



## Frederick "Bud" Summers Jr.

June 14, 1959 - December 8, 2019

Dateline: Bethalto

Frederick (Bud) Summers, Jr., 60, passed away at 5:15 p.m. Sunday, December 8, 2019 at Barnes Jewish Hospital with his family by his side. He was born on June 14, 1959 in Alton, IL son of the late Fred and Lorraine (Hitchens) Summers. On November 6, 2010 he married Tracey Lowrance at Trinity Chapel Alton IL.

Raised in a musical family- his dad was a jazz bassist and his mom a public school music teacher and later an English teacher. Bud tried violin and piano early on but found his true instrument with a second hand guitar. Exposed to jazz, classical, opera and show tunes, he favored blues and rock. He attended Alton High School and graduated in 1977 and earned a B.A. in Music Performance from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville focusing on classical guitar and playing in the college jazz band. Bud had been a member of the music faculty at Lewis & Clark College, Principia College, and Greenville College and he's been a guest instrumentalist on over a dozen albums for fellow artists.

Bud was an employee in various positions for the Alton School District for 30 years. He was a softball and football coach at the middle and high school. He taught various classes including computer courses and English. He worked in the Alton Success Academy as well as a Job Coach at St. Anthony's Hospital. Bud will be remembered most as an outstanding musician. When he played, the music came from his heart and soul. Bud remained humble and felt as if

each supporter was just as important as the other. On breaks he would circulate and try and talk to those that had come out to support him. His fan base ranged from locally to internationally. His music has touched many lives and will continue through his CDs.

In addition to his wife, Tracey; he is survived by his stepsons, Robby (Kelle Brown) Lowrance, Ryan (Karissa) Lowrance. Grandchildren - Jerra (Nick) Vogel, William Brown, Kyleigh (Johnson) & Emersyn (Eme Lou) Lowrance. Great grandson Bennett Vogel. Siblings Charles (Laura) Summers, and Nancy Summers (Larry Meesusen). Sister in Law Tammy Jones. Nephews – Trevor (Casse) Shaw, Travis (Misty) Shaw, and Brian (Katie) Nappier and Many great nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2019 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 14, 2019 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Alton.

Visitation request Relaxed and casual atmosphere - wear attire promoting your favorite band or your Bud Summers T-Shirt. In lieu of memorials – family request that you visit a local venue promoting live music and donate a tip in his honor. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Memorial Service

DEC 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall



“ *Frederick "Bud" Summers Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Frederick "Bud" Summers Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Sincere sympathies and prayers for Bud's family and many loved ones. I first met Bud as my teammate in Little League baseball when we were just young boys. My dad had the pleasure of being his coach....A natural athlete, a great teammate, and one of the most genuine nice guys a person could ever hope to meet.*

*RIP Bud,*

*Robert Wainright*

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**Robert Wainright** - December 14, 2019 at 01:07 AM

JA

“ I knew Bud since 5th grade. We were in the same neighborhood a couple blocks away. The first time I met Bud was in the vacant lot next to his house. He was doing a running play-by-play for a pretend football game, just goofing around giving people grief, having fun.

There was a group of us that played a lot of football and basket ball over the summers and on Saturdays during the school year. Bud was the guy that always set the ground rules...over the fence is a home run, the concrete slab is out of bounds, if you catch the ball after one bounce, the guys is out...that kind of thing. He was always fair and kept things moving. He treated everyone equally.

As he started out on guitar, I did too, and we would show each other songs. We'd go down in his basement. He bought a huge dual 15" home made cabinet and a silver tone head from an ad in the paper, and he would crank it!

The first band job was at a block party up on Christian Hill in Alton. I made a tape and still have it. If you were to listen to it, his playing isn't much different than it was years later...full of passion and excitement.

We lost touch after high school and recently were running into each other once in a while. I wish we could have talked more. He was recently in the audience at a Fargone Brothers band job in Prairie Town a couple weeks ago for what he called the "First Annual Bud Summers Trio Christmas Party" with Dave and Steve and their wives.

He had a gift for relating to people. He would bring you in and deal with you directly and sincerely.

He had a big impact on me growing up and I was lucky to have known him.

## *Goodbye Bud*

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**Jim Ash** - December 13, 2019 at 03:04 PM

DL

“ *I met Bud thru Halpin music years ago hanging out at the Sound Spot, Bud was in Tizzy, a local rock band and often played gigs around town. We would see each other around the area as we both worked in bands and and most recently at St Anthonys as I was about to undergo knee surgery. Bud was a respected musician and guitarist, he didnt need stomp boxes and trickery, he truly had the TALENT, a rarity in many today who simply had not paid the dues Bud had. Ill miss you greatly Bud we didnt hang out too much but I always enjoyed your conversations, your style, and your skill. You had real chops the kind only aquired by the Road, the Smoky, dimly lit stages and hours of jamming, shows and love of a Instrument. You represented the Guitar as well as anyone Ive ever met, your love and skill of Guitar was second to none.*

*May you rest in Peace my friend,*

*Don Lanier*

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**Don Lanier** - December 12, 2019 at 11:00 PM

DM

“ *Missing my old friend and band mate .  
We had more fun in the late 70s early 80s then we deserved. I called Bud a week ago Wednesday and we talked for a while about music, life and old man stuff . So after all these years he's still trying to help me be a better musician . Back in the day we had what I call a love /hate relationship. He hated my guitar playing and I loved to make fun of his singing . But we remained friends all these years later . I will hold that last talk close to my heart for years to come . Bud and Tracey thank you for providing me a place to stay when I was in your neck of the woods .  
Lynn and I love you both very much .  
Godspeed my friend, I will see you again .*

*Dave McCree*

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**Dave McCree** - December 12, 2019 at 07:39 PM

WF

“ *Williams, Duhe, Hoeman, Rlcheson, Deen, Smith Fami purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Frederick "Bud" Summers Jr..*



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**Williams, Duhe, Hoeman, Rlcheson, Deen, Smith Fami** -  
December 12, 2019 at 05:22 PM

“ *My Cousin Bud*

*My cousin Bud Summers died on Sunday. His dad, Fred, my uncle Fred Summers, changed his name to Summers a long time ago, in honor of Charles Summers, who put my uncle through college. Charles, at the time, owned the Stratford Hotel. Fred Summers owned the Flamingo Motel, at the foot of the old Alton bridge.*

*I saw Bud three weeks ago, at the funeral of my stepmother, Marlene Baldwin, at Gent's Funeral Home. We talked for fifteen minutes or so. Bud said, "We're dropping like flies." And now, oh the irony, he lies in Gent's Funeral Home. We talked about the elephant in the room: why Baldwin family members don't hang out with each other. Bud said he rarely saw his brother and sister much less me. His obituary mentions his coming from a musical family. I was a part of that.*

*I told Bud I had done a story on genealogy for the Telegraph and had uncovered the origins of the Baldwins in this country, beginning in Virginia (from England) then traveling west, eventually settling in Mt. Vernon, where I was born. Our real grandfather (we called Floyd Duncan "grandpa"), who died of alcohol poisoning long before we were born, was a drummer, traveling all over southern Illinois and selling woodburning stoves. Grandfather Fred Baldwin, according to my dad, was a womanizer and heavy drinker, which might have accounted for our grandmother's bitterness and lostness into religion which in turn separated younger family members. Bud said he had no idea.*

*The last thing Bud said was, "See you around."*

*I've been thinking about those words for days: "See you around."*

*The arrogance of humans compels us to fill in calendars, make plans for the future. We have no idea who or what we will see again, whether or not we'll awake from our naps and our night sleep, how*

*we will be taken from this earth into oblivion.*

*So, the Baldwins go it alone, clan up, tribe up. Great tragedy struck us, the murder of my mother and the subsequent revenge. Enough resentments to fill volumes drove us from one another.*

*Honestly, I didn't know Bud. I don't know how I feel. The few times I saw him as an adult, I knew he was a good guy. I hope he felt the same about me.*

*There is music, in Oblivion. Machines now record it—the key signatures of insects (A Flat), planets, the cadence of star clusters, the recitative of moons. If you stand outside, perhaps you'll hear an F Major riff on guitar emanating from the north star. That might just be my cousin Bud.*

*So long, Cousin. No regrets.*

*Love, Gene*

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**Eugene Jones Baldwin** - December 11, 2019 at 02:06 PM

BC

“*Bud was such a wonderful friend to me, always. His music was almost always the topic and it was so enjoyable to hear his excitement about whatever he was involved in at the time. His laugh was always a way to make everyone smile and laugh themselves RIP my friend. Sending prayers to all who loved Bud. He was an amazing person.*”

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**Barb (Hawkins) Crossman** - December 11, 2019 at 11:50 AM

JC

“*I am so sorry for your loss, Tracey and family! Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers! Judy Clark*”

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**Judy Clark** - December 11, 2019 at 11:34 AM

BR

“ I've known Bud since the 7th grade and in fact was just hanging out with him and some other friends a few days before his passing. We were all reminiscing about our junior high and high school days and I told a story I wanted to share. Back in junior high I played football with Bud and other friends I was the QB and Bud was a running back. We had a option play where I would run the ball and decide whether I would continue to run or pitch the ball back to the running back. Well Bud was the running back on this particular play and as I was running I decided I was going to get Bud a score so I ran the ball around the end and pitched the ball back to Bud so he could get the TD Bud catches the ball and has a strange look on his face like why are you pitching me the ball.

I thought that was odd until I realized I was already in the end zone and had scored when I pitched the ball back to Bud and like I said Bud had this look on his face like why are you giving the ball now! We had a good laugh about it then and now. Tracey my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as well as Charlie and Nancy and your families. Bud I will miss you brother and I know you will be playing beautiful music in Heaven! Your friend forever

*Brian Roach*

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**Brian Roach** - December 11, 2019 at 10:59 AM

JA

“ Buddy, We will miss you and your wit & wisdom at our Cubase Club gatherings. Such a humble man with great music and people skills, Always a positive source in our endless constant search of "the perfect mix". You have achieved perfection. Bless you.

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**Joe Blasingame, AE&P** - December 11, 2019 at 09:45 AM

C.

*“ I've always admired Bud and felt honored to be a friend. He got me my first paying gig and gave me advice that has helped me for years. He was always willing to lend a hand and always appreciative of other musicians. He will continue to be the example I use in how to treat other musicians.  
I'll miss having him there to reach out to, Playing in the barn at the parties, meeting all the other area musicians and of course playing his guitars. A talented, selfless hard working man. I'm a better musician and person having known him.*

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**C.D.Clark** - December 11, 2019 at 07:46 AM

CW

*“ Bud was always great to play with...have many fond memories of playing with him at Scotty's !!*



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**Charlie Wilson** - December 10, 2019 at 11:54 PM

MD

*“ Bud, it was a great honor to know you... You inspired me in ways you'll never know... I hope Tracey and your loved ones can quickly find peace... PeeWee*

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**Mark Davis** - December 10, 2019 at 10:27 PM



*“ Bud was the greatest to play with. No matter what skill level you were, when you played with Bud he made you feel like Eric Clapton. I will miss him.*

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**Richard Hires** - December 10, 2019 at 10:15 PM

JG

“ James Ganter lit a candle in memory of Frederick "Bud" Summers Jr.



James Ganter - December 10, 2019 at 08:49 PM

JG

*Bud you are a great picker and I always enjoyed our conversations. Play on, JimmyG*

James Ganter - December 10, 2019 at 08:54 PM

CD

“ You have my deepest sympathy, Tracey. Bud was a good man. May God grant you comfort and strength.

Chris Dreith - December 10, 2019 at 06:46 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Frederick "Bud" Summers Jr..



December 10, 2019 at 06:40 PM

PT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Paul Tillman - December 10, 2019 at 05:36 PM

PT

*Great way to spend an evening... listening to Bud and talking with him on breaks.*

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**Paul Tillman** - December 10, 2019 at 05:34 PM

DW

“ *It was a great honor to work with Bud the last 2 years, during practice he would always say something to make us all laugh, not that I am saying he had a smart mouth but his was very quick with his wit and would always one up us. I am going to miss you buddy you were one of the best musicians I have ever worked with. Dave Woods*

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**Dave Woods** - December 10, 2019 at 04:43 PM