



Matthew Anthony James

March 11, 1998 - December 18, 2024

***ATTN: FAMILY & FRIENDS: IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, the family requests sending contributions to:

THE MATTHEW JAMES MEMORIAL FUND (or payable to Tracie James) at any Fifth Third Bank, or mail to PO Box 19412, Kalamazoo, MI 49019.

***NOTE: You may also consider making a donation to your favorite charity for special needs individuals in Matthew James' name.

Matthew Anthony James was born on March 11, 1998 to the union of Michael and Tracie James in Kalamazoo, MI. Matthew was the fourth of five children. Matthew transitioned from this life on December 18, 2024.

Affectionately known as Tookie, Mattie, Matt-Matt, Mattygaspar...Matthew was a unique and special individual in so many ways. He overcame numerous obstacles in his abbreviated life and was one of the strongest and most resilient persons one would ever know. His smile lit up a room, and his energy was unmatched. When he was younger, he did speak and sing, memorizing books on tape or some of his favorite stories read over and over again. He enjoyed music, books, and especially dinosaur movies. Matthew loved running, bouncing, swinging and eating! He was easy-going yet constantly found opportunities to get his own way. He was quite observant and calculating when he wanted to be.

Matthew received his education through KRESA (Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency). He attended Croyden Avenue School, WoodsEdge, and finished at YAP (The Young Adult Program).

When one thinks of Matthew, thoughts of pure joy, energy and innocence come to mind. Matthew has left an enduring imprint on the hearts of many. He will be greatly missed.

Matthew is survived by his loving parents Michael and Tracie; brothers Michael, Marshal, and Malcolm; his sister Tanell (Majid); grandparents Jerutha Kennedy, Barbara James, and Michael R. James; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and family friends.

***NOTE: Per the family's request a private interment was held.

***A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY for Matthew is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2025 at our funeral home. Please see service times listed below

Previous Events

Visitation For Family & Friends

JAN 24. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

A Memorial Service In Loving Memory Of

JAN 24. 11:30 AM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Matthew Anthony James



Harper Funeral Home - January 23, 2025 at 08:19 PM

KJ

Matthew was a ray of sunshine and loved life and people and food! Such a part in our lives! He lived the boat!

karen jansheski - February 28, 2025 at 01:36 PM

JD

“ I am sending much love to Matthew's family. I know that he is greatly missed. May special memories of Matthew bring smiles and joy to each of you.

Judy D'Arcangelis - January 23, 2025 at 11:07 PM

BG

“ Condolences to the Family



Beverly Green - January 23, 2025 at 09:06 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Matthew Anthony James.*



January 22, 2025 at 09:51 AM



“ *I was Matthew's teacher for several years at WoodsEdge Learning Center. It has truly been an honor to have worked with Matthew. His presence in the classroom brought a unique light, and I will always remember the joy, curiosity, and courage he displayed. I feel incredibly blessed to have been part of his journey. Please know that my thoughts are with you during this incredibly difficult time.*

Karen Raffenaud - January 09, 2025 at 08:54 AM



“ *Matthew what a joy it was to know you and experience your uniqueness! Your hands were always quicker than the eye! Thank you for giving me so many beautiful memories of you that always bring a smile to my face. I thank Yah (and your family) for sharing you with me. You will be greatly missed and fondly remembered, Carol (MoriYah) Cousins*

carol cousins - December 26, 2024 at 06:17 PM

HA

Thank you, O Most High, for the life of Matthew. You are a loving and righteous Father who knows all things. Saying goodbye to a loved one is always hard but we trust your timing YHWH.

Sending my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Matthew. May he rest peacefully in you YHWH.

HannahYH - December 29, 2024 at 10:57 AM

HA

Thank you, O Most High, for the wonderful life of Matthew. My sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones. May he rest peacefully in you YHWH.

HannahYH - December 30, 2024 at 10:34 AM

SC

I did not know Matthew. I know MJ. And he mentioned his son often to my wife and I. How they set their schedules to always be there for him. I saw his picture for the first time for this memorial. He looked happy and MJ said he was always happy. Knowing MJ and the positive things he has mentioned over the several years I have known him it is so apparent they made his life to be the best it could possibly be with their love and support. God Bless their family.

Steve and Katie Cook - January 22, 2025 at 11:00 PM