, 2023 at 12:16 PM

EM

Like many have said, Duff and Jess were among our first friends at Sea Oaks. He was a true Renaissance man. Jess, my heart breaks for you, but know that your Sea Oaks family is here to support you. With love, Elaine and Chris

Elaine Mariner - September 01, 2023 at 02:15 PM

KL

“ We are so deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Duff. His sparkling personality and unique sense of humor brought us so much joy! I'll always remember his contribution to our Storytelling event at Sea Oaks. He took to the podium in an Amish straw hat and regaled us with stories from the time he and Jess left the corporate world for a farm in PA. Our deepest condolences to Jess and all whose lives he touched.

Kristi Lazar - September 01, 2023 at 12:04 PM

TJ

I share Kristi's comments. I am very saddened as I felt so strongly about Duff, as a friend, a competitive tennis player and storyteller, and so much more. What a guy. My Deepest Sympathy to the Family. Tom Jacobs, Sea Oaks

Thomas Haskins Jacobs - September 01, 2023 at 12:07 PM

BG

*If Duff was sick or in pain he never spoke about it. He was always optimistic and energetic. That's a great way to go through life. Safe travels Duff we will miss you.
Elaine and Bob Greene*

Bob Greene - September 01, 2023 at 02:25 PM

PD

“ Oh my goodness, Nina and I are just devastated by this news. Duff and Jess were our first friends in Vero and took us under their wings. Duff was truly one of the most loveable and loving friends and we'll miss him more than he could have imagined. Jess, you are in our thoughts and prayers. All of our love, Page and Nina

Page Davidson - September 01, 2023 at 11:57 AM

WS

“ Beth and I are so saddened by the news. Our book group was enhanced by Duff's insights, and wit and perspective. He was a truly great guy, and will be missed. Wally Simon and Beth Avellini

Wally Simon - September 01, 2023 at 11:41 AM

AW

“ Patti and I are so saddened by the loss of Duff. We send out our love to Jess ... and the entire family. We have such fond memories of spending time in the Musser Park neighborhood ... and on the paddle & tennis courts. What a gentleman sportsman ... and friend to all! Andy Woolworth

Andy Woolworth - September 01, 2023 at 08:03 AM

DT

Duff loved life and we loved Duff. We were so sorry to hear this news. Condolences to Jess and your entire family. We will cherish all the great times that we had together in Lancaster.

Dick & Ceil Treiss - September 02, 2023 at 10:53 PM

JF

A wonderful man, enthusiastic and optimistic, someone you wanted to be close to. Just heard and we miss him already.

John & Vickie Frondorf

John Frondorf - September 03, 2023 at 10:56 AM

GR

Jess, I am so sorry for your loss. I ran into Duff just a few weeks ago picking up his new golf clubs. What a zest for life and encouragement for the next game, round, match, or ride.

Ginjr Humphreys Robinson - September 06, 2023 at 10:33 AM

FH

Jess, I was so shocked to hear of Duff's passing. I only met him a couple of times, but I remember him being so charming and full of life. And based on how often you spoke of him, there was no doubt that you 2 were soulmates who truly knew how to live life to the fullest. I am just so sad for you and your family. Please know that I am thinking of you and how much you are grieving. I wish you peace.

Fran Haldeman - September 06, 2023 at 06:21 PM