



James Mead

June 18, 1979 - March 13, 2006

James L. Mead, age 26 of Amboy, lost his courageous battle with deadly cancer on March 13, 2006 at 1:15 AM. That tells little about the fight - if ever an example was set for not giving up or losing faith it had to be James. He battled on for many reasons - his love of life, his endless quest for knowledge, his great delight in fun and foolishness and for the love of his friends. But most of all he had a plan - to marry the love of his life, Elsa (Martinez). They were married May 14, 2005 at St. Patrick Church in Dixon. This must be said, if ever an example was set for love, loyalty and devotion she set the bar too high to ever be beaten. James loved her and she loved him and that always seemed to be enough for them. James graduated from Amboy High School in 1997 and then served in the Illinois National Guard. He then attended SIU in Carbondale where he was a Cum Laude graduate in 2002. He then worked for the Del Monte Corporation in Mendota as a Harvest Operations Boss for 2 years. He loved both the work and the people. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy and the Knights of Columbus. The many acts of kindness that were shown will never be forgotten. It would be impossible to thank everyone who helped along the way, but a special thanks to the Rush Hospital in Chicago. The compassion shown to James and his family goes beyond expectations. He was preceded in death by his paternal and maternal grandparents. He leaves to mourn him his wife Elsa, his parents Jack and Loreen (Leffelman) Mead; his brother Mike Mead and sister Melissa (Lane) Eisenberg; beloved nephews and nieces Dylan and Alex Eisenberg,

Brianna Greer and Ava Martinez all of Amboy. He also leaves many aunts, uncles, cousins, friends whom he loved like brothers and sisters and his much loved dog Drake. Finally, goodbye James - you may be gone from this earth but never from our hearts. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday March 16, 2006 at 10:30 AM in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy with the Rev. Carl Beekman officiating. Burial will follow at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy with military graveside rites by the Illinois National Guard. Visitation will be held on Wednesday March 15, from 2:00 until 4:00 and 6:00 until 10:00 PM in the church. The rosary will be recited at 9:30 PM. A memorial has been established to Raising Spirits Foundation 5115 Belmont Ave. Suite B, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515. Condolences may be sent at www.thejonesfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Mead*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *James Mead*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about the loss of your precious James. We had the pleasure of knowing him from Rush while our son, Brad, was undergoing the same treatment. As you know, we lost Brad in July 2004 from the same horrible cancer. James sent Brad a note when he heard that Brad's cancer had spread. In his note he told us that he too was terminal. Please know that we kept your James in our daily prayers. This day we will mourn his passing. We know what you are feeling and are truly sorry that you must go through this tragedy. God Bless you and your family. We'll always remember your James, with love and admiration.*

Love, Greg, Mary, Phil & Nick Pipala

Greg, Mary, Phil & Nick Pipala - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *Please know our thoughts and prayers are with your family. God Bless!*

George and Karshon Hume - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ To James's family, I am so sorry for your loss. James put up a tough fight all the way until the end. He could be rough under the collar sometimes and speak his mind but I think that was why I so enjoyed being his one of his nurses. He was also very polite "thanks for coming" he told me one of the last times I visited him. He will be greatly missed by many. You will continue to be in my prayers. God bless.

Deborah Pach - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ I heard about your loss and I'm very sorry. James and I were good friends at SIU. I was one of the Mendota guys that lived across from the "Amboys." James and I could always pass the time by talking about farming and the military. It was great. I'll always hold a special memory of James because he was the person that gave me my first salute when I was commissioned in ROTC. I was honored and I couldn't have had a better person do that for me. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Nick Kreiser - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ To the family of James: I was saddened to hear of your loss. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. His spirit will always be around and watching over all of you. Continue to be strong and knowing that God is now taking care of him. And may God be with all of you to help to help ease your pain. My sympathy goes out to the entire family.

Tedra (Newman) Clements - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ We were so sorry to learn of your loss. He certainly fought a long, hard battle. Please accept our condolences in this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Your friends in Texas,

Frank & Doris Barlow
Janet E. Barlow

Frank and Doris Barlow - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ My heart broke when I heard of the loss of James. My prayers go to those who mourn him most; his loving wife, family, and friends. It was a pleasure to get to meet such a courageous man. God bless you.

Tammi Lewis - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ I was so sorry to hear about James. My sincere sympathy to Elsa and his parents. He was a pleasure to deal with and such a fighter. We will miss him very very much.

Leslie

Leslie Young, RN - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ To James' wife, family, and friends- my deepest sympathies are with you at this time. I was so sad to hear about this news, but only hope that James is now comfortable and at peace. He will be greatly missed by all.

Theresa Gruskovak Rn (Rush PICU)

Theresa Gruskovak, Rn - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ James was truly a funny, sweet gentleman. I am so saddened by his death, but I know that he fought a tremendous fight, because that's just how James lived every day, even before his diagnosis. I am thrilled to read such wonderful things about him and reach out to Elsa and the rest of his family. My prayers are with you.

Jennifer Piatchek Keith - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ Dear Loreen and family,
I am so sorry to have read about the passing of your son James. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. Sincerely Heidi Chaffin

Heidi Chaffin - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ James will be a very missed person. I am very honored to have gotten to know him. Your in my thoughts and prayers.

Kendra Selover - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ James Mead was and still is a great inspiration in my life. Having only met him a few times while at Rush he always had the most uplifting words of encouragement and always had a huge smile on his face. I will always remember James as a hero in my eyes because he never gave up hope and always kept fighting.

With Condolences and prayers,
James Frank

James Frank - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *This is one of my favorite phrases taken from a Hallmark card. It says just what I would wish for you and your family at this sad time.*

Tenderly...may time heal your sorrow;

Gently...may friends ease your pain;

Softly...may peace replace your heartache.

*With Sincere Sympathy,
Judi Callison*

Judi Callison - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM