



Vincent Depaul Vala

JUN 16, 1962 - APR 21, 2020



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Vincent Depaul Vala, 57, of Culpeper, VA passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at his residence. Vince was born June 16, 1962 in Fredericksburg, VA to the late Samuel and Nancy Corrine Vala.

Known to his many friends and the community at large as “Vince” and to his aunts and uncles as “Sweet Pea”, Vala has lived in Culpeper since childhood and worked in various capacities at the Culpeper Star-Exponent and Culpeper News since the 1980’s.

Vince was a 1980 graduate of Culpeper County High School. He studied photography at Virginia Tech and graduated with its class of 1983. Vince wrote about and photographed local sports, school plays, new year’s babies, snowstorms, car wrecks and house fires, as well as Virginia’s governors, U.S. presidents, senators and representatives. He also mentored local young people for several years as an employee at Culpeper County Childcare.

Anytime there was anything important going on in Culpeper, Vince was there with his sharp eye and dry wit. A talented rock singer and guitarist, he performed solo and fronted bands at various local venues and special events. He never turned down an opportunity to play music.

Vince was a quiet kind of guy, but when he wore his camera around his neck, or his guitar strapped across his shoulder, he was much more outgoing than he ever was without them. His guitar and camera lens opened-up the world for him, and drew others towards him, into his creative space.

Vince is survived by his aunts and uncles, Patty Rose Mack and her husband, Norman of Revenna, OH, Jerry Payne and his wife, Dotti of Calera, AL, Mike Payne and his wife Angie of Pataskala, OH, Sue Burnett and her husband, E.K. of Louisville, KY, Steve Payne and his wife, Barbara of Tallahassee, FL, Theresa “Moose” Payne of Louisville, KY, and Annie Tillman and her husband, Wendell of Tallahassee, FL.



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In addition to his parents, Vince is preceded in death by his brother, Samuel Dean Vala and his sister, Rebecca Suzette Lay.

Due to Covid-19 mandates, a celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

An online guestbook and tribute wall are available at www.foundandsons.com

Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Culpeper is serving the family.



Tribute Wall

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Michael Daugherty lit a candle in honor of Vincent.

I had the pleasure of working with Vince and Sam at the Census Bureau in Richmond way back in 1990 and got to know them both. Loved Vince's sense of humor. Was a fan of their band also. RIP Vince.

December 22 at 11:55 PM



Patricia Blessinger posted:

I worked with Vince and he was awesome with the children. They loved him dearly. He was an good role model to me and he worked very hard to take care of the children and make sure they were safe. It was amazing some of the pictures he took of families, children and the community. He will be missed. He never knew a stranger and always made everyone feel important. He was also a good role model to the children in our community. He was missed when he left childcare, but taking pictures was his talent and his knowledge on each activity was amazing. He always had a smile on his face and never forgot you.

May 26 at 1:14 PM



Charles/Darlene Brown lit a candle in honor of Vincent.

April 28 at 3:06 PM



Tammy Hartman lit a candle in honor of Vincent.

April 25 at 8:33 PM



Etta Lambert Fleet posted:

Prayers of peace and comfort to the family . Vince and I are a year apart in school and he took many of my children's sports pictures and some of mine too! Just a nice guy. He made an impact on our community greatly and will he missed.

April 25 at 5:36 PM



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DC

Debbie Coulby posted:

In 1994, I had my immediate family reunion with my 3 brothers and 1 sister, their families and our parents. We had not been together in many many years. I called Vince and he very kindly agreed to come over to my home and take pictures of all of us. He was so very nice and took some very cherished photos. I remember seeing him at all of my sons soccer games. He truly was a staple of the Culpeper world and he will truly be missed.

April 25 at 11:07 AM

SD

Steven Dodson posted:

Vince you were respected you were a kind soul and you were the best reporter at the star. I remember you from way back when I was a Jr member directing traffic at accidents and command use to tell me not to let anyone through lol we laughed about it when I realized who you were but, you never forgot me from that day. You always had a smile you were always laughing. RIP Brother God has received an angel photographer.

April 25 at 8:44 AM

RB

Rick Baker posted:

They just don't make them any nicer than Vince. We could use a bunch more like him on this flying ball of carbon. If you want your child to emulate someone, be like Vince. You will be missed.

April 25 at 7:30 AM

JS

Jeff Bailey - Brandy Station posted:

Vince was certainly good about covering events for the local volunteer Fire Departments in Culpeper County. Each year I would e-mail him to make him aware of the upcoming Brandy Station Fair (Carnival) and he would come down just about each evening and talk, socialize and of course, take numerous pictures. He told me one time he really loved our Parade in Brandy Station. He also played music at our Fair a couple of times. You really served your community well Vince. Thank you for everything and now go rest in peace. Thoughts and Prayers with the Family.

April 25 at 7:24 AM



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WB

Wally Bunker posted:

Having with Vince at the Star-Exponent for several years and knowing him for more than 20 years I can say that he was the consummate professional. He an an eye for capturing children in amazing photos, many winning a Virginia Press Association Awards. Vince was so easy going and friendly. When we ran into each other out on the town, we always made it a habit to greet each other and catch up. Vince was one of the finest people you could meet. I am saddened by his passing. He will be missed not only by the community but by his many friends and acquaintances. Rest in a peace my friend, Rest In Peace.

April 25 at 7:21 AM

WT

Wanda Tolson lit a candle in honor of Vincent.

A wonderful person and a great loss to Culpeper!

April 25 at 6:50 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Vincent by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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