



Official Obituary of
Christopher S. "Chris" Skinner

November 14, 1979 ~ September 6, 2021 (age 41)

Share a Memory



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Obituary

Christopher S. "Chris" Skinner, passed away on Monday, September 6, 2021. Born November 14, 1979 in Manassas, VA, son of Wayne L. Skinner and Jeanne (Wells) Hinson.

You never forget the moment that you met Chris Skinner. Chris was a man who loved Jesus, loved his family, loved his friends, and loved life. After being paralyzed at age 20, he passionately pursued sharing his story of tragedy to triumph with everyone he met. Although he has spoken to over 1 million people, he believed his greatest purpose was to be a loving Daddy and husband.

Chris is survived by his wife, Suzanne J. Skinner; son, Caleb Skinner; daughter, Alethia Skinner; father, Wayne L Skinner; mother and step-father, Michael and Jeanne Hinson; step brother and sister-in-law, Jonathan and Amy Hinson; mother and father-in-law, Ed and Judi Jefferis; sister and brother-in-law, Shawn and Tamra McDermott; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jim and Allyson Jefferis; nephews, Blake Lanham, Andrew Hinson, and Brody Davis; and nieces, Natalie Hinson, Katherine Jefferis, Sarah Jefferis, and Anna Jefferis.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Chris's life will be held at 3:00 PM Sunday, September 12 at Solid Rock at Market Common, 803 Howard Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

If you would like to consider continuing Chris' joy and love for his family, a Go Fund Me page has been established. The name of the page is:

"In Support of Chris Skinner's Family"

<https://gofund.me/c09b6df4> (<https://gofund.me/c09b6df4>)

Send kind messages of comfort to the family using the Tribute Wall tab above.

How did you know Christopher S. "Chris" Skinner?

Family

Friend

Work

Other

Help others honor Christopher's memory

Share Obituary

Services

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday
September 12, 2021

3:00 PM
Solid Rock at Market Common (<https://solidrockmb.com/>)
803 Howard Ave
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

 **Directions**

(<https://maps.google.com/?q=803+Howard+Ave,+Myrtle+Beach,+SC+29577>)

 **Text Details**

 **Email Details**

Tribute Wall

Share a Memory

O **OG me**

April 10, 2025 5:25 PM

So. Chris knew about you and John Paul. He stated that you stopped bathing him. So. Who did? Suzie... you know without me even saying it what I think. 😊

Ew. Ew. Get out of your pastors wife's car/ clothes/ house/ life, suzie skinner.

Z **Zach Vitamin ZG Gulini**

March 19, 2025 6:02 AM

Suzie, we don't know each other, but it sounds like Chris and I have similar stories. I haven't been paralyzed as long as, but when I was 15, got hit by a car and spent a month and a half in a coma. I've been trying to recover from that ever since. That's just the beginning, we'll meet eventually. This story although it's sad, in a weird way, it brings me peace. I have so much to be grateful for. I hope you're starting to learn that it happened for a reason, I love everyone no matter what. Everyone deserves to be loved. Sending love to you and your family.

-Vitamin ZG

B **Bob/Beth Skinner**

September 19, 2021 3:42 PM

Suzie, we were so sorry for your family at the news of Chriss passing to Glory. While he is sitting at the feet of the Jesus he loved so much, we know the pain of the tremendous absence from this life for you and the family, having experienced our own losses of what, in our sense of time, seems far too soon. Your children will forever be blessed to have had a dad that was quite simply bigger than this life. But, that does not take away the pain of loss of the day to day just being their dad and your husband. Sharing a last name, Chris was a wonderful friend to us from the first day we met, after we moved to market common. We saw him often wheeling around, and had so many wonderful talks. Second only to Jesus, you and the kids were his favorite topic of conversation. We moved away several months ago, and only heard today of his passing. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers, for comfort, peace, and acceptance. He will be so missed by so many. But, one day, it will be amazing to stand in heaven and witness the countless number of lives he impacted, and played a role in their salvation. We were so blessed to be among that number.

Bob and Beth Skinner

L

Larry Ramsey

September 12, 2021 2:14 PM

Larry Ramsey

Suzie my Prayer are with you family ! What a wonderful man Chris Skinner! He gave his all and touched many with words of encouragement. What a wonderful family man you both are so Blessed May you find comfort in Gods word !

D

Donna R. Gore

September 12, 2021 11:54 AM

Skinner Family Tribute**IT TAKES A WHOLE LOTTA LOVE!**

It also takes all kinds to make a world. Often those who have experienced the most hardships, seem to also become the shining star examples in life.

Sometimes Im placed in that category. I say that not to brag, nor to be self -serving, but to explain briefly that those of us in this unenviable club of tragedy have a special kinship.

(I have paraplegia due to spastic cerebral palsy since birth, was a Rehabilitation therapist - speech - language pathologist for over 20 years, have had more surgeries than you can count and experienced traumatic death of both parents - my Dads homicide in 1981 and my Moms recent death from COVID on Thanksgiving Day 2020, hundreds of miles away.)

So, there are many connections to be made

Hopefully the Skinner family will understand this special kinship feeling I have and my desire to write this tribute to Christopher Skinner, his wife Suzie and twin children, age 10. Although I never met Chris, I know he was very accomplished. I have so much respect for the entire family.

I had the good fortune to be a physical therapy patient of Suzies after moving to Myrtle Beach in December 2019 and have also read much about his background.

It matters not where you come from. But sometimes its karma when you meet a family whose experience you can relate to on many levels..

Chris probably did not want to be known as a hero to the masses, but he was a proud husband and father, who despite tremendous challenges has been able to progress in spite of a life altering experience as a person with quadriplegia.

Following a short ride in a car 21 years ago when he was 20, in which both the driver and he were intoxicated, Chris reportedly removed his seat belt briefly to place some chewing tobacco. The intoxicated driver then lost control, the car overturned and Chris spine was severed at C-5-6. This type of break left him paralyzed from the chest downward, although he had some movement in his arms. He was in a coma for 13 days and awoke to learn of his injuries.

I read that he makes no apologies for his choices. He was very honest in saying as a college student, He used to drink until dawn. However, his important message in the aftermath is always how important each and every choice is in life, particularly when you are young.

Being on the motivational speaking circuit for 17 years with captive audiences speaks to his dedication.

Chris also wrote a book about his experiences in 2004 entitled, The Ultimate Learning Experience (Available on Amazon and his website).

More accolades included being the recipient of the 2007 Emerging Leader Award from the National Spinal Cord Hall of Fame and the 2013 recipient of the Courageous Man Award by the North Carolina Boys Academy.

Chris was an avid surfer, an Army veteran and one of the founders of the internationally known

Adaptive Surf Project in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Both he and Suzanne (Suzie) attended Radford University in Virginia.

As fate would have it, they met while Chris was undergoing Rehabilitation at Tidelands Health in Myrtle Beach.

They moved from the Outer Banks to the Market Common area in Myrtle Beach for its great accessibility for those with disabilities and access to the beach.

Marty Smith, an ESPN Reporter became interested in Chris' story as an adaptive surfer and in the aftermath of his terrible accident. Marty worked to raise money for a TracFab All Terrain Wheelchair a couple of years ago.

Marty posted a 10 min. video essay on his Twitter and received 300,000 views in 6 days! What a mean machine for someone who loves the beach! Needless to say.... They became fast friends as a result.

To dream about and have a loving family come to fruition is always special.

But, when you abruptly become severely disabled, you may think, all bets are off. Not necessarily so. The fact that love bloomed under these circumstances and a dedicated, selfless, compassionate physical therapist chose Chris as her husband speaks volumes to me! I have tremendous admiration for her and how she made it all work for them as a family. What better way to carry on a lasting legacy than to be blessed with twins, son Caleb and daughter Alethia!

On Monday, September 6, 2021, Labor Day, it appears Chris was found in his community pool and passed away from accidental drowning.

When bad things happen to good people we are supposed to rely on our faith, spirituality to "understand." I will never understand....

These events bring no solace. The trouble is... "most of us are good people". My heart remains heavy for the Skinner family.

I have sent a special gift and hopefully it will be delivered soon.

I am confident that his loving family, friends and community will somehow carry on his important legacy.

Display More

Donations

Make a donation in memory of Christopher

You may make a donation pledge via our website.

When you make a pledge, we will fill out a card with your information and pass it along to the family.

Once you have entered your pledge, our website will automatically provide you with the contact details of the respective charity so that you can independently remit your donation.

Pledge donation to a charity of your choosing

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