



Mr. James T. Easterly

June 8, 1974 - November 2, 2023

On Thursday, November 2nd, God called our beloved teddy bear, James Theron Easterly home. To know James was truly to love him. You simply could not be in his presence without seeing that big, warm smile of his. Even if you were annoyed or angry with him, you could not stay that way for long. He had this way of looking at you, smiling warmly, and all would be forgiven. That was his particular brand of James-magic. He was warm, and funny, and silly, and whip smart, and sensitive, and analytical, and gregarious, and caring, and truly, a really, really great person. Everyone who met James loved him. People say that often, but of James, it was true. And this world is truly a darker place without him in it.

James was born on June 8, 1974 in Washington, DC to James and Scenobia Easterly. James was the baby brother of siblings, Marty, Sheree, and Anton and the grandson of Mary Butler. His older siblings, parents, and beloved Grandma spoiled him endlessly.

Even as a child, James had a very curious mind and loved computers and technology. His mom often tells the story of how he would regularly take apart his toys and games just to see if he could reassemble them, making them perform better or differently in the process. It was that love of engineering, or re-engineering as it were, that led to his decision to attend Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). While being a proud 'computer nerd', James was

also a prolific athlete. James stood 6'6 inches tall and weighed over 300lbs in high school. As one would imagine, he was heavily recruited to play football at nearly every single Division I, Power 5 university in the country. His recruitment process became so disruptive, that his high school coaches at Wilde Lake HS (Columbia, MD) told him to narrow down his choices to 10 or 20 schools so that they could tell the other coaches to stop recruiting him. With the support and guidance of his coaches and beloved big brother Marty, and because of his love of technology, James ultimately chose to attend and play college football at Georgia Tech.

While it is true that James loved his family, friends, and computers deeply, he loved nothing more than his daughter, Hailey whom he affectionately referred to as 'Bugz'. She truly was the pride and joy of his life and his primary motivation for all things. James was an ever-present, active, loving dad. He was also a really fun dad, too. Can you imagine James as a dad? He and Hailey rode 4-wheelers, bicycles, roller blades, roller coasters, lit fireworks, went to festivals, ate at amazing restaurants, played video games, etc. And while he was a fun, active dad, he was also a serious dad when it came to supporting and teaching Hailey. He was a proud volleyball and rowing dad. He came up with unique cheers for Hailey and her teams that often brought an eye-roll from Hailey but amused her teammates. He also doled out his very James-like life advice, such as 'if you're ever in a car with a man and you stop to get gas, and that man doesn't get out to pump the gas, leave him there and never talk to him again'. Or, 'if you are ever standing in the path of an oncoming car, jump onto the hood so that you don't absorb the full impact of the hit'. That was James. Hailey and James shared a very special relationship. Not only did they look just alike—she being the lighter skinned version--but, they behaved and thought similarly, too. They had an inside joke of referring to each other as 'Father' and 'Daughter'. James showed up for Hailey in every possible way from the moment she was born. James, wearing some painfully ill-fitting hospital scrubs, cut Hailey's umbilical cord at her birth.

He broke out in a full-on cold sweat trying to conduct her first diaper change in the hospital. He held her like a loaf of bread while trying to diaper her. Needless to say, he figured it out and got much better at it over time.

James leaves to cherish his memory his beloved daughter, Hailey Simone Easterly (Austin, Tx/Alpharetta, GA); his parents, James and Scenobia Easterly of Ft Washington, Maryland; his grandmother, Mary Butler of Washington, DC; siblings Marty (Ilene) Easterly of York, Pennsylvania; Sheree Melton of

Cheverly, Maryland, and Anton Robinson of Ferguson, North Carolina. Also left to celebrate his memory are 18 nieces and nephews, Rick (Ricky and Ricaya), Tenisha, husband Chris (McKenzie and Blake), Tierra, husband Jason (Zion), Martye, Mariyah, Mario, Marcyana, Marlea, Markalya, Brenden, Marquel, Aryana, and Adina and cousins, Rex (Teresa) Easterly and Kim Easterly. James also leaves behind a devoted lifelong co-parent and ex-spouse, Andrea Easterly of Alpharetta, GA, a very close set of friends who became his family: Jelani, Chantel, Chris and a host of other family and friends. Celebration of Life Services for James T Easterly will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 11:00 AM. These services will be recorded and streamed live. If the event is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire event will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the event.

<https://vimeo.com/event/3877665>

James T. Easterly
vimeo.com

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration of Life (Live Streamed)

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656
info@levettfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

AN

“ James it's hard to think of the world without you in it. Your smile truly did light up any room. Condolences to your daughter, parents, family and friends. I hope the angels know what they have. 🕊️

Angill - June 10, 2024 at 03:59 PM

P❤️

“ James RIH!! ❤️🙏🕊️ Sending condolences and LOVE to the family and daughter Hailey whom we were blessed to spend fun times with. Jay you will truly be missed, yes your smile could light up a room. I thank you for seeing me finish Nursing school and for being a good friend and father figure to my son Phillip with showing us unconditional love., love for music and outdoor sports, going to the race car trac, flying drones and seeing the world from a Birds Eye view, 4 wheeling, and shenanigans 😂. You will be missed my friend. My heart aches in disbelief but I know you aren't suffering anymore and will be near in spirit looking after us all 🙏. RIP James!! 🕊️ PW

Phyllis Walton ❤️ - April 08, 2024 at 02:45 PM

AS

“ I meet James in 1994 at the underground at Hooters it was summer time and we became cool friends and we lost contact then was connected in 2013 but lost contact again I am sad to hear this .He was an awesome father .James know you will always be in my heart gone to soon.

Sincerely ,

Ayanna Smiley

ayanna smiley - November 27, 2023 at 04:13 PM

DP

“ I am just finding out about James passing away. I must say it is truly devastating my heart is shattered but you shall suffer no more. I have known James for more than 30years and he has been a constant and consistent friend. Nothing was more important to James than his family, you all ment the world to him exspcially Hailey his light. James you will will be truly missed I love you now and forever. Rest in Heaven.



Darice Phelps - November 25, 2023 at 11:12 AM

RB

“ Big Jay, you were always such a great friend to my husband and I. Great times riding the 4 wheelers and I'll never forget the day that I made you get up on a horse for the first time. You found the love of equestrians with us and you'll forever be remembered as the great friend you were. Rest easy James. Our deepest condolences to the Easterly family and his beloved daughter.

Rod and Courtney Brown - November 20, 2023 at 08:35 AM

P&

James RIH!! ❤️🙏🕊️ Sending condolences and LOVE to the family and daughter Hailey. Jay you will truly be missed, yes your smile could light up a room. I thank you for seeing me finish Nursing school and for being a good friend and father figure to my son Phillip with showing us unconditional love., love for music and outdoor sports, going to the race car trac, flying drones and seeing the world from a Birds Eye view, 4 wheeling, and shenanigans 😂. You will be missed my friend. My heart aches in disbelief but I know you aren't suffering anymore and will be near in spirit looking after us all 🙏. RIP James!! 🕊️ PW

Phyllis Walton ❤️ - April 08, 2024 at 01:55 PM

FB

“ Hi Jay..This NeeCee, first I want to say;It was a pleasure to meet you in our journey of life.But a big thanks for loving and being a wonderful guy in my sister Ellen life. I was so looking forward to seeing you again and the news that you departed this life stills hurts.But Jay rest easy dear friend because your work here is done.I enjoy our conversation together and one day I will see you again in the spiritual world.

Francine burrough - November 19, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James T. Easterly.



November 16, 2023 at 08:01 PM

EH

“ James T Easterly was an blessing of example of an true life long friend. I'm going to miss our conversation and sharing ideas, taking a ride around different neighborhoods in Georgia and in Maryland. James and I taught each other so much and shared so much. He will live forever in my heart. RIP BABE...



ELLEN HASKINS - November 12, 2023 at 08:55 PM

JG

Deepest sympathies and condolences.

John Griner - November 16, 2023 at 05:00 PM

FB

“ *Haley,
Those we love don't walk away; they walk
beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but
always near, so loved, so missed, so very
dear. James will forever be remembered by
all of us, and you are always in our thoughts and prayers.*



Felicia Black - November 12, 2023 at 08:33 AM

JE

“ *Our condolences to the Easterly Family. RIP
Brother James.*



Jeffrey - November 11, 2023 at 02:28 PM

KB

“ *Karen Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr.
James T. Easterly*



Karen Bryant - November 11, 2023 at 01:50 PM

KB

“ *Words cannot express the sadness and the impact of your
departure. My heart is heavy. You will truly be missed. I will always
keep the memories of all the fun times we had in my heart. RIP my
friend. Until we meet again.*

Karen Bryant - November 11, 2023 at 01:50 PM

CS

“ James was my first friend in the neighborhood. We knew each other for close to 45 years. He was a great brother/friend that will be missed.

Christopher Schlette - November 11, 2023 at 10:58 AM

AD

“ James was a good friend and neighbor for many years. He will truly be missed. My condolences to his family. -Anna Davis

Anna Davis - November 09, 2023 at 09:10 PM

EC

My deepest sympathy to the family of James, he was truly a great guy. Genuine man who always responds when asked for help as our IT network coworker. We will miss you tremendously James. RIP 🙏

Emily Carter - November 19, 2023 at 10:09 AM