



Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer

December 11, 1960 - March 12, 2025

AYER: Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, 64, of Ayer, died unexpectedly Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at his home.

Frazier Jerome Tharpe, affectionately known to family and friends as "Fritz," was born on December 11, 1960 in Neptune, New Jersey. He passed away on March 12. He was the son of Julius and Zenobia "Dot" Tharpe, their middle child—younger brother to Ronald "Ronnie" Tharpe and older brother to Julius "Tony" Tharpe. He was the last living member of his immediate family.

Frazier enjoyed a 40-year career in insurance, working for various high-powered firms across New York City and northern New Jersey. At the time of his death, he had very recently retired from full-time work, and was contemplating part-time consulting or another path.

Frazier leaves behind his son, Frazier "Chip" Tharpe, II who resides in Los Angeles, California, Chip's partner Karizza and their dog Romey. He also leaves his ex-wife, Lisa Richardson, whom he remained close with in recent years despite their divorce; a day prior to his passing, he was finalizing plans to treat Lisa with a trip to California to visit their son.

Frazier's adult life took him to Brooklyn, New York and, some years after starting a family, to Montclair, New Jersey, before eventually ending up back in

Massachusetts.

Frazier was a proud BFA—Boy From Ayer—and upon returning to the town in 2020, quickly reintegrated himself into a community of close friends, reestablishing bonds that stretched back 50 years. When he was in good health, he regularly opened his house to the neighborhood for get-togethers, where he would show off two of his proudest passions: music, specifically his love for DJing (and the Jackson 5) and cooking, like the “rib-off” he planned to host. He also enjoyed movies and television (specifically classics from the ‘60s), golf, a great glass of red wine, and a good cigar.

Frazier was a deeply devoted member of the Baptist church, serving as a deacon and one-time choir member during his time at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, and later at Imani Baptist Church in East Orange, NJ.

He was loved by many, some who were family members others close enough to be family, and will be deeply missed.

Funeral services will be held 10 AM Saturday March 22, 2025 at New Hope Community Church, 139 Sandy Pond Road, Ayer. Interment will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery, Ayer.

Fritz’s family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours from 4-7 PM Friday, March 21, 2025 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road (Rte 2A) Ayer.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

Harvard Road
Ayer, MA 01432
info@andersonfuneral.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home
25 Fitchburg Road
Ayer, MA 01432
info@andersonfuneral.com

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

New Hope Community Church
139 Sandy Pond Rd.
Ayer, MA 01432

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Frazier J. Tharpe*



Anderson funeral home - May 20, 2025 at 11:53 AM



Missing a neighbor and good friend.....

Bob Sama - May 21, 2025 at 11:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.*



March 26, 2025 at 11:09 AM

CF

“ I met Fritz in 19987 at Western World and we remained close friends over the years. When he lived in NJ we attended many sporting events together and would get together for a lunch or dinner when he was in NYC. Yes he did sell me a few suits at Carlin’s.
He loved his “ old time” TV shows and loved telling stories about his parents and friends in Ayer.
I am devastated by this news and more upset that I just found out today about his passing.
We lost a good man when Fritz passed.

Chuck Farricker - March 25, 2025 at 10:55 PM

DD

“ I worked with Frazier for a couple of years at AP specialty in Cranford. I used to always tease him because he was such a fancy dresser -one of the best dressed people I’ve ever met. But more importantly, one of the nicest guys I’ve ever met. I hope his son knows how much he was loved and how proud Frazier was of him.
Rest in peace, Frazier.

Dana Diziki

dana diziki - March 22, 2025 at 05:06 PM

RW

“ Fritz was a great human. We were both members of the marching band and he was a gifted percussionist. He was so much fun and had a great sense of humor. He still is the calmest individual I've ever met. Fritz will sincerely be missed but never forgotten.

Rebecca Walker - March 21, 2025 at 05:37 PM

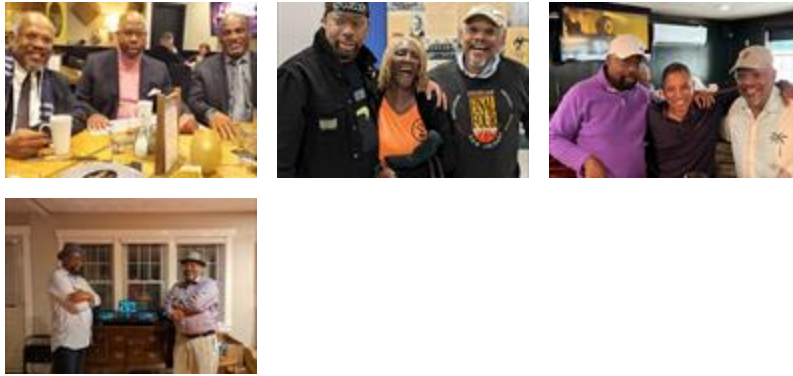
JS

“ We will miss seeing your smiling face coming across the road. We enjoyed a lot of holiday meals together. May you rest in peace Fritz.
John & Agnes Shanahan

John & Agnes Shanahan - March 21, 2025 at 02:15 PM

WG

“ In External Loving Memory of My Dear Friend Frazier Tharpe (Fritz)
🙏🙏🙏 May You Rest In Peace ❤️👍 I Will Miss Our Good Times
Spent Together



William D Grady - March 21, 2025 at 07:47 AM

VH

“ Brother Fritz, thank you for sharing your incredible life and family with me and my family. We were more than friends over the years. Your kindness and wonderful spirit was unmatched by even the greatest of authors poets and comedians. May your family stay blessed. We will forever remember your impact on us all. Vince Howard and Family



Vince Howard - March 21, 2025 at 06:28 AM

MW

“ Marianne Wentworth lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer



Marianne Wentworth - March 20, 2025 at 07:27 PM

MF

“ Marsha Wright and the Wright Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



Marsha Wright and the Wright Family - March 20, 2025 at 05:27 PM

MF

“ Marsha Wright and the Wright Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.

Marsha Wright and the Wright Family - March 20, 2025 at 05:27 PM

JG

“ Condolences to Fritz's family. I will miss seeing you around town and reminiscing about growing up in Devenscrest and what the AHS Class of 79 is up to. Rest in peace my friend. Janice Melanson Graham



Janice Melanson Graham - March 20, 2025 at 02:22 PM

TF

“ *The Lee Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.*



The Lee Family - March 20, 2025 at 02:20 PM

BF

“ *Bennett, Harris and Lee Families purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.*



Bennett, Harris and Lee Families - March 20, 2025 at 01:59 PM

BF

“ *Bennett, Harris and Lee Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.*

Bennett, Harris and Lee Families - March 20, 2025 at 01:59 PM

FR

“ *Without a doubt Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe a wonderful human being. Lived the life he loved through sickness and health, no complaints about self, what about you, how are you doing? Tears come to my eyes because I will miss his voice calling me "Uncle Bud" for 50 years but I smile through the tears at the memories, stories, love, respect and more, he left for me to enjoy. I miss you already. Family forever! Uncle Bud*

Frank - March 20, 2025 at 12:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



March 19, 2025 at 12:54 PM



“ Our hearts are broken at the loss our beloved Fritz, our adopted nephew. We met the Tharpe's in 1967 and quickly became family. We spent a great deal of time together. Fritz was a standout with his unique and amazing personality. He was fun to be around and a blessing to all who knew him. He will be missed but his spirit remains forever in our hearts.
Rest in peace nephew for a life well lived.
Love, aunt Dee and uncle Jim

Jim Howard - March 19, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



March 19, 2025 at 09:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.

March 19, 2025 at 09:18 AM

LB

“ Love LeBrandon & Brittny purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



Love LeBrandon & Brittny - March 18, 2025 at 10:36 PM

LB

“ Love LeBrandon & Brittny planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.

Love LeBrandon & Brittny - March 18, 2025 at 10:36 PM



TC

“ Tobe Conway lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer



Tobe Conway - March 18, 2025 at 01:58 PM

OD

“ To the Tharpe family I would like to extend my deepest condolences for your loss. Fritz and I spent so much time together in NYC clubbing and shows. He was a great man and I'll hold him forever in my  .

Octavia (Kilpatrick) Durepo - March 18, 2025 at 01:15 PM

ML

“ Fritz, we are so heartbroken to learn of your sudden passing. Our families have been intertwined since we were small children. While we hung out at the Teen club, our parents played "animated" games of bidwhist. Please hug those that have gone before us, who is celebrating your arrival. Until we meet again my friend. Love Always, Maria & Family (Lee & Bennett)



Maria Lee - March 18, 2025 at 11:21 AM

LM

“ We extend our sympathy and condolences to Fritz's family and friends who are mourning his loss. We remember Fritz as a kind and humble gentleman who was beloved by all who knew him. With our prayers, Lee and Ruth McArthur

Lee McArthur - March 18, 2025 at 10:21 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



March 18, 2025 at 10:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.

March 18, 2025 at 10:08 AM

MB

“ *Rest in peace God Bless*



Maria Galvin Bergmann - March 18, 2025 at 09:44 AM

GK

“ *Eternal Peace Fritz* ❤️

Grace Decicco Knowles



Grace Knowles - March 17, 2025 at 10:02 PM

LC

“ *Lydia Castillo lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer*



Lydia Castillo - March 17, 2025 at 06:08 PM

JF

Much love to you my brother. Forever remembered and never forgotten. You touched all of us throughout your time on the earth. Until we meet again. The Felix family

John Felix - March 17, 2025 at 07:24 PM

OT

“ *Our deepest condolences. -- The Tennessee Family*

Olivia Tennessee - March 17, 2025 at 05:00 PM

JL

“ *Joanne Landry lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer*



Joanne Landry - March 17, 2025 at 03:50 PM

DH

“ *Dennis Hunt lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer*



Dennis Hunt - March 17, 2025 at 11:10 AM

TB

“ *The BFA's. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.*



The BFA's. - March 17, 2025 at 10:58 AM

TB

“ *The BFA's. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.*

The BFA's. - March 17, 2025 at 10:58 AM

GM

“ I recently reunited with Fritz and other BFA's thanks to Ed Madigan and we picked up right where we left off in 1977. I will miss our weekly phone calls. Fritz had a big heart, magnetic personality, quick wit & a dose of humor for all. My condolences to Chip, Lisa, extended Tharpe family & friends.

Greg Morrill - March 17, 2025 at 10:45 AM

DC

“ Deborah Clark lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer



Deborah Clark - March 17, 2025 at 08:11 AM

JS

“ So sad to hear about him passing. With his big smile and friendly nature, his presence made school a better place to be. I'll fondly remember our basketball games and hallway chats. Thanks Fritz!



Joseph Spencer - March 16, 2025 at 08:25 PM

LS

“ Linda Velez and Mary Sullivan purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



Linda Velez and Mary Sullivan - March 16, 2025 at 04:46 PM

JM

“ *Joanne Melanson Migrants lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer*



Joanne Melanson Migrants - March 16, 2025 at 12:14 PM

JB

“ *Janice Brown lit a candle in memory of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer*



Janice Brown - March 16, 2025 at 11:42 AM

JB

My condolences to family. Rest in heavenly peace.

Janice Brown - March 16, 2025 at 11:43 AM

VM

“ *Fritz and I had the best conversations about life, music high school and family all the time! He was my good friend! I am going to miss him terribly!*



Valerie Y Meekins - March 16, 2025 at 10:20 AM

FS

“ From Mr.and Mrs.Zane Crute Sr. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.



From Mr.and Mrs.Zane Crute Sr. - March 15, 2025 at 12:45 PM

FS

“ From Mr.and Mrs.Zane Crute Sr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frazier J. "Fritz" Tharpe, of Ayer.

From Mr.and Mrs.Zane Crute Sr. - March 15, 2025 at 12:45 PM

JH

“ Fritz was my neighbor for many years as a youth and young adult. His love for music was something that we both shared. My and prayers go out to his family and many friends. He is at peace now.



Juanda Hicks-Sloan - March 15, 2025 at 09:45 AM

BS

“ A good friend and neighbor. Rest in Peace Fritz.....

Bob Sama - March 14, 2025 at 11:48 PM