



Matt Rowden

August 21, 1999 - August 10, 2025

In Loving Memory of Matthew "Matt" Rowden
August 21, 1999 – August 10, 2025

With broken hearts and deep love, we announce the passing of Matthew “Matt” Rowden, age 25, who left this world far too soon. Matt was born on August 21, 1999 in Atlanta, Georgia. He passed away on the morning of August 10, 2025, in Sarasota, Florida, just eleven days shy of his 26th birthday, as a result of sudden cardiac arrhythmia.

Matt was a bright and unforgettable presence in the lives of everyone who knew him. Known for his incredible sense of humor and fierce loyalty, he brought laughter, warmth, and energy to every room he entered and every event he attended. No matter the occasion, Matt had a rare gift for making it more enjoyable for all those around him. His quick wit, easy laugh, and infectious smile made him loved by all who spent time with him.

Nothing was more important to Matt than being with his friends and loved ones for whom Matt would do anything without question. If you needed him, you could count on Matt to be there for you no matter the cost to him personally.

A standout athlete at Sarasota High School, Matt made his mark as a fearless

basketball player. He once held the national record for taking the most charges in a single game, 8, and for the highest cumulative total during the first half of his senior season — a testament to his grit, heart, and legendary head-jerk that never failed to fire up the crowd or draw a foul call from the officials.

Later, Matt found his true passion in stand-up comedy. Writing original material and performing on stage required a blend of talent and bravery—qualities he had in abundance. He made audiences laugh not just with his jokes, but with his insight, timing, and charm.

Though his time with us was brief, Matt's impact was immeasurable. The loss of Matt has created a gaping hole that will be felt for years to come in the lives of his friends. For his loved ones, his loss is nothing short of a life-changing event that has left us all broken hearted and forever diminished. The countless memories filled with joy, laughter, and love are a mixed blessing because they also remind of us of the wonderful man we are now having to do life without.

Matt is survived by his loving parents, Chris and Tammy Rowden, his siblings Zach (Charis), Allie, and Pete, and his soon to be fiancé, Jade Graham. He was the proud uncle of beautiful Vivian, and the cherished grandson of Rosemary Leathers and Thomas Lamb, Jr. He will also be deeply missed by his aunts and uncles, Corry & Scott Tyle and Beth & Tim Malanoski, and cousins Madison & Taylor Tyle, and Morgan (Emmy), Cate, and John Malanoski. Matt's passing was preceded by his loving grandmother, Elizabeth Rowden, and his proud grandfather, Al Leathers.

There will be a Celebration of Matthew's Life on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 2:00pm at

South Shore Community Church 1899 S. Tuttle Ave. Sarasota, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Matt's honor to Exceptional Futures, P.O. Box 173, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046 (www.efatl.org). This non profit organization is for adults with special needs which has served members of our family and continues to do so to this day.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

South Shore Community Church
1899 South Tuttle Avenue
Sarasota, FL

Tribute Wall

EP

“ If you ever heard uncontrollable laughter echoing down the hallway, chances are Matt Rowden was at the center of it. Matt didn't just walk into a room—he stormed in with a joke, a story, or some wild idea that somehow made perfect sense when he said it. He was larger than life, the kind of person who could turn a boring meeting into a stand-up routine, and somehow still get things done. His humor was legendary, and his heart even bigger than his laugh. Matt made work fun, made people feel good, and made sure no one ever took themselves too seriously. He was the kind of guy you were lucky to know—and even luckier to laugh with. We miss you, Matt. Thank you for all the jokes, and the unforgettable moments. You'll always be the life of the party, wherever you are. Mr. and Mrs. Rowden, my heart breaks for you and your family. I can't begin to imagine the pain you're going through. Please know that you have raised an exceptional young man and Matt's memory lives on in every laugh he gave us. Sending you all my deepest prayers and so much love. Eva Pinches - First Watch IT

Eva Pinches - August 16, 2025 at 05:55 PM

MH

“ I recognized early on that Matt was very quick witted -- an innate characteristic perhaps.

What I spotted in Matt was a lad who was observational and whose focused curiosity enabled him to attach even mundane situations into an opportunity for a humorous insight or connectedness -- or at other times detecting a disunion or inherent rift.

Matt possessed an unusual gift. Most sadly, we'll never know where that talented flair could have taken him. Uncle Mike



Mike Hurley - August 15, 2025 at 05:46 PM

TM

Matt truly epitomized the hard-to-find Southern-born gentleman with his sweet combination of that FL-GA upbringing. Always kind, considerate and respectful of others. He was always ready to stop and listen to what you had to say. I've only known Matt for fifteen years, but it was a joy watching him develop into the young man that he became. A truly fine young man.

Terri McIvor - August 15, 2025 at 06:13 PM

MH

Charis & Zack's Wedding Day, Happy Siblings!

Mike Hurley - August 15, 2025 at 09:48 PM

MK

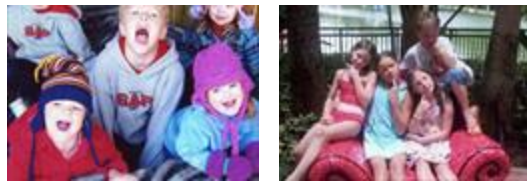
“ I can't find the right words for such a loss, but I want you to know how deeply my heart is with you. Matt wasn't just Landon's best friend — he was truly someone special to me as well. I'll never forget the day the boys were in a bad situation, and Matt chose to bring my son back home to me safely. Things could have gone differently, but that day he showed what a loyal, good friend he truly was. He touched my life in a way I will always carry with me. Please know I'm here for you, and I'm holding you in my thoughts and prayers.



Merryl Beth Koven - August 13, 2025 at 03:10 PM

TT

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



taylor tyle - August 12, 2025 at 09:25 PM