

Losing a Flower

...a loving tribute to Jesse Campbell

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22 years ago I was introduced to a man who had an amazing talent for beauty in the plant world. If your home was tired and in need of a colorful pick-me-up, you would head over to Campbell's Greenhouses & Nursery for some of the prettiest, greenest plants.

Orchids have always been my favorite, and Jesse Campbell had a way of creating extraordinary beauty with his orchids. I thought I might break the bank with my first purchase, but I came home with several beautiful orchid set ups – twigs twisting around the stems of the plant, bright green mood moss tucked neatly within the container, and every so often, Jesse would enhance the arrangement with maiden hair ferns or some other exotic filler.

They would last in my home for several months until they quit budding, and then I would bring them back to the greenhouse so that Jesse could take care of them until they began to bud again. Whenever I brought them back they were either shriveled from lack of water or drowned because of too much water. He'd fuss at me and tell me that he would do his best to bring them back to life. Most of the time he was able to resurrect them, and I would get a call several months later to come and pick up my budding plant!

I will admit, I was not given the gift of a green thumb. I tend to kill anything that I try to grow. Jesse became such a friend over the years, always greeting me with the biggest hug every time I went into his

beautiful sanctuary of greenery. He was gracious in always donating and helping me with any and all my events. He was a fighter who battled and triumphed over some major health issues. The day I found out that Jesse was shot and killed, I was stunned, numb.

I sat in Jesse's celebration of life and was overwhelmed at the outpouring of love for this man. He had created a little slice of beauty and a little slice of heaven in his little piece of land on McDonald Ave. in Charlotte. The Charlotte community loved this man, and it showed in the celebration for who Jesse was. He will be missed deeply by so many. We will continue to pray for his family and the greenhouse family.

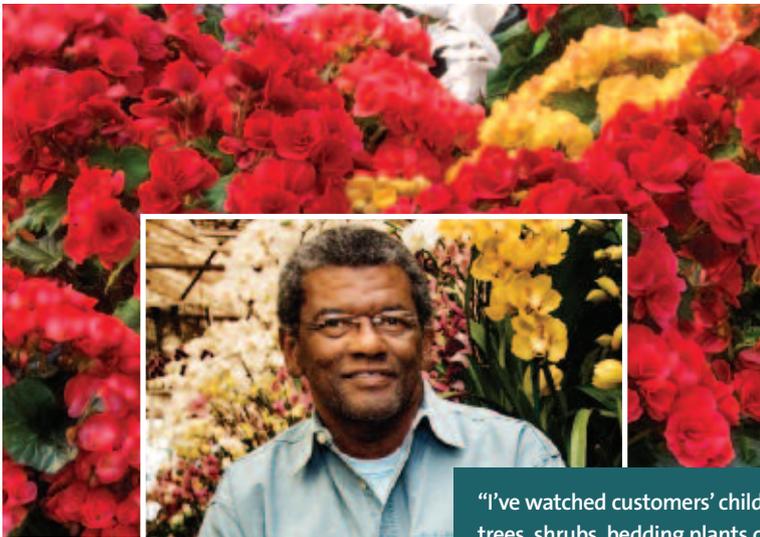


THERE'S A LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN IN SOUTH END

Campbell's Greenhouses & Nursery is a specialty nursery where you'll find orchids galore and a glorious display of nature in the heart of Historic South End. Since 1984 Jesse Campbell's exquisite plants and flowers have graced the homes of his loyal customers. Jesse was a friend to all, and Charlotte Living is proud that he gave out our magazines to his customers. We enjoyed a wonderful relationship for over 10 years.

Jesse Campbell loved his community, and we loved him. He will truly be missed. We are very thankful that George Koehler, Debbie Capps and Jesse's work family will continue in his spirit; and Jesse's legacy will live on for us to enjoy. You can show your love for Jesse by supporting this little piece of heaven he built here on earth. Campbell's Greenhouses & Nursery lives on, and Jesse Campbell will always live in our hearts.

Campbell's is located at 209 McDonald Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203. 704.331.9659. Open Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm.



"I've watched customers' children grow up, buy houses and come here for bonsai, trees, shrubs, bedding plants or perennials, just like their parents did. I'm proud to be an old fixture in a dynamic community."

— Jesse Campbell in *Charlotte Living Magazine*, Spring 2007

