

## Terrence W Underhill

November 30, 1952 - May 7, 2020

On May 7, 2020 Terry Underhill departed from his earthly body as the supermoon was rising in the East.

Because Terry loved road trips and was keen on the small important stuff in life, we can know that he is traveling well on this new journey. During his life on earth he was a baseball and hockey player, served in the Airforce, became a pilot captain on a Mississippi River tug boat, was a boat and cabinet builder, the best car salesman you ever met, an inspiring baristas, a prolific reader, a poet, painter, a (literal) clown, a climate activist, bird lover, an AA member and sponsor and a friend to many he met along the path he traveled.

Terry leaves behind two sisters, two nephews, one great niece, one god daughter, many cousins, and so many wonderful friends. He joins his parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, and many friends in the universal place we like to call heaven. I'm certain that Terry will find a way to communicate from this new universe he dwells in so watch for his message to you. He may come to let you know he is doing well in this new form with a simple phrase that speaks to your heart, the friendliness of a bird or the splendor of a rainbow. For certain, Terry is still here guiding us on this wonderful journey of life and enjoying the new universe his spirit has taken a journey to.

One of the last Dove Promises he saved in his AA 12 Step book really brings it all home: “Life happens between an inhale and exhale.” On May 7 about 4:20 p.m. in Foley, Alabama Terry took his last inhale and exhale. His expression was relaxed almost like a relief from the physical pains he endured, but a sadness for what he would be leaving behind—all those he loved and all he loved about life on earth. Yet at peace with where he was adventuring to next. It was as if he said, “This is it; here I go.”

When the concern of coronavirus subsides, we would like to gather near the Perdido Bay in Alabama and near the St. Croix River in Minnesota to scatter Terry’s ashes and celebrate his life.

Until then check with his AA group for a celebration on July 19 and sister Karen at [karenumn @ gmail.com](mailto:karenumn@gmail.com) for a virtual memorial on July 26.

Terry would want you to be safe during this pandemic for certain, He would want you to get together with someone you enjoy and share a bowl of peach ice cream!

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ Terry was always so kind to everyone he met. He would remember someone even if only having met them once or twice. I was so blessed and happy to be able to have a short visit with Terry in March when we were in the area. He greeted me and my husband with big hugs and sent us on our way with a huge smile.

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**Jean** - July 23, 2020 at 11:16 PM

JO

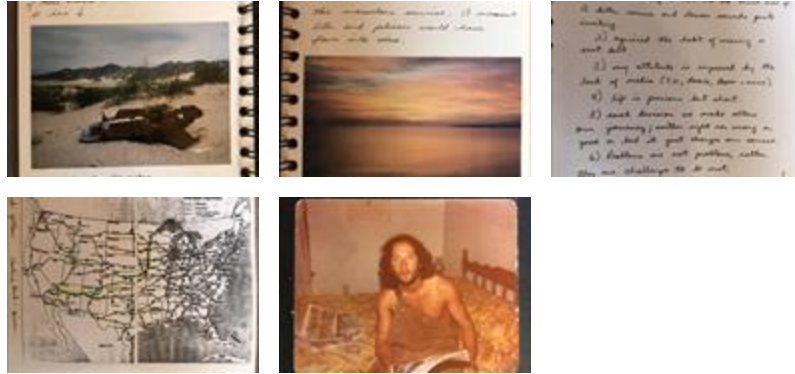
“ I miss you Terry! I remember all our trips to Stillwater and seeing everyone in hot, humid June/July! I miss your visits to Boulder City and you and dad (Gene Gatzke) sitting around talking. I can still see you walking down to the lake and Jeanne and I commenting on a man walking on the hwy, not recognizing you, and then low and behold you show up at our door! Surprise, surprise!! I miss the great cards you would send! Please Rest In Peace Terry, I miss you... ❤️

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**JoJo** - July 22, 2020 at 01:33 PM

LP

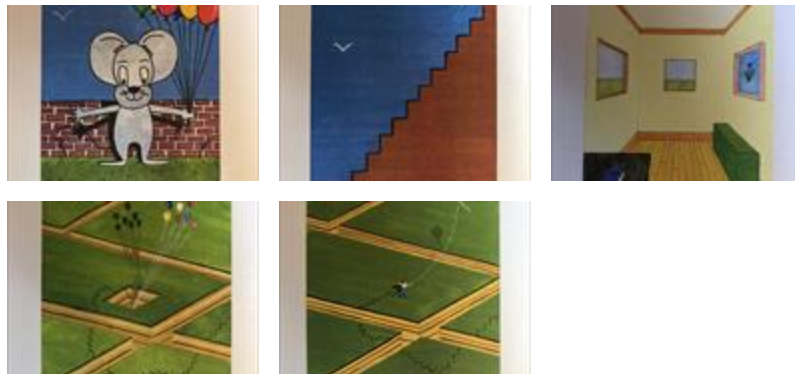
“ A couple excerpts from his journal he wrote while he was on a road trip for his 10 year sober anniversary. Uniquely I revived this book soon after my 10 year sober anniversary and we had the same sober date.



Levi Polzin - July 21, 2020 at 12:10 PM

LP

“ Some of Terry’s art that always made me smile and think of its greater meaning.



Levi Polzin - July 21, 2020 at 12:08 PM

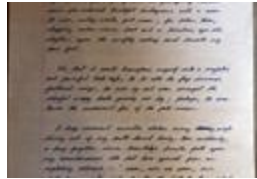
  
Karen  
Underhill

He had his own style and his fun character he often used always made me smile

Karen Underhill - July 27, 2020 at 03:43 PM

LP

“ Terry wrote so much, and saw so much with his heart and soul. This is a piece I received that was in a old leather binder that spoke to me of what a beautiful soul my uncle was.



Levi Polzin - July 21, 2020 at 12:06 PM

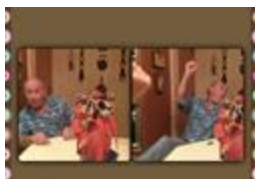


Thanks for finding and sharing

Karen Underhill - July 22, 2020 at 01:07 AM

MS

“ Here are some memories from his Great-Niece’s visits to Gigi’s house and the fun times hanging out with Uncle Terry. He would send Tallulah painted rocks and she would send him paintings and sketches in return. We miss him very much.



Michelle Scifers - July 19, 2020 at 04:29 PM

JE

“ Sweet cousin Terry was always so much fun as the Vegas cousins would come visit every other July. We loved going back to Stillwater to see all our cousins but Terry was the oldest boy and was dear. I remember going up to Lake Milac not sure where just up north some lake that all my uncles and grandpa loved to fish. The after catching all those fish , we would have a wonderful fish fry. I loved that Terry each holiday would send my parents a homemade Christmas card...so creative....wish I could find one ....I'll keep looking. You are truely missed my sweet sweet cousin!!!



jeanne - July 18, 2020 at 03:34 PM

KU

“ 5 files added to the album Early Years



Karen Underhill - July 12, 2020 at 08:30 PM

KU

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album

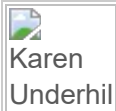


Karen Underhill - July 12, 2020 at 08:26 PM

SH

“ We are having a celebration of life for Terry at the Episcopal church in Bon Secour on July 19th at 3 pm. It is by the Tin Top. There will be refreshments. Please come and tell your favorite Terry stories.

sherilyn - July 12, 2020 at 07:15 PM



*Wear your favorite mask because Terry would like that!*

Karen Underhill - July 13, 2020 at 07:28 PM

CN

“ My smart, generous, and always kind cousin. Godfather to my daughter . We will all miss him. He was an asset to our family, that can never be replaced. . Our hearts hurt without him. I'll miss his calls.

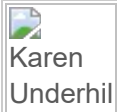
Caryl Nelso - July 12, 2020 at 12:33 PM

CE

“ I was once in a speaker meeting with Terry and I made a comment after the meeting that the speaker didn't really share anything about God or working the steps and pretty much just talked about their drinking days....and that I didn't get a lot out of it. Terry looked at me and said, "Well, maybe newcomer needed to hear that." It changed my perspective. Terry was often good at saying things that change my perspective, showing me that my perspective was often the opposite of God's reality.

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**Craig Egermayer** - July 12, 2020 at 12:06 PM



Karen Underhill

Terry typically had a story for me to give me new perspective. He was

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**Karen Underhill** - July 13, 2020 at 10:34 PM

SH

“ Terry will always be in my heart. I loved him. We connected from day one. I the chance to meet his sisters, both are my friends now. When I think back how many times he called me on my stuff and helped me find a new way of thinking and doing. Miss him too.

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**Sherilyn** - July 11, 2020 at 07:53 AM

“ To remember and be with my brother, I walk by the water--usually a large river. As I watch the colors on the water ripple, flow and merge so gently with the sky, I wonder did my brother see this like I do. Many times we shared our thoughts about the love of nature. As I was looking out over this river a swallow swoops down at me and gets my focus in a certain direction. Then the bird our family has always thought of as the one that communicates from the beyond shows itself--the hummingbird. It flies across from tree to tree in front of my view. Facing me. When I realize that it may be him letting me know it's all okay, the hummingbird zooms off.

I then think of one of the last stories Terry told me about a road trip he made in Biloxi, MS to get a biopsy on his tumor. He wanted to stop at a specific restaurant for some specific treat. While getting his food, he met a man and they started talking. Not surprising to those of us who know Terry. Then they decided to sit and eat together. Of course, Terry talked about how interesting this person was. He always meets incredible people along the path. But Terry says how perfect it was because he was really feeling anxious about the tumor. Then the man asked if he could pray over him. Terry agreed because, well how could it hurt and what do I have to lose. Terry found this to be an amazing part of his trip to Biloxi. This is often how a story goes from Terry. He meets these incredible people and they share this moment in time. A moment that seems to last forever and sounds like a deep connection was made. He then tells me how wonderful it was that both of them took the time to share this moment.

When I think about Terry, I'm reminded about this quote from Maya Angelou. "If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."

Life just won't be the same without you my big brother. I hope the new journey brings you amazing people to connect with.

JM

*Terry was always the guy who brought me down to earth just at the right moment. Our paths never crossed as often as I would have liked them to but when they did, it was a delightful moment in time. His Dad and Mom and Sisters are precious beyond belief. Farewell my friend, see you on the other side. Till then, give a shout-out to my precious wife and my mother and to all those who have gone on before me.*  
*Rest In Peace*

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**John Moilanen** - July 08, 2020 at 04:49 PM

DA

*Those we've shared time, space and our hearts with here on earth never really leave us. The comfort in knowing and truly believing this is just so beautiful.*

*Thank you for sharing a piece of your experience and your heart. It certainly touched my heart. I pray that all of your precious memories of Terry will not only comfort you but also helps you along with your own personal growth and journey.*  
*Wishing you peace and many blessings,*

*Denise Ayers*

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**denise ayers** - July 09, 2020 at 12:09 AM

  
Karen  
Underhill

*Thanks for taking time to share! It helps to hear your thoughts*

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**Karen Underhill** - July 14, 2020 at 08:13 PM

KU

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Karen Underhill - July 08, 2020 at 12:57 AM

BW

“ Terry was one of the finest men I have ever known. He had the unique ability to make people feel welcome, included, and vital to a group setting. I am so thankful that I met him in this world. He taught me much. I will miss him so much!

Bob Webb - May 09, 2020 at 01:02 PM



Karen Underhill

Hello Bob. I know what you mean. I miss him every day

Karen Underhill - June 07, 2020 at 11:54 PM

PA

I too, will miss Terry. He had a great insight about living life and I always enjoyed his take on things! Peace and serenity to you Terry!

Paula - July 08, 2020 at 07:46 AM

SH

I loved Terry. We connected from the first time I met him. He was a wonderful friend, would tell me if I was doing or handling something wrong. We were both old souls. He liked the stars rocks and I did too. If only I had gotten there 10 minutes sooner so I could have said goodbye or see you later. He will always be in my heart.

sherilyn - July 08, 2020 at 01:58 PM

SS

*Terry was a great guy. We loved his many stories about his adventures and thoughts on life. A clown, an artist and a special friend to so many. We are saddened by his passing and we'll miss him very much.*  
*Scott & Brenda Schell*

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**Scott Schell** - July 12, 2020 at 07:01 PM



Karen Underhill

*Thanks all for taking time to share. It helps to know others have stories to share*

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**Karen Underhill** - July 14, 2020 at 08:19 PM

JO

*It has taken me a long time to accept Terry's passing. I'm not sure that I truly have or ever will. In some form or another, he will always be with me. Even when we were thousands of miles apart, I knew he was right there. He was selfless to an extreme, regardless of the circumstances, it was never about him. It was always about you! Not many people could match his purity and love for his fellow man. Thank you Terry for who you were.*

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**John Oliva** - July 19, 2020 at 06:03 PM

MG

*I only knew Terri for a short while. What I did see was a wonderful man who cared deeply for all. I will miss him dearly.*

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**Margaret Gallen** - February 08, 2021 at 09:49 PM