



Jon Burnett

January 11, 1954 - February 20, 2025

Jon Burnett (Jonathan Haynes, Jr.), 71, died on February 20, 2025, after dealing with neurodegenerative disorders for many years. Jon was most proud of his dearly loved family: wife Debbie, children Samantha and Eric and their spouses Brett and Erinn, his grandchildren Eli, Caroline, Nathaniel, Shepherd, and Locke, his mother and father Nancy and Jon, Sr., brother David, sister Martha Rudder and other extended family members. He was additionally proud of his 41-year award-winning television career, being an Eagle Scout, and playing football at Bearden High School and The University of Tennessee in his hometown of Knoxville. Most recently, he was proud of raising awareness about Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) and the National Sports Brain Bank (NSBB) at The University of Pittsburgh through stories which aired on KDKA-TV. The stories resulted in more than 100 new brain donation pledges to the NSBB.

Jon's family would like to thank the many family members and friends who support and love us. We also want to thank his caregivers, who have become our dear friends, and his doctors and Family House hospice team, who provided excellent and compassionate care.

Professional services entrusted to Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd; 930 Center Avenue Blawnox, PA, 15238; www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com.

Jon's memorial and celebration of life service was held on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

Roots of Faith Ministry in honor of Ernie Smith, 800 Main Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215

The National Sports Brain Bank at The University of Pittsburgh - online or by mail to Room S701, Scaife Hall, 3550 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Boy Scouts of America, Laurel Highlands Council, 1275 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Jon burnet came to our home to film a segment for the Pittsburgh today tv show. He played volleyball in the pool with our German shepherd. 6 hours to film a 10 minutes segment. Have a a pictures of him and our family and Siegfried the volleyball playing dog. Such a warm caring individual. A true memory. Condolences over your loss.

Marcy cendroski - August 10, 2025 at 12:34 PM

DF

“ I met Jon in Knoxville when he hosted the POWW! game show as I was the yearly winner. He was so fun to speak with & had a great sense of humor.

Deborah Flowers - April 02, 2025 at 06:35 PM

LS

“ I met Jon my Jr Year at Bearden. I had just moved to the big city of Knoxville, from rural KY. Football was our common stomping ground, and Jon made sure I wasn't alone in a strange land. When he and Rocky got scholarships to UT, they moved into the Jock dorm and I spent the night there a few times.. At the time, people were shooting bottle rockets under the doors of other athletes. Rocky had stuffed towels in the crack under the door to prevent that from happening. Jon and I snuck up on Rocky's door and very quietly removed the screws and the metal vent from Rocky's door. A flurry of bottle rockets later, Jon and I were laughing our butts off in Jon's room. We anticipated a return volley, but it never came, Rocky didn't have a Phillips head screwdriver, so we escaped a vengeance volley! RIP Jon and Rocky

Lynn Solomon - March 10, 2025 at 08:51 AM

SC

“ I was fortunate enough to meet Jon on a few occasions but mostly I got to him through his son Eric. What an amazing relationship and family. The love and support are endless and are even more evident now. Love you Burnett family!

Scott Chaney - March 08, 2025 at 01:45 PM

DF

“ We rode many miles with Jon over the years. He was always available to ride for any charity event in the Pittsburgh area. He was one of the finest people we have known. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Debbie and his family. Pam & Dave Finney. Motorcycle Event Co-ordinators PVGP (retired)

Dave & Pam Finney - March 06, 2025 at 12:34 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jon Burnett .



March 03, 2025 at 01:55 PM



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

March 03, 2025 at 01:55 PM

LM

“ Jon was a gracious host of the Steelers 5k for many years. He was always so kind. The fans loved talking to him and we'd often have to pull him away to get him to the next part of the event. Our prayers are with Debbie, Eric, Samantha and your families.

Lynne Molyneaux
Retired, Pittsburgh Steelers

Lynne Molyneaux - February 27, 2025 at 01:35 AM

CM

“ To: Debbie, Sam, Eric, their Spouses and Children,

I don't know if Sam and Eric know how many times Jon helped me with the O'Hara Shows. If I had a question, I knew Jon would have the best answer to my questions and problems. I doubt if Jon ever refused people with their problems. What a Pittsburgh HERO!! Love and Symphony to each of you in this time of sorrow, but yes, also of rejoicing. You will see him again, I'm sure.

Love, Hugs, and Prayers
Cak

Cak Marshall - February 25, 2025 at 10:13 PM

JP

“ Joann Di Cristofaro Oakmont PA sent a virtual gift in memory of Jon Burnett



Joann di Cristofaro Oakmont PA - February 25, 2025 at 12:26 AM

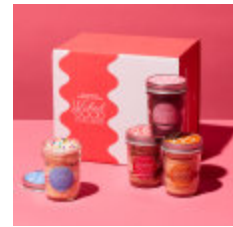
JP

“ Forever we will miss
Pittsburgh Jon Burnett with tears,
Love and sympathy to his family and close friends. He was
wonderful in our life since watching him on TV was our Joy.

Joann di Cristofaro Oakmont PA - February 25, 2025 at 12:25 AM

JB

“ Jacob & Bailey Booth purchased the Indulgent C
upcake Jars 4-Pack for the family of Jon Burnett .



Jacob & Bailey Booth - February 24, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jon
Burnett.

February 24, 2025 at 07:25 AM

KJ

“ Sincere condolences to Debbie, Samantha, Eric, the entire family
and friends. Jon always had a smile and laugh whenever we
touched base. He visited the morning show on WDSY several times
years ago and had my co-host, Gary Love and me in stitches early
in the morning with his wit and clever lines. His zest for life was out
front and he enjoyed every minute. Rest in Peace Jon.
Keith James

Keith James - February 23, 2025 at 10:37 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Jon Burnett .*



February 23, 2025 at 06:40 PM



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

February 23, 2025 at 06:40 PM



“ *Our sympathies to the entire Burnett family. We got to know Jon and Debbie through the Benvin School of Dance in the late 90's and early 2000's. Although a TV personality, Jon was always friendly and approachable, as was Debbie. May he forever rest in peace.*

Ken and Margaret Bell

Ken Bell - February 23, 2025 at 12:41 PM



“ *Faith Payne sent a virtual gift in memory of Jon Burnett*



Faith Payne - February 23, 2025 at 12:16 AM

MP

“ *Deb, Samantha, Eric and family. Words cannot express my sympathy for you guys. The wonderful memories of Aspinwall baseball encounters over the years will never be forgotten. Jon made every game so much fun for the kiddos! He never hesitated to speak with anyone about anything and made their day! So glad our paths crossed. May he rest with god and I know he will watch over us all for eternity! All my love.....Mary*

Mary Pollice - February 22, 2025 at 10:54 PM

DP

“ *The last time I saw Jon was at the Bearden Football Fall Gathering in 2021. He will be deeply missed.*



David Prince - February 22, 2025 at 10:38 AM