



Todd Yost Sluder

September 26, 1954 - February 4, 2026

After learning that Papa T had passed away, 4-year-old grandson Bradley ran into his room:

Bradley: "Hey, Daddy, did 1000 angels come to take Papa T to heaven?"

Micah: "Yes"

Bradley: "I knew it!"

Todd Yost Sluder of Asheville, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, was born September 26, 1954, and passed away February 4, 2026, at home surrounded by his family. He is survived by Leesa, the love of his life and wife of 30 years, their children, Morgan, Mason, Kristen (Micah), and Scott, grandsons Ben and Bradley, his sister, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces, and great-nieces. Todd was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Fletcher Sluder and Orva Yost Sluder.

Todd deeply loved and was devoted to his family and friends. He served and showed compassion for others through his 43-year career as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, alleviating patients' pre-surgery anxiety with humor and minimizing their pain. He loved his work and his co-workers, and they adored him. Todd practiced anesthesia in Atlanta, Greensboro, Lake Norman, Hendersonville, and Asheville. Todd achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at the unprecedented age of 13 and was an active member of local

Troop 8. An Asheville native, he loved being outdoors, especially in his beloved Blue Ridge Mountains. Todd had an adventurous spirit and was an avid hiker, backpacker, camper, biker, sailor, and skier, on water, snow, or barefoot! Years ago, Todd and Leesa set a goal to hike in every National Park, and by 2025, they had completed 60 of the 65 parks.

Todd was fun-loving, curious, and creative, always using his extraordinary talents and skills to provide for, protect, and help others. Todd had an artist's eye and took beautiful photographs, especially of nature and animals. He also expressed creativity through ongoing projects to improve, repair, and maintain his family's historic home and property.

Todd and Leesa manifested the spirit of hospitality, frequently opening their home for celebrations and fundraisers for local nonprofits. Whether in a tuxedo or Hawaiian shirt, Todd was always a genial host and sought-after guest, connecting with everyone by asking thought-provoking questions and telling groan-inducing jokes. Leesa was his best and most faithful audience, always laughing at his jokes, no matter how many times she heard them.

Todd had an encyclopedic knowledge of music and regularly astounded family and friends with details about albums and artists that only a music historian would know. He created themed playlists with songs that suited every musical taste, event, or mood. Curiosity drove Todd to seek out interesting people, unfamiliar places, and challenging experiences. He wanted to see and do everything while in his earthly home. When hiking, he was always eager to see what was around the next bend. We know he is now exploring his heavenly home, just around the next bend, marveling at its incomparable beauty.

A celebration of Todd's life will be held on Saturday, February 21, at 11 am in the Sanctuary of Central United Methodist Church, 27 Church Street,

Asheville, NC, officiated by Rev. Dr. Mary Brown and Rev. Karen Easter Bayne.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to:

Boy Scouts

Scouting America

Daniel Boone Council

333 West Haywood Street

Asheville NC 28801

For LedBetter Lodge Endowment

(Dr Ledbetter was one of Todd's Scoutmasters)

Central United Methodist Church

27 Church Street

Asheville NC 28801

<https://centralumc.org/give>

National Park Foundation

1500 K Street NW

Suite 700

Washington DC 20005

<https://shorturl.at/02Yg7>

Cemetery Details

Central United Methodist Church Memorial Gardens

27 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central United Methodist Church
27 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Officiated by Rev. Dr. Mary Brown & Rev. Karen Easter Bayne

Tribute Wall

KT

“ We were deeply honored, as Todd's occupational therapy team, to spend time with him and to learn about his many adventures and passions. Through our sessions, we not only came to know Todd, but also had the privilege of getting to know his beautiful wife, Leesa, and their family.

Todd was a true fighter. His life was rich with experience, and we were blessed to hear so many incredible stories from both him and Leesa. Those moments meant more to us than he probably ever realized.

We were deeply saddened that we were unable to attend the memorial service today due to a prior commitment to volunteer with Waypoint Adventure on a hike at chimney Rock State Park. We couldn't help but think that Todd would have loved what we were doing - being outdoors, on a trail, surrounded by the beauty of nature.

Today, we honored him in a way that felt fitting - by hiking, something he enjoyed so very much. He was in our thoughts with every step.

Our hearts are with Leesa and the entire family. Todd's strength, stories, and spirit will not be forgotten.

Karen and Tess - February 21 at 03:56 PM

JA

“ *The world is a better place for having had Todd in it. You could always count on his humor and humility to make the day brighter. His curiosity and the frugality that he inherited from his father were the source of some interesting and often successful projects. I will miss him. please accept my condolences on his passing.*

Joe Adams - February 21 at 09:46 AM

AC

“ *I only knew Todd for a short time, but from the moment I met him, it was clear that he lived a life full of adventure. He joined us on a few Waypoint Adventures, and in that time I was lucky enough to hear some of his incredible stories and see his genuine love for exploring the world around him. I'm deeply grateful for the time we shared and for the spirit of curiosity and adventure he brought with him. Todd will be remembered for the way he embraced life and inspired us to do the same.*

Adam Combs - February 21 at 09:01 AM

LS

“ *The service Saturday at 11am will be live-streamed and recorded from the church website
<https://www.youtube.com/@centralumcasheville>*

Leesa Sluder - February 19 at 08:16 PM

TB

“ As a fellow member of Mrs. Collins’ class at the long- departed Newton Elementary School, I met Todd on day one of our first-grade adventure. Later on, I was privileged to enjoy a sleepover or two at his parents’ wonderful Chunns Cove compound, where Todd introduced me to the concept of a high-powered firecracker! Todd and I had different paths in life, but I was pleased to see him again four years ago at our 50th Asheville High School reunion, and to meet Leesa. Farewell old friend.

Tad Boggs - February 15 at 09:10 PM

PA

“ PACU purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Todd Yost Sluder.



PACU - February 13 at 03:06 PM

WF

“ We love you. The Voorhees and Walla Families planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Todd Yost Sluder.

We love you. The Voorhees and Walla Families - February 10 at 12:55 PM



“ Sending prayers to Leesa and family for continued comfort and peace. I am so sorry.

Nancy Lance - February 10 at 09:17 AM

SC

“ Leesa, my deepest condolences. A beautiful tribute to an amazing life lived.

Sharon Cunningham - February 09 at 05:21 PM

DF

“ Leesa, although I did not have the pleasure of knowing Todd personally, I know due to the fact you guys were married 30 years and based on the wonderful comments about your lives together through the obituary, that he was a great guy! Please know that your friends on the staff and board of the United Methodist Foundation will continue to lift you and your family in prayer as you learn to move forward. David

David Snipes - UM Foundation - February 09 at 05:15 PM

KV

“ Over 20 years ago this yankee and her husband moved to NC and fulfilled a lifelong dream of building on Lake Norman. Todd and I were not only coworkers but he was the perfect mentor for living on the lake. He helped us purchase water toys, even finding a temporary dock to rent until ours was built. We played on the lake and our families became friends. His talents helped us in all our weak spots. His good natured humor accepted his being painted and dressed up during a minor procedure while he was anesthetized. His creativity designed a potato shooter that became the hit at our daughter's engagement party. Even moving west didn't sever our friendship, just more time between visits. I'm going to miss you, Toddly. I'm sure you entered heaven sharing your off color jokes and endearing yourself to all.♥♥

Karen Voorhees - February 08 at 10:21 AM

KW

Sending my deepest sympathy to Lisa and the family!❤️

kris walla - February 08 at 02:07 PM

KV

“ 18 files added to the album Photos



Karen Voorhees - February 08 at 10:03 AM

CM

“ *Loved working with Todd many moons ago at DRMC..He could always come up with some crazy stuff.Thanks for letting me paint your nails while you snoozed.Some will remember the time.Love to all.Great memories will be forever. CB*



Cynthia(CB)McLaurin McLaurin - February 07 at 03:03 PM



I remember that. Also Dr. R with the light up glasses and multi color wig for him to see when he woke up. And he laughed.

Nancy Dulin - February 07 at 05:48 PM

TK

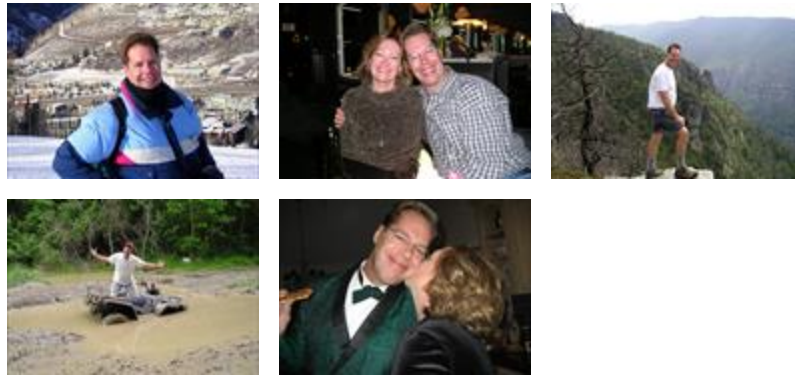
“ We are so sorry for your loss. Todd will be terribly missed, memories of him will always put a smile on our face. Bobby & Tammy Kearney



Tammara Kearney - February 07 at 01:31 PM

LS

“ 10 files added to the album Photos



Leesa Sluder - February 06 at 11:52 PM

PD

Love all your wonderful photos!

Patricia R Derrough - February 21 at 02:52 PM

PD

Leesa so heartbroken for your loss of Todd! I wish we could have taken you all out sailing on Lake Julian. I'm so happy you found such a wonderful man to spend your life with! Thinking of you and your family!! Love to you all!

Patricia R Derrough - February 21 at 02:54 PM

TS

“ I don't know how to explain what knowing Todd MEANS to me. He is Forever in my heart. I thank God for the opportunity to share life with him. Todd enriched my life way more than I can express. I LOVE YOU TODD❤️

thomas Sloan - February 06 at 06:31 PM

LS

“ Thank you for all the love and support we have received. We are still working on the full obituary and will post in a few days. Leesa and family

Leesa Sluder - February 06 at 06:23 PM

DA

“ I am so honored that met Todd three years ago. He was the childhood close friend of my new husband, Joe. I remember wishing that he and Leesa would be a part of our lives for many many years to come. They were a wonderful, fun couple. Todd's joy was infectious and he could always make us laugh. Todd will be missed by so many, but I find comfort in that he enjoyed his life and family so very much. I hope he's filled with happiness and peace as he waits for the rest of his family to join him. Although Leesa has to go forward without him, I know he will be watching her and the rest of his family from above wanting the best for them. Warmest thoughts, Dawn Adams.



Dawn Adams - February 06 at 05:35 PM