



## James "Tony" Hamilton

October 7, 1964 - February 24, 2012

James "Tony" Hamilton, affectionately known as "Hammer" of El Campo died February 24, 2012 at the age of 47. He was born October 7, 1964 in Madison, TN to James A. and Judy Pascall Hamilton. He was a radio personality for KIOX Radio 96.1 in El Campo, hosting the Morning Show. He spent his free time endorsing various fundraisers and civic activities in the community.

He is survived by his wife Diana Smith of El Campo; step-son Mark Gresham; parents Jim and Judy Hamilton of Paris, TN; sister Tabitha Hollingsworth and niece Jessica Damesworth, both of Dresden, TN.

A memorial service will be held 2:00 PM, Thursday, March 1, 2012, at the First Lutheran Church with Pastor Andy Taylor officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Triska Funeral Home. Honorary pallbearers will be Ted Schoenfield, Larry Wilson, Andy Kirkland, Johnny Fenn, Rusty Cook, Bob Buckalew, Larry Douglas, Gary Harton, Dr. Mac Lee, Jon Bradford, Russell Kacer, Forrest Newton, and Odis Newton.

Memorial donations may be made to help with funeral expenses to the James "Hammer" Memorial Fund c/o New First National Bank, El Campo.

Words of condolence may be left online at [www.triskafuneralhome.com](http://www.triskafuneralhome.com).

Triska Funeral Home El Campo, TX 979-543-3681

# Tribute Wall

CI

“ Hammer called and asked if he could interview me. Of course I said yes, and it was, by far the best interview I've had. Hammer will be missed. He gave and gave.

*Clint*

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**Clint Pustejovsky - Houston, TX - Met for an interview - April 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

LF

“ To Lady Di. I was so sorry to hear about Hammer. It was a total shock here in Eastern North Carolina.

*I still use the Banner he gave me at my Karaoke Shows. That Banner now has an even more special meaning!*

*You are definitley in my thoughts...*

*The Old Karaoke Man...*

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**Laymond D. Elks - Ayden, NC - Friend - March 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

MF

“ We knew "Hammer" when he was here with the radio the Bear. We all missed him when he left our area and remember him for his kindnesses, his humor and the many things he did for the community.

*Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with his family in your time of loss.*

*Nature Basket staff*

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**Meredith, Brian, Ann at Nature Basket - New Bern, NC - Just friends - March 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

KF

“ Dear Di,

*We were saddend to hear of Tony's passing. He was a great DJ, interesting showman and had a voice that you would always remembered.*

*We enjoyed having you at our home for dinner and I got to play golf with Tony a couple of times. We enjoyed meeting your family from Tenn. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and his family.*

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**Ken Michaels & Aice Bilello (wife0 - New Bern, NC - FORMER CO WORKER AND FRIEND - March 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

PW

“ *KIOX is an affiliate of the VSA Radio Network, where I work. I never met "Hammer", but talked to him many times on the phone. He was a wonderful spirit, and such a fun person to have had the pleasure to know, even if from long distance.*

*I cannot express how sorry I am for your loss.*

*God Bless,*

*Patti Garrett*

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**Patti Garrett - Oklahoma City, OK - working - March 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

AF

“ I Was shocked to hear about Hammer's death. Mrs. Diana my thoughts and prayers are with you. To Hammer, you were such a wonderful person. You were always filled with happiness and were such a funny man. I remember the fist time I met you. You seemed like a great and funny person. Listening to you on the radio station, and getting to see you at the radio events was a great joy. I will always be Smiley which you used to call me, and I will always remember you. I will miss you, but I know that you are in a better place.

Love, Ashley Harton

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**Ashley - El Campo, TX - Family Friend** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I was shocked to hear of your passing. I remember when I first met you at the Crawfish Eating Contest at Muldoons; you bet on me and lost twenty bucks!

I enjoyed your show and I enjoyed the conversations.

Condolences to your family and friends and Godspeed.

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**Martin - El Campo, TX - Friend** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ I enjoyed listening to Hammer in the morning as I traveled through the El Campo area each week. God Bless and comfort the Hamiltom family.

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**RICHARD GALENA - Spring, TX - Radio listener** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Hammer, I am really going to miss you. You treated me and my family so good. My kids thought the world of you. Those live remotes will never be the same without you. The only regret is we never got to coach Little League Baseball like with had talked about. I sure wish some of the other youth in El Campo could have known you. GO DOLPHINS !!!

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**GMan - El Campo, TX - friend** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Going to miss you!

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**johnnyjohn** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ I was saddened when Hammer left New Bern. I so enjoyed his show on BEAR RADIO and his compassionate manner. I was hoping he would return some day. My prayers go out to "Lady Di" and his many friends, co-workers and family.

A GENTLE GIANT WHOM GOD CALLED HOME. Rest in peace  
Hammer.

Barb

New Bern, NC

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**Barb Stoll - New Bern, NC - a listener** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ My goodness how sad I am at Tony's passing. I always enjoyed our phone conversations in the mornings on KIOX. He was a big fan of Gene Watson, as am I. Will be missing him for a long time to come.

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**Sally Bedow - Port Lavaca, TX - Fan** - March 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Great friend and only got to know him for a short time. Hammer was always willing to give a helping hand to a community event.

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**Greg Witcher - El Campo, TX - Friend** - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Diana:

*I was so sorry to hear of Hammer's passing. We worked very closely during the early days of The Bear in New Bern and I always counted him as a friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*Gordon Finney*

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**Gordon Finney - Petersburg, VA - Co-worker in New Bern** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Having worked in the radio industry all my life I can truthfully say that Hammer was one of the most talented I every had the pleasure of knowing. He truly never met a stranger. During the eleven months I worked with him on a daily basis he always had a kind word for me. Like any close relationship we had an occasional disagreement but all in all we developed a mutual trust that saw us through the tough times. Tony was “one of a kind” and I will miss him.

*Mike*

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**Mike Horne - Plano, TX - Co-Worker** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Hammer,  
*I will always remember you as the man with a million dollar voice and a heart of gold who loved everyone! You made this community a happier place.*  
*Thanks for everything,*  
*Karen*

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**Karen Smith - Wharton, TX - friend** - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

OF

“ Hammer, the host of the Hometown Morning Show on KIOX Radio will be missed dearly. He was such a great person in handling our Crime Stoppers PSA's and our weekly information. We worked very closely with him at the station. With much sadness, our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Lady Di, his family and the KIOX family. He was such a wonderful person in handling our program and he helped to make this program what it is today. Thanks for all that you did for the West Wharton County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

*Coordinator - Officer Cindy Howell*  
*El Campo Police Department*

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**Officer Cindy Howell - El Campo, TX - Friend** - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Bro. Hammer,  
*You will be missed by so many. You impacted youth lives in a positive loving manner. Thank you for always being there for all of us and promoting us with a joyful heart. Until we see each other on the other side. Yes, we both were Desperado's until King Jesus captivated our hearts.*  
*Your brother in Christ Jesus.*  
*Ruben Castillo*

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**Ruben Castillo, Youth Pastor First Baptist Church Louise, Texas - Ganado, TX - Brother in Christ** - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ We will never forget the dinner we shared together at our home shortly before you guys moved to Texas. I had fixed spaghetti. Tony kept eating and saying I really need to quit eating so much and lose some weight. Then he would laugh and ask for more. We enjoyed him both as a DJ for the morning show on the BEAR 97.9 radio station as well as a dear friend with a heart of gold.

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**Dianne Ezell - New Bern, NC - North Carolina Friend** - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I enjoyed every morning listening to you on the radio. You're easy personality and friendly banter with Andy Kirkland made me laugh. I'm very saddend to have you gone so soon. My prayers are with your loved ones as well as every other person who listened to your show.  
I'm sure God is enjoying you as we all did.

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**JESSICA MCKELVY - EL CAMPO, TX - Radio Listener** - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ We all have had co-workers over the years, but there are only a few that we can also call a friend. Hammer was a true friend to me and to my husband Larry and our entire family. It is so quiet in the radio station today without our Hammer. I am going to miss the many conversations we have had over the last year of working together and our shared compassion for our Lord Jesus Christ. I am also going to miss the times that Hammer said "come on Lisa Petersen Wilson sit down and talk on the radio with me. Let's see what the Lunchroom Lady has to say today!" Hammer had a heart of gold and I am blessed to be able to call him my friend. Hammer, just know we have all wrapped our arms around Lady Di and Mamma and Pappa Hammer and your sweet sister Tammy and of course Pokie and Scruffy! Pokie Bear misses his Daddy so much. Everytime I hear "I'll Fly Away" I will think of you and how you are the bright shining star amongst the angels in Heaven. Our loss is Heaven's gain. Godspeed my friend. We will meet again one day in Heaven! Mama Darla says to tell you she will see you one day again too and she is awful mad at you for making it to Heaven before her! We all love you very much!

*Lisa and Larry Wilson*

*Darla Petersen*

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**Lisa Petersen Wilson - El Campo, TX - Friend and Co-Worker - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

AF

“ The 1st time I called you was in Dec. 2010. Y'all had just moved here, and times were already tough with cars breaking down, new job, not knowing anyone.....the list went on. I just remember telling you welcome to Texas and you were so easy to talk to. The easy to talk to part never changed. Our friendship started there and just grew and grew.....golf, patio parties, remotes, deer camp runs, NASCAR races, football games and everyday radio conversations. We shared our families and friends. You gave me a chance to make some new friendships that will last a lifetime. I got to meet Diana, the love of your life. We always agreed we were the luckiest men in the world. I was introduced to Momma and Daddy Hammer, and got to show off my wife and grandbaby with them. We shared our religious beliefs, and knew we always had a Christian brother we could talk to. I don't think you realize what a huge difference you made in our communities, bringing us together so many times for a common good. I'll miss you my friend. Thank you for making a difference in my life. (BTW, I still think Tennessee Earnie Ford sings a better How Great Thou Art than Elvis). Love ya Brother.

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**Andy Kirkland - Wharton, TX - Friend** - February 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I remember the first time we spoke. Tony called the church where I work and we visited quite awhile. In the meantime, I had started listening to the new radio station in town and was quite surprised to hear Hammer refer to First Lutheran as "his" church. It wasn't until then that I put it all together and realized that Tony Hamilton was Hammer. My fondest memory is going to be sitting in the studio and helping Hammer with backup as Ron Shumate performed "Red Solo Cup" live. We got that "solo cup!" down pretty good. Gonna miss waking up to you in the mornings. Rest In Peace, my friend.

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**Terry Butts - El Campo, TX - Friend** - February 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM