



## Walter Hilliard Burns III

September 27, 2025

Walter Hilliard Burns III, known to his friends and loved ones as: Chipper (because he was), Speedy (because he wasn't) and Champ (just because), departed this life gracefully and without fanfare, on September 27, 2025. His parents Mary Elizabeth and Walter Jr. preceded him in death.

Walter was, without a doubt, sent directly from the heavens to teach those lucky enough to meet him, about kindness, compassion and terminal optimism. As a young man, he barely survived a traumatic brain injury, lost his future and his mom, yet managed through disability, abandonment, and occasional homelessness to become an inspiration to a wildly diverse group of people. His spirit was otherworldly; gentle and contagious. He made lemonade out of lemons every day.

Walt was an avid reader, a poet, a man of letters and a little bit of a pack rat. He had an unreasonably beautiful voice and may have secretly known the words to every biblical hymn ever written. He charmed bank tellers, and nurses, church ladies and "pretty girls" all over Nashville, Tennessee. He was a dear friend, a loyal companion and an animal lover who could turn even the most deranged junk yard dog into a teddy bear in minutes. It was magic. He was magic. And anyone who met him would agree, we are all better humans having known him.



# Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Susan** - October 01, 2025 at 10:42 AM