

Ray Hightower, 61, passed away on Monday, February 17, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unforgettable stories. A man who never met a Hawaiian shirt he didn't like, a karaoke mic he wouldn't grab, or a martini he wouldn't toast, he filled every moment with joy, humor, and warmth.



Above all, he was a devoted family man. The proud husband of Donna Hightower, a cherished son to Faye Hightower, and a loving father to Shenia (Joshua) Cabello. But the title he wore best was “Poppi,” a role he embraced with boundless love for his grandsons—Joshua Jr., Darien, Landon, and Elijah Cabello. He was also a dear brother to Johnny Hightower and Michelle Stewart, and a treasured friend to James & Michelle Bateman, Mindy & Robert Waldorf, and Danny & Jenn Lummus. His life was full of family, both by blood and by bond, too many to name but none forgotten.

Whether casting a fishing line into deep waters, swapping stories that grew taller with each telling, or swaying to the music of Jimmy Buffett, he had a way of turning ordinary moments into treasured memories. His beloved dogs—Harley, Jake, and Foster, who were waiting for him in Heaven, and Freckles and Snickers, who remain to keep his spirit alive—were as much a part of his life as the people he loved.



Per Poppi's wishes, there will be no formal memorial service. Instead, his family will be throwing a party in his honor—a gathering of all his favorite people, filled with music, laughter, and maybe even a margarita or two. Details will be shared when plans are finalized.

In the meantime, those who loved him best know exactly how to honor his memory: sing a song, tell a story, wear something bright, and raise a glass to a life well and truly lived.

Private cremation will take place under the direction of Brown Funeral Home and Crematory on Lecanto, FL