



## Herman Rudolph

July 25, 1949 - January 9, 2025

Herman Rudolph (nicknamed “Butch”) was born July 25, 1949, in Chicago, Illinois. He went to Heaven at the age of 75 on January 9, 2025, in Naples, Florida, where he had resided for his last 15+ years.

He was raised in Chicago, Illinois where he played football and graduated from Lane Tech High School. He continued to play football at the University of Illinois and then at Memphis State University.

Herman worked in the restaurant industry for 38 years with many well-known companies such as TGI Fridays, El Torito, and Cappuccinos. He was also the owner of local Louisville restaurants Baja Bay and Tailgaters.

More than anything he loved spending time with his wife, Carol, his family and his golden retrievers. He had numerous friends with whom he enjoyed going to see sports events, having a night out and playing poker. Herman was well known for having a big heart, his sense of humor, being everyone’s friend and his generous spirit.

Herman is survived by his wife of 47 years Carol, children Christopher Rudolph and Joanna (Todd) Sheehan, grandchildren Brooklyn, Tyler, and Christian Sheehan, brother Paul (Joy) Rudolph and nephew Matthew Rudolph, along with many friends from his hometowns. He was preceded in death by his parents Herman and Bertha Rudolph.

He was so loved by everyone he knew and will be greatly missed. We will be holding a Celebration of Life at a later date for friends and family. If you would

like to make a donation Instead of flowers, please contribute on Herman's behalf to:

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago: <https://bgcc.org/>

Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral: <https://www.holytrinitycathedral.net/>

# Tribute Wall

“ My cousin Butch:

*We were born exactly four months and one day apart, to the minute, the first borns of two sisters.*

*We grew up in different units of the same house, attended the same grammar school (Goudy), high school (Lane), university (Illinois at Urbana) and church (Holy Trinity).*

*I got to know my cousin very well over the years. He was a talented and gifted individual. Here are a few of my many fond memories growing up with Butch:*

*Every Sunday he was an altar boy at Holy Trinity where, dressed in traditional Russian vestments, he assisted the priest perform the Holy Liturgy respectively, slowly, moving candles and crosses around the altar. The next day at Lane I would watch him at football practice in full football gear running around the field like an over caffeinated wild horse. At competitive games he would do the same wreaking havoc on the opposing team.*

*When we were at the University of Illinois he invited me to his fraternity house (TKE) to see his “setup.” He had everything you would expect in a late 60’s frat house e.g. black lights, posters, and panties from a successful raid of the Tri Delt sorority house. Walk around the frat house and it was quickly obvious to me he was in charge. My cousin was BMOC.*

*Years later I visited him in Texas at a TGIF he was managing. There too it was obvious Butch was in charge, not because of his title but because of his style and charisma. He talked to his staff in a respectful guiding tone. I could tell his employees liked him.*

*One of his many talents was making people feel good about themselves. I don’t recall him ever raising his voice in anger or disrespecting anyone. He was considerate to everyone. These traits helped make him the man we knew.*

*In later years I lost touch with Butch but heard through mutual*

*friends he was happy in retirement and ecstatic with the continued success of Joanne and Christopher and birth of his grandchildren.*

*When I learned of his passing, I was saddened but consoled knowing his talents, courage, integrity and memory will live on through his decedents. He was a dedicated son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and cousin.*

*When I see him again, I'm going to slap him on the back, give him a firm handshake and tell him, "Butch, you are a Champion."*

*Paul Kouris*

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**Paul Kouris** - April 04, 2025 at 12:10 PM

GR

“ *Herman was a great person and a true friend!  
We shared many experiences over the passed  
40 years from Texas to Florida!  
RIP you will be missed!*

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**Guy Roney** - January 20, 2025 at 06:03 PM

NR

“ *Herman was such a Teddy Bear, kind heart & soul, tiny me loved hugging him...it makes us appreciate our lives together even more, Mark & I celebrate 40 years next week... thru ups & downs we stay together... thru role models like Carol and Herman, thank you and we look forward to celebrating his beautiful life!!!* ❤️

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**Nancy Rich** - January 17, 2025 at 03:53 PM

CF

“ worked with herman at t.g.i.f. in dallas. great guy and one of friday's managers. he was liked by all and we learned alot from him. r.i.p. and prayers sent to the family..

cal foreman - January 15, 2025 at 02:47 PM

PB

“ Remember our TGI FRIDAY'S days with Herman - too fun, & he was always a fun guy to be around! God bless & guide our Herman!  


Pam (Boyd Smith) Barry - January 15, 2025 at 02:12 PM

RB

“ Rest in peace my old friend.

Rush Bowman - January 15, 2025 at 02:02 PM

DB

“ Herman became one of my best friends when I first moved to Memphis in 1972. He and a couple of other football players and myself all worked at TGIF for a couple of years until he went with corporate, to Dallas, I believe. RIP big guy. See you on the other side, Dickie Broyles.

Dickie Broyles - January 15, 2025 at 01:21 PM

ND

Carol. I have fond memories of time with you and Herman. You are in my prayers and in my heart

Nancy Donahue - January 15, 2025 at 08:22 PM

JF

*Herman the German was super great guy. The last time I saw him was in Dallas 10 years ago at Fridays reunion. We had a wonderful and lengthy conversation. RIP big guy.*

**Joe Dougherty aka Forehead** - January 15, 2025 at 08:31 PM

JN

*I was a partner with Herman at Tailgaters in Louisville. Such a great guy and very easy to work with. My prayers to you in your loss.*

**John Noland** - January 17, 2025 at 08:15 PM

BM

*Fondly remember our days as LaneTech Indians and classmates with his brother Paul.*

**Bill Mueller** - May 02, 2025 at 04:42 PM