



Eugene Scott Durden

September 25, 1952 - January 23, 2025

Eugene “Scott” Durden, 72, of Ocala, Florida, passed away on January 23, 2025, at his home, with his devoted wife and daughter by his side.

Scott was born on September 25, 1952, in Dallas, Texas, to Beulah Wynelle and Eugene Arthur Durden. His unique childhood spanned Dallas, Texas; Maracaibo, Venezuela; and London, England, providing him with an expansive world view, a love of soccer and golf, and an appreciation for new experiences. He attended high school at the American School in London, England, and the Selwyn School in Denton, Texas, graduating in 1970. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Scott began his career as a buyer’s representative at Oshman’s Sporting Goods before becoming a manufacturer’s representative for many top sporting goods companies throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In the early 1990s, he found great joy in coaching his daughter Emily’s soccer team at Gainesville High School.

In mid-life, Scott transformed his passion for golf into a new career, becoming a PGA Professional in 2008. As a PGA pro, he competed in area tournaments, traveled to Scotland multiple times to play historic courses and immerse himself in the traditions of the game, and served as the club

professional at two north central Florida golf courses. He took pride in mentoring club members, helping them refine their skills and achieve their goals.

Scott will be remembered for his warmth, kindness, intelligence, and sharp wit, as well as his striking blue eyes. He cherished his family and enjoyed spending time with his grandsons during their youth—taking them to skateparks, Busch Gardens, and teaching them how to swing a golf club. He also found comfort and joy in the companionship of his devoted dachshund, Bodhi; his lifelong love of Liverpool FC and Premier League soccer; cooking delicious meals for his family; reading Voltaire; and the game of golf.

Scott is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Debra Durden of Ocala, Florida; his loving daughter, Emily Durden of Austin, Texas; his grandsons, Marcus Scott Fenner of Ocala, Florida, and Brandon Fenner of Summerfield, Florida; and his faithful dachshund, Bodhi. He was preceded in death by his parents, Beulah Wynelle and Eugene Arthur Durden; his brother, Alan Durden; and his daughter, Stacy Elizabeth Durden.

In lieu of flowers, honor Scott's memory by trying something new with someone dear to you — and savor every moment.