



Sam Slaughter

November 24, 1951 - May 8, 2026

Samuel Franklin Slaughter, III (lovingly known as “Sam”) passed away unexpectedly on May 8, 2026.

Born in New Mexico November 24, 1951, Sam was a well-known, community-driven small business owner in Wildwood, Florida. He owned Frank Slaughter Insurance Agency, which has been family-owned since 1964 and remains in the trusted, hardworking hands of his daughter, Angela.

Sam was a member of the Wildwood Church of Christ, received his diploma in 1970 from Wildwood High School, and graduated “by the skin of his teeth” from Livingston University in Alabama. He returned to Wildwood and devoted himself, with great work ethic, to his professional obligations and community volunteerism alike.

He was a proud Rotarian, a Paul Harris Fellow, and could often be found humorously calling bingo games to benefit the Sumter County Youth Organization. He also quietly gave to and supported various organizations, often seeking no recognition, a reflection of his generous heart. He was also an avid reader, golfer, hunter, and fisherman.

Sam could be described as whip-smart, well-read, a little wild, always ready to tell a great story or joke and encouraged his kids to always be objective. His

laugh was a gift, as was his big smile—a treat for anyone fortunate enough to see it, since he wasn't one for surface humor or formalities. If you received that smile, you had truly tickled his soul and sense of humor.

He was known for speaking to everyone he knew, but Sam didn't waste time being fake or putting on airs—he was the genuine article and, oh, so much fun.

After retiring from the insurance business, he enjoyed flats fishing in Suwannee and spending time with his children and three grandchildren: Carlie Michelle Taylor, Kaitlyn Taylor McConnell (Tyler), and Samuel Southerland Williams (named after his Grandpa).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Franklin Slaughter, Jr. (“Frank”) and Norma Jean Jarnagin; his beloved grandfather, “Son Doc,” Samuel Franklin Slaughter, Sr.; his grandmother, Irene Beck Slaughter; his aunt, Ann Slaughter Andrews; his uncles, Doug Andrews and Joseph Wright; and his infant daughter, Georgia Ann Slaughter.

He is survived by his faithful and unquestionably saintly wife, Lisa; his three daughters, Angela Taylor (Mike), Haylee Slaughter, and Emmylou Slaughter Williams (Chris); his sister, Sandra Slaughter Dent (Jack); Nonie Slaughter; his aunt, Rosemary Slaughter Wright; his aunt, Virginia Elliott (Raymond); his grandchildren; and many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Sam requested no services. He will be laid to rest in the Slaughter family plot at Pine Level Cemetery in Oxford.

In lieu of flowers or the like, please donate to the Wildwood Soup Kitchen in his memory. It was another charitable organization that was important to him.

Such a larger-than-life man had a tender heart, although you probably couldn't tell.

We miss you, Dad—and are often reminded of your own words, which we now give back to you: “We love you, man.”

Arrangements have been placed under the care of Rick Gooding Funeral Home Cross City Chapel, with locations in Cross City 352-498-5400 and Chiefland 352-493-0050. Please sign the online guest book at rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Just a couple of Sam stories from a cousin (Joel).*

So one day, a brand new \$200 RTIC cooler showed up at my front door. Took me two weeks to figure out that Sam sent it to me! After some "research," I realized I had a brief online conversation with Sam some weeks prior where I complained to friends about my cheap ice chest that did not insulate well -- and asked for recommendations for a better cooler. Sam decided I needed that better cooler, so he bought one online and had it shipped directly to me! (With no note or return address.) Once I figured out it was from him (originally, I had no idea!), I did call and thank him. But it was clear he was just happy for me to have the new cooler and absolutely expected no thanks or acknowledgement for it.

I used to repair fishing reels for him. He'd box up a bunch of older Shimano reels (he really liked 3000 and 4000-class Spheros reels), and I'd tear them down, oil/grease them, repair any broken pairs or rusty bearings, then send them back. I wouldn't charge him for the work -- he was repeatedly willing to host me for a week at a time on multiple trips to Suwannee in the 2010s -- but he'd always insist that I pick out a reel from the bunch to keep for myself.

One time I unexpectedly received a reel from him in the mail. Not for repair but as a gift. Turns out he sent me an almost new Van Staal spinning reel that retails for \$600! He said he didn't really like it but thought I might want to give it a try. Of course, I was ecstatic to own a Van Staal reel, and this was just another case of Sam's generosity and attention to detail that only a fellow angler would notice or appreciate (e.g., a Van Staal reel, a brand new RTIC cooler!).

Joel Elliott - Yesterday at 01:10 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album Suwannee



Joel Elliott - June 17 at 02:59 PM

CB

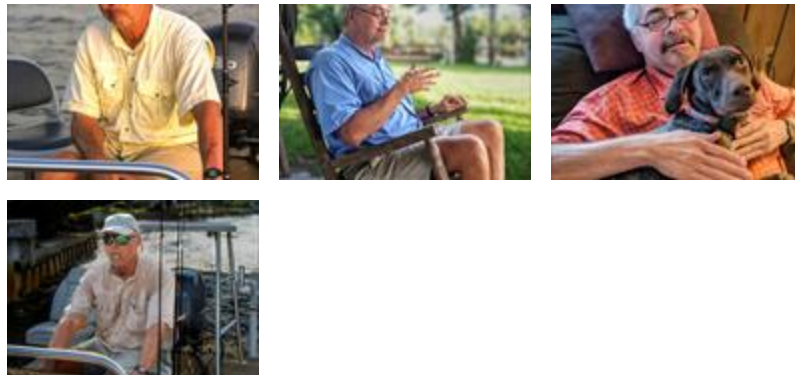
“ Callie Bridges lit a candle in memory of Sam Slaughter



Callie Bridges - June 14 at 09:05 PM

JE

“ 4 files added to the album Suwannee



Joel Elliott - June 14 at 09:21 AM

KE

“ Kathryn Elliott lit a candle in memory of Sam Slaughter



Kathryn Elliott - June 13 at 03:24 PM

FS

“ Sambo always had a big smile on his face whenever we met and will be missed by all who knew him. Gone way too soon! Flossie



Flossie Sands - June 13 at 01:32 PM

CB

“ Sam was always good to me and I cherish the years I worked for him. My love and prayers are with Lisa, Angela, Haylee, Emmy and the rest of the family. ❤️

Callie Bridges - June 13 at 12:14 PM

NF

“ Sending condolences to the Slaughter Family!

Norma King, Wildwood, FL - June 13 at 11:53 AM

MM

“ RIP ol' friend

Mark “Sput” Montgomery - June 12 at 08:42 PM