



James Hollingshead

October 11, 1961 - July 17, 2020

James Hollingshead passed away peacefully on Friday July 17th, 2020.

He was deeply loved by his family and friends and will be sorely missed.

James was a kind, gentle soul who made everyone feel at ease. He had a great sense of humor, making people laugh with his wry wit and jokes. He also had an amazing knowledge of and memory for music, enjoying a wide range of genres; it was common to hear him playfully quizzing friends and family on music trivia. Some of that talent apparently went to his daughter Leah, who majored in music in college.

James was born on October 11, 1961 in Denver, Colorado. At age 2, he moved to central Florida with his family when his dad was transferred here to work for Martin Marietta as an aerospace engineer. James grew up in Winter Park, attending Winter Park High School and then heading to the University of Florida, where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Geology. He continued to be an avid Gator fan, enjoying games, Homecoming, and visiting daughter Christy when she carried on the tradition and attended UF as well.

James worked in environmental consulting during the first part of his career. In 1998, he transitioned to the public sector to work as a hydrologist for the St. Johns River Water Management District, where he spent many rewarding years managing a dedicated team of hydrologists and scientists.

He was known for being fair and kind in his interactions with staff, colleagues and clients, as well as for his intelligence and depth of knowledge of the Florida aquifer. He was also known for his ability to defuse challenging situations with his humor and wit.

James and his wife Lisa (nee Smith) both grew up in Central Florida, attending the same high school and university. Although their lives were interconnected in many ways, their paths did not fully cross until after college. While they initially connected as friends, their friendship deepened into a loving relationship and they remained best friends as they took

on marriage and parenting. Their daughters joke that the bar for their relationships is set extremely high!

James enjoyed fishing, boating, travel, and family time. Over the years James, Lisa and their daughters enjoyed favorite trips to Europe, Canada, Alaska, and Costa Rica. In recent years, James had taken up e-biking with Lisa and they explored many local Florida trails. James was a devoted husband and partner to Lisa, and loving father and amazing role model to his children Leah and Christy.

In addition to his wife Lisa, and daughters Leah and Christy, James is survived by his mother, Lou Hollingshead, his brother, Jon (Jeanne) Hollingshead, sister Sarah (Art) Mandler, brother in law Paul (Robin) Smith, and nieces and nephews Daniel, Adrian, Sam, Emily and Jackson. James was predeceased by his sister Susan (Jim) Hollingshead and father Chuck Hollingshead.

There will be a celebration of James' life in the future when the time is right. We remember him now as a man of integrity and compassion who lived a good life, and who loved and was loved, by many.

In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome for the Sarcoma Foundation of America <https://www.curesarcoma.org> or a local charity of your choice.

The family of James Hollingshead invites you to leave a message of condolence, to share a special memory or a photo on the Tribute Wall created in his memory.

Comments



“ I grew up with James and lived across the street on Woodcrest Dr. We would hang out almost everyday as kids and played many different games together. He was a very kind-hearted boy and a wonderful friend. On behalf of the Davidson family, we offer our heart-felt condolences to James' immediate and extended family. We feel your pain and are so sorry for your loss. If possible, I'd like information on James' Celebration of Life. It would warm my heart to see the family and celebrate his life with you.

Sincerely,
Scott Davidson

Scott Davidson - August 12, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christy Hollingshead - July 30, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ My prayers are with you and your family Theresa Nachtsheim



Theresa Nachtsheim - July 29, 2020 at 10:40 AM



“ I worked with James for over 15 years. He was the reviewer for our consumptive use permit. Although we were on opposing sides, James was always a pleasure to work with and we became friends and talked on a personal level. James always had a nice, calming way about him that I admired and appreciated. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this very difficult time.

Christine Russell - July 28, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ James was truly a special man. He knew how to make everyone feel valued and special and was so giving of his vast knowledge. But my favorite part of working with James was his ability to make everyone laugh. He had a great sense of humor and was quite the story teller. I don't think I have ever known anyone with quite the song knowledge that James had and he could pull out an appropriate song and start singing it for every occasion. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Suzanne Archer - July 27, 2020 at 07:53 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Robin Nelson-Smith - July 26, 2020 at 03:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robin Nelson-Smith - July 26, 2020 at 03:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robin Nelson-Smith - July 26, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ All my memories of James are ‘pure joy’. Our time together was during vacations & holidays. We always made the most of our time - hiking, rafting, laughing all the way with James’ clever wit. And Biking! The photo of James on Paul’s e-bike is the ride that initiated James newfound love of biking. After a day on the Swamp Rabbit trail – he went home & bought his own e-bike – that led to Lisa’s e-bike & the two of them riding trails all over Florida.

So whether it was all of us doing Yoga in the driveway, or James doing yoga on a waterfall (see photo), making great meals together, or just chillin’ on the porch watching the birds, James made everything we did fun. His sense of humor is unforgettable.

When we weren’t goofing off, the conversation turned existential & philosophical – James sharing his most recent interesting reads, or awesome relaxation CDs. I hope his thirst for knowledge and learning continue to inspire me. Just weeks ago I was excited to tell him I had discovered Thich Nhat Hanh & was reading one of his books. Years ago James had gained a little weight – the girls called it his Buddha belly. Thinking on it, James was like the family Buddha – Calm, steady, and full of wit & wisdom. I said recently as an only child, James was the big brother I never had. I miss brother James dearly – but I am so very thankful to have been part of his world.

Robin Nelson-Smith - July 26, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ We’re so very sorry to hear of James’ passing. We too remember him being quiet, kind, and always smiling. Our condolences to Lisa, Leah, and Christy on your loss of a great husband and father.

Doug and Carole Reece

Doug and Carole Reece - July 26, 2020 at 11:59 AM



“ Wishing you and your family peace and comfort during this difficult time. May time help you heal and bring you all peace. Please know I am here to listen and support you during this tough time. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss and I'll be praying for you and your family. God's love and grace are always with you. Where lives pass, memories will carry on forever.

Rodney - July 26, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ My sincere & heartfelt sympathy to Lisa, Leah, and Christie, on the loss of your beloved husband and father. I pray that you will be comforted by the love you share that will never die.

Jeanne McQuin

Jeanne McQuin - July 24, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ Lisa,
My deepest condolences to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. -Christina Gaspard



Christina - July 24, 2020 at 03:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



paul smith - July 24, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ James appreciated the beauty in nature and the joy in music. Laughter, kindness, and good humor were part of his life. James left the world too soon but he lived a full life with his family and friends and all who loved him. He left the world a little warmer, a little kinder, a little richer. We celebrate his life and his journey!



Charlotte Hendelson - July 23, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ My brother James, I'm still in denial, you will truly be missed. Those little nuggets of quick rye wit that came at a moments notice. Your infectious desire to learn and discover new things and always looking at a point of view from the other direction. When we would sneak away to the Indian restaurant that nobody else would go to. The funny songs you would discover and share or the nicknames for the cats. The gentle nature and patience you always had towards your family, three girls oyve' -we could all take a cue from that. You were the brother I never had-you made our small family much bigger and for that I will always be grateful. I will always treasure the visits to NC we had together especially July 4th. Like a firework display you made a big impact in a short amount of time. Shine on you crazy Diamond Shine on. We love you and will miss you very much.

paul smith - July 23, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss.



Carolyn Wilson - July 23, 2020 at 06:10 PM



“ Tarpon Springs July 2018.
A very special time together



Karen Seel - July 23, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ My condolences. Praying for you and your family
Love Shirley Valentin-Loriston

Shirley Loriston - July 23, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ Michele Parsons lit a candle in memory of James Hollingshead



Michele Parsons - July 23, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ We are sending love and prayers to the whole family. We have fond memories of James on your visits to Asheville. Sending Our Deepest sympathy,
Love
Elizabeth O'Shea and Gary Harkis.

Elizabeth H O'Shea - July 23, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ Lisa,
You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Jeaneen Ivey



Jeaneen Ivey - July 23, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ I will miss James. What a great story teller! A 15 minute work conference call would always evolve into a tangent conversation on life and geology. He crammed a ton into his life. Thoughts and prayers to his family, who he brought up in every conversation we had. Rest in peace brother.

Mike Alfieri - July 23, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ Jeaneen Ivey lit a candle in memory of James Hollingshead



Jeaneen Ivey - July 23, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ Wishing you and your family peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Raquel



Raquel Santana-Ortiz - July 23, 2020 at 09:20 AM



“ James always had a beautiful smile on his face. His smile was contagious and lit up a room. His love and commitment to his family was endearing. I enjoyed the time I have spent with the Hollingshead family and am sending much love to you all :)

Brooke Hondel - July 22, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ James was truly the nicest man I have ever met. I never saw him get really mad, maybe a little stern from time to time, but never mad. He would lighten up a room whenever he came in. I was always happy to stop whatever I was doing when he stopped by my office to ask a question and I really enjoyed our breakroom chats. I am lucky to have been able to spend 8 years working with him and getting to know him at the District.

Mark Brandenburg - July 22, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ I worked as a front desk receptionist with James at St. John's. He use to come in so happy in the mornings. Believe me, everyone had their own personality in the mornings. I will always remember how he made me laugh and perked me up when I was down. Lisa, I know how devoted you were because, when James broke both his arms you were right there when he called you. I'm praying for you and your two girls!

Candace Littleford - July 21, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear about James' passing. You didn't have to spend much time with James to realize he is the gentle and kind soul that everyone describes him as. I know he will be missed so much by everyone that was close to him. My prayer is the God will give all of you the grace, as only He can, when you need it, as much as you need, to deal with the big hole in your heart and soul, in the months and years to come.

Marlise Viljoen - July 21, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ What a wonderful, kind, friendly, smart, friend and neighbor we had in James. We will miss him very much. James was also a staunch defender of our Florida water ecosystem, something much needed these days. And no doubt a great dad and husband! We are so sorry for his passing. He was no doubt greatly loved by his family. Our hearts go out to Lisa, the girls and all of his immediate family. It was an honor to know James.
Frank Allen, Maitland

Frank Allen - July 21, 2020 at 05:01 PM



“ I only met James a few months ago from work. He struck me as an extraordinarily kind and empathetic person who saw the value in making an effort to help a newbie come out of her shell. Over time I found out he was incredibly funny, clever, intelligent, diplomatic, and altogether an exceptional person to know and work with. I am deeply saddened to lose him in my life despite only recently becoming acquainted. I cannot fathom the loss his wife and daughters are experiencing during this time. May you rest in peace James. You are missed tremendously and will be warmly remembered forever.

BR - July 21, 2020 at 04:42 PM



“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. James was a great guy who was a pleasure to work with. I know he will be deeply missed.

Lisa Gerber - July 21, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of James' passing. He was such a kind and gentle spirit, condolences to his family. Rest in Peace James, you will be missed.

Sandra Jones - July 21, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ Thank you for visiting James' Life Tributes Page. We look forward to hearing your memories of James and seeing your pictures. We will cherish every sentiment <3 Lisa, Leah and Christy <3



Lisa Hollingshead - July 21, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ James was a great guy. I only interacted with him regarding his work at SJRWMD and always found him to be fair and kind. My sincere condolences to his wife and daughters.

David B.

David Brown - July 21, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ Lots of memories of James. Being a dad and a UF Geology alumnus, my favorite recollection was listening to how excited and pleased James was to have Christy at UF. Our daughter was there around the same time, there are so many overlaps between James's path and mine over the last 3-4 decades, family, career, college, and friends. He was the best. We miss him.

Doug Hearn - July 21, 2020 at 09:42 AM