



# James "Jay" Harper

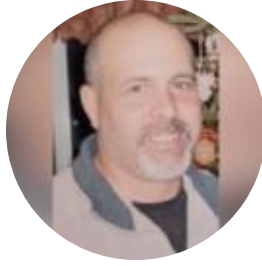
JUL 27, 1973 - JUL 28, 2023



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# James "Jay" Harper

JUL 27, 1973 - JUL 28, 2023

James "Jay" M. Harper, Jr., a loving and devoted father, partner, and friend, passed away at the age of 50 in Pittsburgh, PA on July 28, 2023. Born on July 27, 1973, in Chicago, Illinois, Jay was known for his handy nature, his infectious humor, and his ceaseless love for his family.

Jay leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, survived by his cherished partner of 15 years, Kim Ayers, and his five beautiful daughters, Kayla, Erica, Kori, Hayley, and Alexis. His love extended to his step-mother, Gale Harper, and his step-father, Michael Kaal. Jay was the proud brother of Julie Hankus and Karrie VanderWoude, and step-brother to Gina Allen. His extended family, including Valerie (Dan) Veltri, Jeff (Kristin) Ayers, and Dave Garcia, will miss him dearly, as will his many nieces and nephews, Marco, Ashley, Alyssa, Adeline, Anthony, Katie, Kevin, Carly, Mackenzie, Mya, Robert, Jay and Jake. Jay's faithful canine companion, Thunder, also survives him.

Jay was preceded in death by his son, Anthony Harper, his mother Diane Kaal, his father James Harper Sr., his grandparents, Anthony and Noreen Virgona, and Earl and Mary Harper, and his step-sister, Tina Jones.

Jay's life was characterized by a deep commitment to his family and a passion for outdoor activities. He was an active member of several bowling leagues in the West Mifflin area, a testament to his love for the sport. Jay also found joy in camping, hiking, and fishing, often embarking on these adventures with his family. He cherished the memories made at car shows, carnivals, monster truck shows, and trips to the zoo. Despite his love for the outdoors and community events, Jay's favorite moments were often the simplest, such as relaxing at home with his daughters, watching movie and TV marathons.

Jay was a selfless man, always prepared to lend a hand to anyone in need. He was a beacon of support and friendship within his community, and his absence will be deeply felt by the many friends he has left behind. Known for his handy nature, Jay was always ready to fix a broken item



## Obituary

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or lend his expertise to a project. His humor was a source of joy and laughter for his loved ones, and his memory will continue to bring smiles to their faces.

In remembering Jay, we celebrate a man who was not only loving, handy, and funny, but who also embodied kindness and generosity. His spirit will continue to live on through the countless lives he touched and the beautiful memories he created. His legacy serves as a reminder of the importance of family, friendship, and laughter. James "Jay" M. Harper, Jr. will be deeply missed, but his memory will forever be cherished by those lucky enough to have known him.

Family and friends will be welcomed for visitation on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 2:00pm-4:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm, and Wednesday August, 2, 2023 from 10:00am-3:00pm, following final visitation a Funeral Service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 3:00pm

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to [www.gofundme.com/f/jays-cancer-fight](http://www.gofundme.com/f/jays-cancer-fight), created by Jay's "bowling buddies" to benefit his family. Condolences can be shared at [www.jeffersonmemorial.com](http://www.jeffersonmemorial.com)

To watch the service at 3:00pm please copy and paste this link below into your browser and enter in the pin:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82942468894?pwd=SXM3RktDcGhNWGJQZndRSnRvTIJMQT09>

Password Pin: 156026



## Tribute Wall

**James "Jay" Harper**

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**Sandra Beal** posted:

Condolences to the children and family. Jay will be missed at "the Yards". A gracious and friendly person with an admired work ethic. He couldn't speak more of his love for his children. What a great guy!

August 1 at 2:04 PM



**Chuck Cashdollar** posted:

Condolences to the family. Jay was always the jokester and made the best of things. A competitor on and off the lanes. We'll miss that infectious smile. Rest easy my friend.

August 1 at 12:35 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Thinking of you all and sending all our love,Aunt Kathy and family, Aunt Patti and family, and Uncle Craig and family.

August 1 at 7:01 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Please accept our sympathies for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

July 31 at 12:54 PM



**David A Keefe** posted:

We were competitors on the lanes but friends off the lanes. I was glad that you, Bill and I bowled together in the summer trio last year. I will miss the Thursday night after bowling get togethers at Applebee's and Mulligan's with you, Bill, Tom, Ed and me. You left us way too soon. Rest in peace my friend.Dave Keefe

July 31 at 12:28 PM



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NG

**Nikki Edgerton-Gronski** posted:

I am glad we were able to talk 2 weeks ago. The question why do bad things happen to good people is a question I wish I could answer. I remember as soon as I had Dawson you called and made sure everything was ok, as soon as I said we were going home on day 5 the very next day you drove in to meet him. Thank you Jay for our 25 years of AMAZING FRIENDSHIP! I will cherish the memories we made FOREVER! As I look back throughout my life and some of the things you did for me all I can say is not too many people have a friend in that capacity in this day and age. No matter what the issue I had in my life you were there to help me conquer the obstacle no matter what it was. If I needed a car, you brought me yours, if I needed money, you somehow would get it and hand it to me no questions asked! You were the real deal when it came to being my friend and I am FOREVER GRATEFUL! I love you Mary and will miss you terribly ❤️

July 31 at 8:53 AM

LA

**Lisa Alvarez** posted:

Jay was a part of the Garcia family for so many years. We're grateful we have so many memories to cling to at this time. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his loved ones. RIP Jay! We love you! Lisa Alvarez (Dave Garcia's mom)

July 31 at 4:34 AM

DP

**Donnie Perry** posted:

Rest easy my friend. You will be missed. I'm sorry bud... cancer sucks so bad... I really wish this would have gone differently for you my man. You will be in many thoughts, and I will see you again one day.

July 30 at 7:31 PM

YC

**Your Golfclash Clan** posted:

Though we have never met you jharp, we all feel we lost a great friend. Rest in peace our brother.

July 30 at 8:06 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Deeply sorry. May your family find strength at this time

July 29 at 8:29 PM



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JS

**John Swanson** posted:

Jay spent several years as a dedicated member of the Lynwood Fire Department. He was very active and responded to many, many calls with the goal of helping others in their time of need. He was a dear friend to many of our members and was sorely missed when he left the area. We mourn with you all. One of our brothers gone way too soon.

July 29 at 5:28 PM

LB

**Linda Bruns** posted:

I met Jay through my son, Denny, many years ago when they played softball together in Crete, IL. Jay was always so sweet and kind to me and would call me "Mom" whenever he'd see me. He would also post a Happy Birthday greeting to me on Facebook and never missed my birthday. Jay will be missed by everyone who ever knew him. Blessings of comfort to his daughters and his love for the past 15 years. Keep your memories of Jay near and one day you will be able to smile knowing he is with Jesus, his mom and dad, his infant son and all those who entered heaven before him.

July 29 at 1:55 PM

HN

**Hinko Natalie** posted:

Jay you will be missed dearly. I will Miss the instigating on Facebook when my sisters would post something and how you would always call my mom into it. And how we would just laugh. This is not a good bye it's I'll see you one-day 😞

July 29 at 1:19 PM

RN

**Ron Newquist** posted:

I had the pleasure to play softball with Jay for many years. He was a member of my team, the commission, and he was very proud of that. Every time he and I would text keyword always finished with commission for life. Softball was a great love of his and he was one of the greatest guys I knew.

July 29 at 12:46 PM

JC

**Jerrie Carrasco** posted:

Jay, I can't believe that you're not going to harass me anymore. The crazy things we did at the firehouse and the Upfront. You will be so missed.. fly high with the angels and bowl a lot of perfect games. Miss you my friend Jerrie

July 29 at 12:35 PM



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**Mary Christina Glowczewski** posted:

I'm so sorry for your lost he will live in your hearts forever you are in my prayersChris

July 29 at 11:12 AM



**Erica** posted:

Say hi to mom and Anthony for me. Rest peacefully dad. Love you!

July 29 at 10:14 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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