



Joseph Nicholas "Jody" Hamilton Sr.

August 28, 1938 - August 3, 2021

Joseph Nicholas "Jody" Hamilton, Sr., 82, of Griffin, husband of Rosemary Davis Hamilton, died Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at Eternal Hope Hospice.

Born in St. Joseph, MO, August 28, 1938, he was a son of the late Joseph Zwaduk and Augusta Faye Blevins Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton had a career as a professional wrestler that spanned over six decades. A tag-team partnership with his brother started his career as the "Hamilton Brothers". In the 1960's he and Tom Renesto formed the tag-team "The Assassins" and later became world champion wrestlers. He had a solo career having been "The Assassin" and "The Flame". Mr. Hamilton later went to work with WCW and Ted Turner training new talent. He retired after having traveled the world wrestling so he could come home to the love of his life and childhood sweetheart he met in high school at age 15, his "Rosie Girl".

Surviving in addition to his wife of sixty-one years are a son, Joseph Nicholas Hamilton, Jr. and wife Cheryl of Stockbridge; a daughter, Christine Hamilton Standish of Griffin; grandchildren, Joseph Nicholas "Nick" Hamilton, III and Anthony Lawrence "Tony" Hamilton, both of Stockbridge, Hannah Standish Witman and husband, Joseph and Christian Edward Standish, both of Milner; a great-grandchild, Harper Riley Witman; sister-in-law, Donna Bennett and husband Craig of St. Joseph, MO and her daughter, Billie Jo Davis.

A memorial service will be conducted Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room of Heritage Bank in McDonough.

For online condolences please visit www.haistenmcculloughfuneralhome.com.

Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, Griffin is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 16. 7:00 PM (ET)

Heritage Bank Board Room
125 Westridge Industrial Boulevard
McDonough, GA 30253

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Nicholas "Jody" Hamilton Sr.*

October 07, 2023 at 09:35 AM



“ *To the Hamilton family: I am sorry for the loss of your loved one. I had the privilege of seeing Mr. Hamilton in one of his first appearances, if not the first TV appearance as the black mask wearing Assassin. On Live Atlanta Wrestling in 1961, either Don McIntyre or Ray Gunkel demonstrated the abdominal stretch or Texas octopus & said no one could escape the hold. Well, from behind the curtain appeared the Assassin saying that he could. Well, he couldn't & then a wild melee broke out. That mysterious masked man is what hooked me on wrestling. Joined later by Tom Renesto as Assassin #2, that duo was not only the best masked team of all time, but in my opinion was the best team of all time. Saw them at the City Auditorium in 1962, late 1963, and many, many times from 1968 until the team was no more. Man, what a team. Got to know Mr. Hamilton personally years later, a very nice man.*

Chuck T. - August 16, 2021 at 06:23 PM



Without any doubt THE VERY BEST TEAM OF ALL TIME BOTH IN THE RING AND ON THE MICROPHONE

Mikepilcher - February 12, 2022 at 11:35 AM

TF

“ *The Renesto Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Joseph Nicholas "Jody" Hamilton Sr..*



The Renesto Family - August 14, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Joseph Nicholas "Jody" Hamilton Sr..*



August 14, 2021 at 08:53 PM

GR

“ *To the family, I'm so sorry for your loss, Jody was a hero of mine for many years. I ordered a mask from him years ago. I admired his talent, professionalism and skills, you have a legacy to be very proud of. I would have liked to met him in Person. To your family I pray for peace and joy of the memories.*

Greer - August 10, 2021 at 07:18 PM

WB

Mr. Hamilton; I saw you years ago along with your Associate Mr. Renesto, although no one knows I saw you, to your spirit I say, rest easy my Hero and may GOD bless you and your family.

*Respectfully
EL DEGUELLO.*

William Bonney - December 27, 2021 at 08:19 PM

JW

“ As a fan, a promoter, a manager, a publicist, an announcer my fondest memory of my early years in wrestling was witnessing the greatest tag team in the business THE ASSASSINS. When Jody and Tom Renesto hit the West Coast and went to war with THE KENTUCKIANS the area was never the same. Years later I worked with Tom Renesto in Tennessee as TUX NEWMAN. What a thrill to work with one of my heroes. Although I never met Mr. Hamilton I heard enough stories from Tom about him to write a book. They were number one during the “Golden Age” of wrestling. There will never be another team like them. I was there to see them in action. Now heaven has that privilege. Rest In Peace Mr. Hamilton and my deepest sympathy to your family.
Jeff Walton - Los Angeles, CA

Jeff Walton - August 08, 2021 at 06:14 PM

KL

“ Sorry to hear of Jody's passing. I only saw him one time without his mask. April 1984 in Augusta, GA when Jimmy Valiant unmasked him. We are losing too many wrestlers from that era, especially with Bobby Eaton's passing, too.

Keith Lester - August 06, 2021 at 11:46 PM

DR

“ My sweetest memory of Jody was the day my husband and I brought our son by to meet him. My son was named Jody. He was pleased and Bobby worked with Jody. He was a life long friend . Jody and Tom was the best tag team wrestlers and he will forever live in my heart. Rest easy and we love you.

Donna Renesto - August 06, 2021 at 04:47 AM

JW

“ Thank You Mr. Hamilton For All Of The Wonderful Wrestling Memories, Hated You When You Took Wrestling II's Mask

Jeffrey Wolfe - August 05, 2021 at 10:58 PM

JD

“ To the wonderful family of Mr. Hamilton, Words could never adequately convey how truly sorry I am for the loss of your beloved husband, father and grandfather but please take comfort in knowing that Mr. Hamilton is now in Heaven next to Our Dear Lord and he is made new again and free from his earthly suffering. I had the distinct privilege of meeting Mr. Hamilton at several of the yearly Fanfests held in Charlotte, NC. and it was one of the greatest blessings of my life. I grew up watching him and loving and admiring his work and dedication to his sport and craft. He was such a special man and so humble and kind and he was so deeply appreciative that us fans remembered him after so many years out of wrestling. I got to tell him just what he meant to his fans and how we admired his work and dedication and he just smiled and then talked about you great folks his family and he beamed when he spoke of you all and his love for you and for his beloved wife Mrs. Hamilton. Please know that you will be in our hearts and prayers always and please know that Mr. Hamilton will be dearly missed but never forgotten. God Bless You!

Joe DiGiacomo - August 05, 2021 at 09:07 PM

MW

MR. HAMILTON WAS VERY SPECIAL AND KNOWING HIM THRU HANNAH AND JOEY WITMAN , MY SON, HE WAS SO KIND TO ALL, AND FOR THE TIME I KNEW HIM , LOTS OF LAUGHS ESPECIALLY AT HIS GRANDDAUGHTER HANNAH , AT HER WEDDING..HE IS AT REST AND NO MORE SUFFERING AND WILL ALWAYS BE WITH U ALL. GOD REST HIS SOUL..WE WILL MISS U "" JODY"". THE WITMAN FAMILY.

Michele M. Witman - August 06, 2021 at 04:38 PM

JB

“ *RIP Jody Hamilton. Thank you for the memories!*❤️

Jason Bass - August 05, 2021 at 10:25 AM

D(

“ *My memories playing softball at Owen's Field in Riverdale. Coach Hamilton had our backs. I had an in the field homerun. They were not going to treat it as a homerun because it didn't go over the fence. That wasn't cutting it for my coach. He strongly suggested that I get the homerun ball....and no one argued. Turns out that was the only homerun I ever had in my 30yrs of playing softball. It was such a great feeling to have someone stand up for me. He was very special and the world will miss him terribly.*

Debi Hancock (Searcy) - August 04, 2021 at 07:39 PM