



James W. "Jay" Collins

March 23, 1967 - August 20, 2020

James W. "Jay" Collins, Jr. 53, of Naples, FL and a former resident of Bensenville, IL died unexpectedly on Thursday, August 20, 2020 as the result of a heart attack which caused a car accident. Jay was born on March 23, 1967 in Blue Island, IL, the son of James W. Sr. and Laurene D. (née Nelson) Collins. He had been a resident of Naples since 2007.

In 1985, Jay graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in Elmhurst, IL. He would later attend St. Louis College of Pharmacy in St. Louis, MO where, in 1991, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and was a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Pharmaceutical Fraternity. After college he began his career with some of the major retail pharmacies such as Walgreens, CVS and Jewel-Osco in IL. After moving to Naples, he worked at Costco in the pharmacy.

Jay was equally gifted in both sciences and arts. He had a talent for woodworking, art, painting and music. Jay's love of music was his life-long passion. Every day he would play the guitar and practice or just jam with friends and years ago was the lead guitarist in a band in Illinois called Planet Von. Jay was a trusted and loyal friend to many and a life-long lover of Diet Coke.

He is survived by his two children, Emily L. Collins and Bradley J. Collins of Naples, FL; his former wife and the mother of his children, Bridgett Hofstetter of Naples, FL; his mother, Laurene D. Collins of Elmhurst, IL; his sister Nancy L. Shanahan and husband Bill of Bartlett, IL; sister Lisa M. McComb of Elmhurst, IL; and his nieces and nephew, Katie and Morgan Shanahan, Lauren and Jack McComb.

A Memorial Mass to celebrate his life will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34120 with Fr. Michael P. Orsi, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to an Educational Fund established for his two children at GoFundMe, <https://gf.me/u/ytqd69>.

To sign his guest registry or to leave your personal condolences to the family, please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Springs Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Events

AUG **Memorial Mass** 01:00PM

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St. Agnes Catholic Church

7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL, US, 34120

Comments



“ I am just learning of Jay’s passing and am heartbroken. I had been trying to reach him and I couldn’t understand why I wasn’t hearing from him. He was a great friend, one of the most intelligent and well-rounded individuals I’ve ever met. He had the best laugh! Lots of great memories I’ll never forget. Condolences to his children and family, almost a year later.

Meriwether Barry - July 17, 2021 at 10:28 PM



“ I have never had a friend like Jay. I always considered him more of a brother. He lived with me on my farm for awhile. Those are some wonderful, fun and crazy memories and I wouldn't trade them or any other memories of Jay. My love for him lives on. MVR

Mark Van Rheeden - April 20, 2021 at 12:51 AM



“ I never had the opportunity to meet Jay. My husband worked with him at Pete' house and said how great of a guy Jay was. When we heard the news, we couldn't believe it. I am terribly sorry that this happened to such a great human being. He was loved by so many people and I see that. Fly high Jay - You will never be forgotten. ☐ 😞



Christina Brinkley Ellington - August 29, 2020 at 07:37 AM



“ To Jay's family, our most sincere sympathy for your loss, may God welcome Jay in His kingdom. Our prayers are for the family who love him, may your memories keep his love alive always. With love, Don & Jo LaMonica.

Jo & Don LaMonica - August 26, 2020 at 12:01 AM