



Anthony Richard Scruggs

April 2, 1959 - April 6, 2024

Anthony Richard Scruggs passed away peacefully at his home in the early hours of Saturday, April 6, 2024. He was born April 2, 1959, in Bethesda, Maryland the son of Richard and Elizabeth Scruggs and was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister, Kristine. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 46 years, Cheryl Scruggs; 3 children, Sarah Sullivan (Tom), Tony Scruggs (Janelle Ditta) and Selina Manning (Brad); 5 grandchildren, Max Riegel, Ella Sullivan, Monty and Noah Manning and Isaiah Ditta; brother Paul Scruggs; sister-in-law Lisa Trznadel (Joe); nephews, Mychel and Connor Trznadel.

Tony spent most of his adult life as a truck driver at Federal Pipe and Steel, but his true passion was cooking. He was a barbecue master and even made quite a name for himself locally, winning contests and running a few different restaurants over the years. He spent some time in the spotlight as a beloved contestant on season 2 of MasterChef and then landed as an executive chef in Chicago at a famous BBQ eatery near Wrigley Field.

Tony's heart was always with his family and friends at his home. He loved being a grandpa and taking the grandkids on adventures. He loved to open his home to anyone and everyone. Tony loved his animals, his garden, his yard and the sunset. He loved taking nightly country drives with Cheryl listening to their favorite songs. Tony loved fishing and collecting antiques,

especially fishing lures. He was an expert at anything he ever tried his hand at and made so many friends along the way.

While the world will be a quieter place without Tony in it, he would want us to all remember the bright smile and laughter that filled a room when he walked in. Keep all those memories of Tony close and ready to share.

A Celebration of Life for Tony will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Jensen Funeral Home in Kankakee from 2 pm - 7pm.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **20**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall

DA

“ I'm sorry for the loss of a beloved man I seen him on master chef and adored how he was on the show heartbroken that he was eliminated

Dawn - February 20, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ The first time I saw Tony was when he was on MasterChef in 2011. He brought a shining light in the show and will be missed dearly. RIP Tony

Matt Matt - June 23, 2024 at 11:24 PM

LL

“ Love, Chris, Amy ,Cygnus,& Ollie Lahners purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Anthony Richard Scruggs.



Love, Chris, Amy ,Cygnus,& Ollie Lahners - April 20, 2024 at 02:26 AM

LL

“ Love, Chris, Amy ,Cygnus,& Ollie Lahners planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony Richard Scruggs.

Love, Chris, Amy ,Cygnus,& Ollie Lahners - April 20, 2024 at 02:26 AM

YF

“ Your GHC family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Anthony Richard Scruggs.



Your GHC family - April 17, 2024 at 06:04 PM

YF

“ Your GHC family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony Richard Scruggs.

Your GHC family - April 17, 2024 at 06:04 PM

DB

“ I'm very sorry to hear of Tony's. Passing my prayers go out to his wife and family. He was truly a great guy. I met him working at Johnson and Johnson's in the latter 70s. We hunted and fished many times. Tony was also a trapper in those days, one time while fishing on the Kankakee River, he heard an otter splashing around in the bank. Not realizing it was all the lily pads grab the netting and took out after it. Of course he ended up all wet, but we all , he heard an otter splashing around in the bank. Not realizing it was all the lily pads grab the netting and took out after it. Of course he ended up all wet, but we all laughed about that many times. rest in peace, my old friend. David R Bufford

David R Bufford - April 17, 2024 at 05:08 PM

NN

“ *The time with the Scruggs family has very great memories for all us as a family and spans many decades!*

Our greatest memory is camping and having the kids snipe hunt in the dark at Lake Alexander. Us adults would run around yelling snipe and Tony ran head first right into the back of a ford pickup, we called him drof (ford spelled backwards) and had many a laugh and singing songs that night. In the morning people walked by our campsite and called all of us the hee haw bunch.

*We will miss his laugh and his endless jokes. Very hard to find people with such a good heart and soul. Rip Tony
Mike & Nancy Neiner and family*

Nancy Neiner - April 14, 2024 at 06:39 PM

WS

“ *Wes and I always had a great time with you two! He could put a smile on our faces. We were rooting for him when he was on that Chef cooking show and very proud of him.
Will miss him. We're out of town so will not be able to attend. Hugs coming your way & for your family.*



“I recall how much time you two spent together. You were virtually inseparable. May all your wonderful memories comfort you during this heartbreaking time.”

Love Wes & Jeanette Segert

Wes & Jeanette Segert - April 10, 2024 at 08:29 AM

DM

“ David and Marilyn McCoy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Anthony Richard Scruggs.



David and Marilyn McCoy - April 09, 2024 at 07:27 PM

DM

“ David and Marilyn McCoy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony Richard Scruggs.

David and Marilyn McCoy - April 09, 2024 at 07:27 PM

DM

“ I am so sorry to hear this. I grew up on Atlantic in Riverdale next door to Tony and family!! I ran into him about 10 years ago in Wrigleyville at The Old Crow!! What a great guy!! I just recently heard about his illness and I've been praying for him!! My sincere condolences to his family!!! May he RIP 🙏

Denise Volkman Mueller - April 09, 2024 at 02:22 PM

HS

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss, Sarah and family. I remember when he donated his time and efforts to the OME PTO and raised a heck of a lot of money for those kids. He was truly selfless.

Heather Southwell - April 09, 2024 at 01:59 PM

TM

“ Tony was a Man that I was fortunate enough to meet while he was in the hospital and I was his Nurse. Meeting and caring for him was a joy. His smile and jokes were always a bright spot in my day. He and his wife were just 100 real people. I will miss him and wait to see him again at the great bbq in the sky!

Todd Matson - April 08, 2024 at 10:26 PM

MH

“ I never met Tony before, until he told my friend to send myself and another friend over to Old Crow before a concert at Wrigley Field. He treated us to a meal and drinks and sent us home with a care package for our friend as well. Tony's hospitality will forever be one of my favorite memories of a memorable night. Rest In Peace.

Michael Hutchison - April 08, 2024 at 10:12 PM

PH

“ I. Was manager at hot oil in Manteno. Tony would always cook something and bring it by for us to taste.. Everything was delicious 😊😊. I was so proud of him being on Master Chief....how many people can say that ????? God bless you..my friend. ❤️🙏

Phyllis Halley - April 08, 2024 at 08:26 PM

PH

Hout oil. Sry

Phyllis Halley - April 08, 2024 at 08:27 PM

BH

I worked with him for 17 years at Federal Pipe and Steel he was a good guy and fun to be around. Rest In Peace Brother

Bob Haggard - April 09, 2024 at 06:15 AM