



James "Jayburd" S. Killen

OCT 16, 1968 - APR 19, 2024



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 7



James "Jayburd" S. Killen

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James Stribling Killen (Jayburd), born to Anne Dodd Killen (d.) and William Sharp Killen (d.) on October 16, 1968 in Athens, Alabama. On April 19, 2024, after a prolonged illness, he left his earthly struggle behind.

He is survived by all the people he ever met and loved on his incredible life journey. In particular his wife, Amanda Fisher Killen, brother Steve Killen, sisters Laura Killen Ray, Jennie Killen Hutto, and Jennifer Blank (Henry), nephew Josuhua Ray, his wife Amy, and daughters Emma Grace, Mary Claire, and Zoey Anne. He was predeceased by his parents, brother Jordan Killen, brother-in-law David Ray, and stepmother Martha Killen.

Jay grew up a country boy in Athens, Alabama surrounded by family and good friends. He loved the outdoors and the land, he was a long-time Boy Scout and earned the distinction of Eagle Scout in 1987. Jay attended Tanner High School and received his GED in 1987. He continued to have many good friends from his childhood and high school days and cherished their lasting friendships that connected him to his home. He loved hiking, camping, and fishing with his friends. He loved his animals, especially his barn cats. He developed his lifelong love of rock and roll and learned to play the drums at an early age.

Jay began a career in the restaurant business as a young man. He started in fast food and quickly moved from prep cook to line chef in restaurants and bars throughout Alabama, Tennessee, and even Florida for a time. His final kitchen gig was as a production chef at the Horseshoe casino in Robinsonville, MS. He left that life behind when he found a new life in sobriety and his whole world changed for the better. He worked as a courier and in the construction business until he became disabled in 2012. Jay spent 29 years in sobriety and was active in supporting and encouraging many others on a similar path. He met his love in 2008 and they were married in 2009. In December of 2012, Jay contracted botulism poisoning and was hospitalized for the next 16 months. He fought his way from complete paralysis to functional quadriplegia, relearning how to talk and eat and breathe, able to use his power chair and phone, and living at home with the



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assistance of a cadre of loving and devoted caregivers and friends. He continued to be active in sobriety and pursuing his loves, rock and roll, collecting drums, cooking huge kettles chicken stew for friends and family, adding to his concert t-shirt collection, and spending time with his beloved cats.

There will be a visitation from 5-8 pm on Thursday, April 25 and a Memorial Celebration at 10:00 am on Friday, April 26 in the Riverside Chapel at Memorial Park Funeral Home at 5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN 38119. A Graveside Burial Service will take place at 2:00 pm on Saturday April 27 at Roselawn Cemetery in Athens, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry:

Checks: 6025 Stage Rd, Ste. #42-393, Memphis, TN 38134

Venmo: @sunshine73daisy

Donation link at www.sunshineanddaisy.org

Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry is a local organization that feeds folks in the Memphis area every Saturday. On the first and third Saturday of each month, a big blue bus takes food to neighborhoods in Memphis. The pantry is a no questions asked pantry serving anyone who comes to shop. On the second and fourth Saturday of each month, food is taken to The Warriors Center, a center for men in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.



Events


James "Jayburd" S. Killen

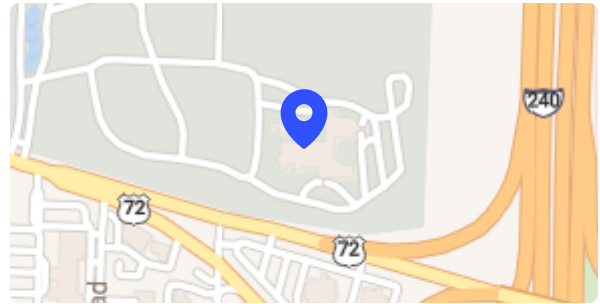
OCT 16, 1968 - APR 19, 2024

Visitation

 **Thursday**, April 25, 2024


 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119

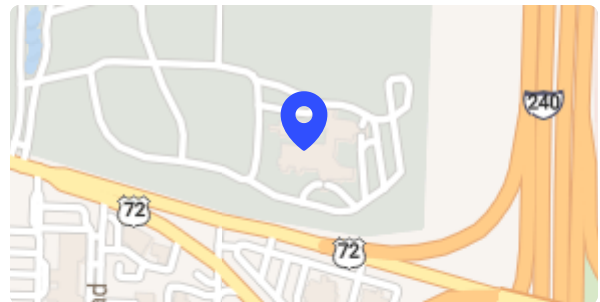


Funeral Service


 **Friday**, April 26, 2024

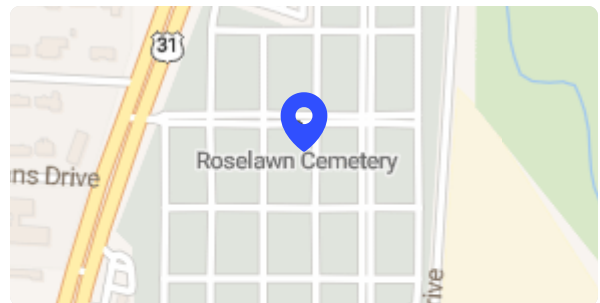
 10:00 AM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



Cemetery Details

 **Roselawn Cemetery**
523 US Hwy 31 South, Athens AL 35611





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Killen family.

April 25 at 8:24 AM



M K Smith planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jayburd".

April 25 at 8:24 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Killen family.

April 24 at 6:50 AM



Love, Melinda, Reid And Elyse planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jayburd".

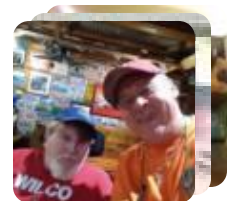
April 24 at 6:50 AM



Ronnie Foster shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I met and became friends with Jay in about 2000. We've been to a lot of concerts and remain friends ever since. He left a mark on me for life. That when I dread doing something, I always think "Jay would love to be able to do (fill in the blank)". He always remain positive, encouraging, and upbeat despite his unfortunate circumstances with botulism that put him In the position that I don't think I could have made it through. Rest in peace my friend. You'll never be forgotten. Your name will be spoken for years.

April 22 at 6:48 PM





Media

James "Jayburd" S. Killen

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Ronnie Foster shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 22 at 6:48 PM



Ronnie Foster April 23 at 6:02 AM

Me Jay and Ralph celebrating jaybirds 28 th birthday



Media

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Media

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Ronnie Foster April 23 at 6:03 AM

What a great day this was. We are headed to Birmingham to see Wilco



Memories only last if you share them

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



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