



## Benjamin James Estes

February 5, 1981 - December 1, 2022

Benjamin Estes, born in February of 1981, is survived by his parents, Tim and Penny Estes of Willard, North Carolina. Ben is also survived by his siblings, Eric Rinehart of Southport, NC and Thomas Rinehart of Johnson City, TN; his niece and nephew, Cora Rinehart and Waylon Rinehart of Southport, NC; and many aunts and uncles. He passed away on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at the age of 41.

After earning his bachelor's degree in Russian Language and Literature from the New College of Florida, Ben traveled throughout Europe and Russia. He pursued his graduate degree at Moscow State University to study literature and linguistics, and he came back to the United States to teach literature and research at Collier County Public Schools. Ben will be known for being an avid reader, scholar, and lover of Jeopardy. Most importantly, he cared about the welfare of his students. Even when presented with opportunities elsewhere, Ben replied, "If everyone who cares about these kids just leaves them, who would they have? Who's going to be there for them?"

Ben's impact was not limited to the classroom. He was also an advisor for the National Honor Society, helping the students become responsible members of their community. He was a coach and mentor for the soccer team and Academic Team. Ben's love of soccer could be seen at every GGHS soccer game as he announced the plays and goals. (If Ben could have watched his

favorite team, Tottenham Hotspur, play every game in person, he would have.) Ben was also a mentor and guide for any student conducting research. As the resident expert on world literature and issues, Ben was always quick to make a recommendation on a new book or podcast. For those who needed help or wanted to chat, students and co-workers knew to follow the classical music to Ben's door. He was also the unofficial advisor to the Dungeons and Dragons club at the school during lunch and after school.

The family and friends of Ben Estes will be meeting at the Sunrise Terrace in Baker Park at 4:00pm on Thursday, December 8th in Naples, FL. This will be a get-together to remember and celebrate Ben's life.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

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

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 8. 4:00 PM (ET)

Sunrise Terrace in Baker Park  
50 Riverside Circle  
Naples, FL 34102

# Tribute Wall



“ *Benjamin James Estes*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *My sincere condolences for your family's loss. Ben was my roommate for a few years in college. I had the pleasure of having him meet my mother, grandfather, and family on several occasions. After college we remained "pen pals" -- but really, it was one sided, with Ben regaling me with absolutely wonderful writing, humor, insights. From soccer, to politics, to just understanding life around him -- he was one of a kind. Here's a picture that captures his smile to - and reminded me of that look he got when you could tell he was thinking of something that only he found amusing =).*

*Love,  
Paolo*



Paolo Mastrangelo - December 30, 2022 at 10:05 AM

CS

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Mr. Estes was my former English teacher at GGHS. My class and I have such wonderful memories of our time with him. More notably, on his birthday, we planned to not show up to class. He walked out of his classroom, likely confused as to why no one was there yet and found us in the hallway with a cake and balloons. He was so surprised and embarrassed! Mr. Estes was the type of teacher that garnered true admiration from his students and it showed. He cared deeply for us, always going the extra mile to guide us in the right direction, both personally and educationally. He will be greatly missed by us all.

*My deepest condolences,  
Carliette Sierralta*



---

**Carliette sierralta** - December 18, 2022 at 05:35 AM

LS

“ I am so very sorry for the great loss of Ben. I had the pleasure of working with him at GGHS. May God bless you all in this time of great sorrow.

*Linda Stanley*

---

**Linda Stanley** - December 09, 2022 at 10:22 AM

LS

“ *Larry Judy Saunders lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Estes*



---

**Larry & Judy Saunders** - December 07, 2022 at 10:23 PM

LS

“ *Tim, Penny and family,  
Larry and I are so sorry for your loss.  
Praying for peace beyond understanding for all.*

---

**Larry & Judy Saunders** - December 07, 2022 at 10:22 PM

BE

“ *Tim and Penny I am so very sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers. Love, Beverly (Jody) Evans*

---

**Beverly Evans** - December 07, 2022 at 02:31 PM