



Richard 'Rick' William James

May 15, 1952 - August 17, 2012

Rick James was born May 15, 1952 to Wilma and Richard James and raised with his younger brother Ron James. He married the love of his life Paula. They were blessed to be husband and wife for 35 years. He graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre from the University of Nevada, Reno. He worked for the State of Nevada as a computer programmer and retired a couple years ago becoming busier than ever. Rick had many passions as he was a true renaissance man. Rick was a member, along with his dad and his brother, of the Sierra Highlanders Pipe Band. He played bagpipes for competitions, funerals, friends, and family. He was an honorary member of the Nevada Air National Guard playing the trumpet or the bagpipes. He also played for the Washoe Sherriff's Office. His musical talent did not stop with playing the bagpipes, he also played guitar, bass, trumpet, and even dabbled in playing the drums, keyboard and any other instrument he got his hands on. However, it was songwriting that would wake him up in the middle of the night with inspiration, and in the morning his wife would hear him strumming the guitar singing a new song to the Lord. He used his bass playing talent most recently to play in the worship band at Connected Church of the Nazarene and had also been their worship band leader for a number of years. Music was not his only talent. When his children were young, he used his carpentry skills to build them a playground, his daughter a playhouse, and his son a pirate themed tree house. As his children grew, he transformed his backyard into a tropical oasis. He built a deck around the pool, and a tiki hut bar. His hobbies included

building and launching model rockets, model train layouts, and volunteering at the train museum. He also enjoyed the sciences but especially astronomy and astrobiology in real life and as Sci-Fi (live long and prosper). He was able to see his children Jeremiah James and Jennifer Digangi grow into adults. He was most delighted to have the honor to become a grandpa 3 years ago enjoying a little girl who adored her grandpa, loved to dance to the music he played, even “jam” with him, and ran quickly to him for anything she needed fixed. Rick James was taken from us abruptly and much too soon on August 17, 2012. We are comforted in our assurance that he is delighted to be playing for the Lord in Heaven. He was a friend to many, a doting son, an amazing dad, a wonderful husband, a hard worker, an intelligent witty conversationalist, and a man of God. He is leaving a hole in our hearts that can never be filled, but a legacy that will inspire many.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard 'Rick' William James*

November 04, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *Richard 'Rick' William James*

November 01, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *Dear James Family,*

We are deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Rick. He was a such a talented man who generously shared his gift with so many people. Our family has twice lost a Washoe County Deputy Sheriff and Rick's music has been a comfort at both funerals, and every memorial since. We pray that you understand how much Rick's music meant to strangers like us. May God bring you peace. Sincerely,

The Wiberg Family

The Skaggs Family

The Miranda Family

Emily Miranda Adams - September 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I don't know where we were on the day he passed from this life. He was a great person and we loved and will miss his playing. He will always be in our hearts. Love and prayers to his family. Always the Stouts

Larry and Peggy Stout - September 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ Paula and family,

So sorry to hear of your loss. Rick was a great guy and you have many special memories to help you through. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

georgia kiewicz - September 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to your family

Shaun and Tamara Cox - September 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ I wish to extend my sincere condolences to you and your family on Rick's passing. I will always remember the fun we had with the CCRA, and the birth of 'little' Jennifer and how happy Rick was.

Linda Lippincott - September 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ My messages is way too long for this. Rick was an incredibly inspirational man to me, he showed me with his heart and his voice that he had three true loves in life. It was so obvious when you got to know Rick that his first love with God his second his family his third, music which all circled back around to God. He was incredibly passionate in everything I ever saw him do, and brought a lot of passion out in me. I spent a lot of time with Rick amongst other followers in Bible classes and couples classes all God centered. He was never afraid to reach out if he felt that he could help by handing you a book to read, or sending you a phrase in the Bible. I also spent a lot of time worshipping with Rick at connected church and learning that my voice was a gift from God for God. I have never felt music and God like I did when I was worshipping and Rick really encouraged and pushed that out in me. I am very sad that I missed attending the memorial service, as I was too timid to ask the family when it was, hoping just to hear about it. Unfortunately I didn't check my computer. I know that Rick knows my heart for him and he has touched so many. it is so obvious when you see his grown children now what an amazing man he was as they are his legacy and how loving he was to his wife and how much she loved her. And always Rick showed, is immense love for God. I will miss you Rick as so many will. thank you for your wisdom and the time you put into the people surrounding you, your church, and even showing my son how to pick a guitar at my house. I enjoyed everything that you taught me.

Tricia Nord - August 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ I am sad to hear of Rick's passing. I never really got to know him personally, but I did know him as the man who played the bagpipes at so many law enforcement ceremonies. He played well, and always brought dignity, grace and class to those ceremonies. He will truly be missed.

Pete Krall - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I was very saddened to hear this news, My families thought and prayer are with the family, he was a wonderful man and will surly be missed.

Jillian Elbert-Cale - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I miss his smiling face and friendship already.

My prayers to your family.

Jeff Lovelace

Nevada State Prison

Honor Guard

(Retired)

Jeff Lovelace - August 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I remember when Rick and Paula lived next to my Mom and Dad, Glen and Wilma Stevens. I especially remember when Jennifer was born, and how proud Rick was of her. My prayers are with the family. I know our Heavenly Father has welcomed Rick home.

Jeanne Denison - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ My memories of Rick for so many years go back to his service to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office as a member of our Honor Guard, and now for the past four years, Rick had been dedicated to playing for every one of the museum's parades each May as well as for our grand opening. So, our thanks to you Rick and our condolences to the James family from the board of directors of the Silver State National Peace Officers Museum.

Doug Gist, Silver State National Peace Officers Museum - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Rick was always a charming, good-natured and helpful man. His presence will surely be missed. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Grace Barton - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ You have our most sincere condolences. Rick was truly a one of a kind. He will be missed.

Mike & Linda Curtis - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I am sincerely shocked and saddened at the passing of Rick. I worked with Rick for years at the State and found him to be the kindest person. My thoughts and prayers do out to his family. Rest In Peace Rick.

Jim Silsby - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ Rick was frequently at the Fernley veterans cemetery, where I am a member of the honor guard. Having been in a pipe band as a kid, I would always wander over and chew the fat with him. He will be missed by so many.

Ray Ahrenholz - August 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ We will cherish our memories of this wonderful man. It has truly been an honor to be counted as his friend. The pipes will always remind us of Rick.

Doug & Janet McAlpine

Doug & Janet McAlpine - August 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Richard 'Rick' William James.

August 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Richard 'Rick' William James

jim & karen bennett - August 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Although an ocean has separated me from Rick and his family for the past 10 years, I have fond memories of my late husband Ed & I listening to Rick on numerous happy occasions. The world is definitely a better place for his passing through.

Susan MacKenzie - August 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I find myself still in shock at Ricks passing. As Commander of the Lyon County Sheriff's Honor Guard for over 15 years, I had the pleasure of considering Rick to be a close friend. After forming the Northern Nevada Veterans Coalition Honor Guard, I was ecstatic when Rick agreed to join our group. Rick's music playing has consoled the families of many Veterans interned at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. After a tear filled rendition of Amazing Grace, Rick would play additional melodies as we escorted the families and their loved ones to either the grave site or the columbarium wall. His dedication and commitment can not be disputed. I will sorely miss you, my friend.

Brett G Palmer - August 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ A good and decent man taken to the Lord.

May God bless the James family.

An inspiration to me to learn to play the pipes after he played at my moms funeral.

Thank you for your service to the Northeran Nevada community.

Dan and Bev Luke - August 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ So sorry. My thoughts are with the family.

Lorna (Theiss) Hooper - August 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ I'm stunned and sorry by this loss. Rick was a role model and willing teacher for me while I played pipes with him during my teen and college years. I'm 3,000 miles away in Burlington, VT but am shedding tears and will be piping laments in his honor.

Brian Galloway - August 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Condolences to the family. We will remember Rick every time we hear the pipes play.

Chip & Lydia MacLeod - August 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Rick's bagpipes eased the celebration of life for my 13-year old son. His sense of humor was always appreciated at work. Forever remembered, Dorothy Martin

Dorothy Martin - August 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ I am sorry to hear about Rick. I worked with him for about 8 years he was very witty and helped me alot with excel. I am proud to have known him. May God bless his family and keep him close at his side.

Angela Furton - August 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I am blessed to have known Rick. I could always count on him to be there when I needed him. I will miss him until the day I see him again.

Merlin Manley - August 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *forever in our hearts Rick. We love you.*

Paula - August 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Don't have the words. Love ya.*

Steve Pollard - August 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM