



Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy

November 23, 1955 - September 16, 2015

Niall O'Shaughnessy, age 59, of Milton, Georgia, passed away September 16, 2015 of brain cancer.

Niall was born in Adare, Co. Limerick, Ireland and maintained his ties to his homeland throughout his life. He was recruited by the legendary track coach John McDonnell and received a scholarship to the University of Arkansas. The first in a line of great distance runners at the University of Arkansas, Niall was a six-time all-American while competing in three sports for the Razorbacks. He became the University's first individual runner to win a Southwest Conference championship indoors. His indoor mile time of 3:55.4 is the ninth-fastest in NCAA history and an Arkansas record that has stood for nearly 40 years. His NCAA record of 2:04.5 in the 1000m still stands today.

Niall represented Ireland in the 1976 Montreal Olympics in Canada, running both the 800m and 1500m. Although he qualified for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, Niall did not compete out of respect for the American boycott. In 1994 he was inducted into the University of Arkansas Hall Of Honor. Niall will be posthumously inducted into the SWC Hall of Fame in November.

Niall earned both a bachelors and master's degree in Civil Engineering while at the University. After graduation Niall went to work for the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, being named Arkansas State Employee of the Year by then Governor Bill Clinton. He left the State in 1988 to work for CH2MHill, an international consulting engineering firm, where he was a project engineer and project manager. Niall was an Environmental

Engineer specializing in water management.

Niall began working at Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation (now WestRock Company) in 2010. Niall's former manager states, "During his tenure, Niall managed the company's largest and most complex wastewater projects. He had an incredible mix of skills; the breadth and depth of his knowledge was remarkable. Niall always knew more than anyone else in the room about the management of wastewater but had a humble and genuine way of delivering advice that put everyone at ease. He also was incredibly dedicated to his work, spending many nights and holidays traveling across the country to help facilities that were having problems. More importantly, he was a true gentleman, friend, all around great person and is greatly missed."

Niall is survived by his loving wife Marcia and two sons, Thomas and Stephen, also of Milton. He is also survived by his mother, Angela O'Shaughnessy and brothers David, Peter, Barry, John and Mark and sisters Suzanne and Fiona. The family will receive friends Thursday, September 24th from 5-8pm at Northside Chapel, 12050 Crabapple Rd, Roswell, GA 30075. A funeral mass will be held Friday, September 25 at 10 am at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 535 Rucker Rd, Alpharetta GA 30004

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **24.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Mass

SEP **25.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
535 Rucker Road
Alpharetta, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Saw him run in Madison Square Garden, NY City in the mid to late 1970's.....A fierce competitor who would not allow races to go cheap as he ran hard from the starting gun to the finish line. I remembered saying to myself how does an Irish guy end up at Arkansas as opposed to Villanova but now realize that Arkansas was just beginning the fabulously successful John O'Donnell era. Niall was a founding runner of those great teams.....*

Howie McNiff - February 28, 2016 at 12:20 AM



“ *I'm shocked and saddened to hear about Niall, and want to pass on our sincere condolences to Marcia & family. I was privileged to work next to Niall with many clients at CH2M HILL. Besides being extremely knowledgeable, he was without fail, the voice of reason and integrity regardless of the situation. I always looked forward to business travel with Niall, as his sense of humor (and his love of fast driving!) always made the trips pleasant, if not enjoyable. For a man of tremendous accomplishments, his sincere modesty was amazing and a testimony to his character. Niall will be missed by all of us whose lives he touched.*

- Rob Seip

Rob Seip - September 28, 2015 at 12:37 PM

HD

“ I was fortunate to work with Niall at CH2M from 1988 to 2010, and remained in contact after he joined Smurfit/RockTenn. Niall was a great co-worker and even better friend. He was generally reserved, but acted with confidence and respect for clients and con-workers. Niall was an example of someone that would not ask you to do a task he was not willing to perform and always supported the efforts of others. I have fond memories of Niall in and out of the office, including travels in the US and Malaysia. Family was very important to Niall, and Marcia, Thomas, and Stephen were a joy to visit. Niall would also ask routinely about my family and remember events from years past, My thoughts are with Marcia, Thomas, and family members. Niall is remembered and missed.

Hal Davis

Hal Davis - September 25, 2015 at 07:17 AM

PB

“ I had the privilege of working with Niall at CH2M from 2002 until 2010. He was an amazing person to work with - committed to what he was doing, fun to be around, cared about the people he worked with, and no matter what the situation - always did "the right thing" - even when difficult. He was the kind of person that engendered respect and admiration in everything he did and from everyone he touched. My condolences go out to Marcia and their sons.



Phil Benson - September 24, 2015 at 02:24 PM

VM

“ Vonn & Jeanne Murray purchased the *Delicious Delights Basket* for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



Vonn & Jeanne Murray - September 24, 2015 at 02:14 PM

WD

“ WestRock, Environmental Department purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



WestRock, Environmental Department - September 24, 2015 at 01:31 PM

OS

“ Orazio Ross Sobania purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



Orazio Ross Sobania - September 23, 2015 at 10:06 PM

JR

“ Joe Bulzan, Co-Worker from Rocktenn purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



Joe Bulzan, Co-Worker from Rocktenn - September 23, 2015 at 10:00 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



September 23, 2015 at 09:15 PM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



September 23, 2015 at 01:29 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



September 23, 2015 at 12:13 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



September 23, 2015 at 10:44 AM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



September 23, 2015 at 09:38 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



September 22, 2015 at 01:53 PM



“ *Tom Camien purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



Tom Camien - September 22, 2015 at 11:25 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



September 22, 2015 at 09:43 AM

ST

“ *Shawn Slattery & Family, San Antonio, Texas purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



Shawn Slattery & Family, San Antonio, Texas - September 21, 2015 at 11:50 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



September 21, 2015 at 09:54 AM

CP

“ *I worked with Niall at the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology (later ADEQ) right after he left college. He was one of the best Civil Engineers I ever worked with. He really cared about the environment and he cared about how our regulations would impact the permittees. He was just an all-around good guy and he always looked at every side of the picture and how his decision would change the world. He always had a smile on his face and he is gone from this world too soon. My condolences to his family.*



Cathalene Purvis - September 21, 2015 at 08:02 AM

TN

“ *Tracie Norwood lit a candle in memory of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy*



Tracie Norwood - September 21, 2015 at 07:42 AM

TN

He was an extraordinary man, mentor and friend. He will be missed by everyone who had the privilege of sharing his life in even the smallest way. I was blessed to work with him on and off for 20 years.

Tracie Norwood - September 21, 2015 at 07:48 AM

LA

“ *Dear Marcia and Family,*

I am so sorry about losing Niall. I was privileged to be one of his teammates in college. We all admired and loved him and I cannot imagine a better example than he was to us. Despite his enormous success he always remained humble and interested in others. His work ethic was second to none. If I could only wish one thing for a young person, it would be to have a friend like Niall. I pray that your grief is tempered by the great memories I know you will keep in your hearts and the sure knowledge that we will get to see him again in heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with you in the coming weeks and months.

Blessings and peace,

Lee Archer

Lee Archer - September 20, 2015 at 10:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



September 20, 2015 at 12:03 PM



“ *Derek Carroll purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.*



Derek Carroll - September 20, 2015 at 11:30 AM

DC

“ I first met Niall as a fellow teammate for Ireland in 1973. As well as a great teammate he was a great mentor and was always there when a friend was needed. He was a born leader, whether athletic endeavour, academics, and in his work life. I'll miss that softspoken voice that I talked to over the years whether on phone or attending an Arkansas football game. I distinctly remember our phone call in 2013 when we reminisced about 40 years since arriving in Fayetteville. I'm going to miss his logical, calculated, thoughtful, jovial, candor.

Years ago, when we lived in Pomfret Hall, he and I used to play a game of hurling between the two wings. Simple game, where we pucked the slithor end to end trying to score on each other. Of course the Limerick man always prevailed over the Dub. On our very last game to both our memories, I was up one when the rain chased us indoors.

I avoided playing again to maintain bragging rights. Often, I brought it up in the years that followed. I again brought it up on August 23, 2015, when I walked with him in Atlanta, I saw that glint in his eye that said, I wonder where did I put my hurley?

My sincere condolences to Marcia, Stephen and Thomas.

Derek Carroll - September 20, 2015 at 10:11 AM

CT

“ Catherine Carroll Sistrunk Tobin purchased the *Serene Reflections Bouquet* for the family of Niall Anthony O'Shaughnessy.



Catherine Carroll Sistrunk Tobin - September 19, 2015 at 01:54 PM

CA

“ Have wonderful memories of Marcia, Niall, Derek Carroll, Larry Bauldree, Steve Baker, Frank O'Meara and all the gang on the track team and in Pomfret Hall. Niall was a world class athlete and a world class man. He has left us far too soon. My thoughts and prayers are with Marcia and the boys and with all of the O'Shaughnessy family.

Catherine Johnson Carroll Tobin

Catherine - September 19, 2015 at 12:45 PM

LM

“ I only knew Niall for a short time. I was a walk-on in fall '74. Niall was very welcoming and thoughtful . He encouraged me. I've always had the utmost respect for him as a person. I send my condolences to his wife and family, and to all of his friends. / Lenn Mackey

Lenn Mackey - September 18, 2015 at 05:46 PM

DB

“ Will always fondly remember the good times we shared at University of Arkansas and Pomfret Hall with Lee and Nancy Archer, David Easley, Larry Bauldree, Derek Carroll, Tom Aspel, Steve Baker, etc! Seems like that was a fast 40 years! Always admired Niall's attitude, drive, and sticktoitness. Niall was a great runner and even better person. Am thankful for his life and will be thinking and praying for Niall's wife, family, and friends. / David W. Bass

David W. Bass - September 18, 2015 at 12:15 AM

CA

“ Sorry to hear about Niall my thoughts an prayers are with you an your boys love y'all Cotton an Carol

cotton albertson - September 17, 2015 at 09:39 PM

SS

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. May you find comfort in your memories.*

Sharon, Barry and Michael Shafer

Sharon Shafer - September 17, 2015 at 09:30 PM