



John Henry Erkert III

May 8, 1963 - August 23, 2021

On Monday August 23, 2021, Jay Erkert, loving husband, father of 3 sons, passed away at the age of 58.

Jay was born on May 8, 1963 in Sea Isle Crest N.J. to John and Joanne (Hyson) Erkert. He graduated from Wesley College where he played football and received his Associates degree in Marketing. Jay worked his parents bar called "Jack's Place" in Avalon N.J. for years as a bouncer and bartender. In 1993, Jay and his parents moved to Delray Beach Florida and then to Leesburg Florida shortly after that, where they opened up "3 J's Pizza" in Okahumpka Florida. Jay was also co-owner of "J's Pizzeria" in Tavares Florida. Jay was known for his famous New York/Jersey style pizza. He even made the front page of the food scene in the Daily Commercial newspaper. Everyone referred to him as "The Pizza Guy". On January 27, 2018, Jay married Tara Lynn Herndon and became step-father of 3 boys, Zachary, Nicholas, and Justin Herndon

Jay loved football, especially the Philadelphia Eagles, and really all sports. He was on many fantasy teams. He loved to listen to sports talk radio and watching ESPN. He had a big heart when it came to cats and having a bunch of them. He loved to cook, especially pizza. On June 13, 2010, Jay was Baptized a Christian and became a follower of God. He said it was the best decision of his life. Jay is known for his big heart and bigger smile. He would

give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. Jay was an all around great man, great husband, great father, and great son.

Jay is preceded in death by his brother James Vincent Erkert. He is survived by his wife, step-sons, and parents.

Jay's mother, Joanne Erkert, passed away a few days after Jay. A joint Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 2:00 PM, at the Celebration Baptist Church, The Plantation Plaza, 25327 U.S. 27, Leesburg, FL 34748.

The family is being assisted by Skip Young and Jackie Fulford of Young Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory, Tallahassee, Florida.
850.610.4444

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **26.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Baptist Church
The Plantation Plaza
25327 U.S. 27
Leesburg, FL 34748

Tribute Wall



“ *John Henry Erkert III*

October 22, 2023 at 10:27 PM



“ *John Henry Erkert III*

October 09, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ *John Henry Erkert III*

September 22, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ *I meet Jay his freshman year at MTHS.
In the last 8 days I realized Jay and I have communicated with each other everyday.
I've tried sending him posts & comments. Hovering over his name and thinking, Jay would get a kick out of this.
Thank you J-Bird for being there for me August 9th. We talked about the death of my cousin. You comforted me when I needed someone to talk to.
You were a friend, roommate, boss and my wingman for years.*

Don Rhinesmith - August 31, 2021 at 11:16 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Young ~ Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory - August 30, 2021 at 11:56 AM

TE

God I miss you

Tara Erkert - August 30, 2021 at 11:58 AM

TE

“ *Dear I miss and LOVE YOU SO MUCH. I just want to wake up from this nightmare and see your face next to me.*

Tara Erkert - August 28, 2021 at 10:53 AM

TE

“ *Dear I miss you and LOVE you so much. I just want to wake up from this nightmare and see your face next to me.*



Tara Erkert - August 28, 2021 at 10:52 AM

LI

“ Jay was such an awesome friend. When he had his pizza shop in Tavares he hosted my daughter’s birthday party twice and we loved it. He just cared about people and wanted to make you happy. He also made the best pizza margarita that I can’t find anywhere else! Jay I hope you feeding a lot of people in heaven. Please say hi to my sister and brother.

lisa - August 27, 2021 at 11:37 AM

SD

“ Oh Jay, such a dear old friend. Our amazing Re-meeting here in Florida was one of our favorite highlights of our life here in Florida. You were an amazing friend, a kind, gentle man, the BEST pizza cook, Italian dish cook, cheesesteak maker in all of Florida....and the entire world. Me and Nick will miss you more than I can ever say. When we spoke to you a couple weeks ago you were so glad that you would be able to make one of our BBQs soon. We will honor you at that BBQ when we have it. Rest easy in the arms of our Lord and savior and we will see you again some day. We love you.

Love,

SueAnn (Everland) Dolinsky & Nick Dolinsky

SueAnn Dolinsky - August 27, 2021 at 09:30 AM