



## James Lee Erskine

April 1, 1960 - November 25, 2023

James Lee Erskine ran his final race to Jesus on November 25, 2023. He passed away peacefully at his home at the age of 63. Jimmy was born on April 1, 1960, living in Anderson all of his amazing life with the family and friends who loved him deeply. He was our angel on earth.

Jimmy is survived by his adoring parents, Carl and Betty Erskine of Anderson, IN; his three siblings, Dan (Pam) Erskine of Anderson, IN; Gary (Beth) Erskine of Pendleton, IN; and Susan (John) Short of Albany, GA. He is also survived by five nieces and nephews, Dannae (Mark) Witcher, Abby (Brad) Franklin; Amy (Jed) Daniel, Luke (Susie) Short, and Megan Stephenson; special aunt, Cheryl Palmer; nine great nieces and nephews, and many other cousins and family members whom he loved dearly.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Matt and Bertha Erskine and Lowell and Lula Belle Palmer, all of Anderson, IN; aunt and uncle Jeanie and Robert Phillips of Columbia City, IN and uncle Donald Erskine of Anderson, IN.

The most important thing to Jimmy was his family. He was happiest when the family was all together and celebrating something or someone. He loved music, playing the piano and playing the harmonica.

Jimmy was a proud athlete of Special Olympics for 50 years, participating in bowling, golf, swimming, and track. He worked at Applebee's for 20 years and was a part of the Hopewell Center family from its inception to his passing.

Jimmy's second family was that of First Baptist Church where he was loved by so many his entire life. Playing Away in a Manger at the Christmas Eve service each year was a highlight of the year for him. He loved tradition and looked forward to each visit to Albany, GA, church camp, Camp Isanogel, Special Olympics State meets, Dodgertown in Vero Beach, FL, Cincinnati, and the Indianapolis Children's Museum "Spookhouse."

Jimmy loved his hobbies of painting pipes and sticks, using markers to color, collecting straws and playing musical keyboards. Those who know Jimmy know that food was another big part of his life with his favorites being hot dogs, baked beans and his special birthday meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and peas. And, ice cream. There was always ice cream!

Jimmy was loved by so many throughout the community and the family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all the friends, family, and caregivers who have shown Jimmy so much love his entire life. Thank you to all the wonderful staff at Hopewell who loved, supported and helped Jimmy live his best life. Extra love and gratitude are sent to Teresa Dowers, a very special friend to Jimmy and the family.

In honor of Jimmy's life and love for all, memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Anderson, 907 N Raible Ave, Anderson, IN 46011; Hopewell Center, 5325 W 53rd St., Anderson, IN 46013; or Special Olympics of Indiana, 6200 Technology Center Drive, Suite 105, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Memorial visitation will be held Tuesday, December 5, 2023, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 W 53rd St. in Anderson.

A memorial celebration of life service will follow at 1:00 pm with burial taking place at Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Anderson Memorial Park

6805 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.  
Anderson, IN 46013

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory  
200 W 53rd St  
Anderson, IN 46013  
(765) 649-5255  
info@loosecares.com

## Service

DEC 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory  
200 W 53rd St  
Anderson, IN 46013  
(765) 649-5255  
info@loosecares.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Loose Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Lee Erskine*



---

**Loose Funeral Home** - December 04, 2023 at 11:03 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about jimmy*

---

**vicki whited** - December 05, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ *54 files added to the album Life Tributes*



---

**Loose Funeral Home** - December 05, 2023 at 10:59 AM

DV

“ To the Erskine family - We are saddened to learn of Jimmy's passing and offer our sincere condolences in this time of grief. Illness keeps us from attending his service, but please know our hearts are with you as you honor his lifetime of contributions to humankind.

---

**Doug & Melanie Vermillion** - December 05, 2023 at 07:48 AM

PW

“ We are so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. He will be sorely missed. So sorry we can't make it to the funeral. Paul has tested positive for covid. He are stuck here at home, not going anywhere. Bless you all and please accept our sincere condolences. We know how much you must be missing Jimmy. We loved your pictures of him that you posted. God be with you all.  
Paul Gray and Shannon Wood

---

**Paul Gray, Shannon Wood** - December 04, 2023 at 08:04 PM

MG

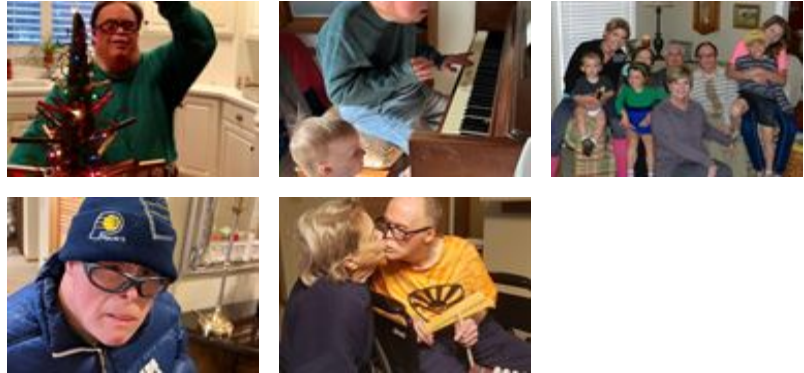
I was so saddened to learn of Jimmy's passing. He brought so much to the world and was a great Special Olympics Ambassador.  
“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”  
Fly high, Jimmy! You've earned your GOLD 🏆❤️

---

**Martha Green** - December 04, 2023 at 08:52 PM



“ 127 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Loose Funeral Home - December 04, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Lee Erskine.

December 03, 2023 at 10:31 PM



“ Carl and Betty we are so sorry for your loss, prayers to all of you.

*The Eliserio family*

tammy eliserio boyer - December 03, 2023 at 01:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Lee Erskine.



December 02, 2023 at 02:04 PM

JS

“ Jimmy was a good friend of mine,, I did Special Olympics with JIMMY. Jimmy is with God. I will miss my friend Jimmy. Love Jane Shaw

Jane Shaw - December 01, 2023 at 08:05 PM

TK

“ The Ketner's (Karen, Lisa, Jay, Kristin) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Erskine.

The Ketner's (Karen, Lisa, Jay, Kristin) - December 01, 2023 at 09:49 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Lee Erskine.



December 01, 2023 at 09:49 AM

LK

“ To Jimmy,  
Thank you for the countless memories of playing on your swing set in the backyard, watching TV in your family room, babysitting, and, of course, vacuuming our living room. :) You are a beautiful soul who deserves his place alongside our Lord.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erskine,  
Thank you for showing us all what limitless love really means. We can only hope to live up to your example. We were so blessed to have you as our neighbors and friends for so many years.

With all our love and friendship, in this life and the next,  
The Ketner Family (Karen, Lisa, Jay, and Kristin)

---

**Lisa Ketner** - December 01, 2023 at 09:41 AM



Jimmy, you were a part of our gang growing up - you were our brother. I'll never forget playing on Tenth Street with you....riding on our go carts, you zooming down the street on your bike just after a snow and ice storm :). Jimmy, you were so much a part of the fabric of our childhoods and we are so grateful and are so better off for having known you. You blessed us! We love you!

---

**Kristin Ketner Pak** - December 05, 2023 at 06:19 PM

BT

“ Bob Hittle and Laura Lee Thomas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Erskine.

---

**Bob Hittle and Laura Lee Thomas** - November 29, 2023 at 07:32 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Lee Erskine.*



---

November 29, 2023 at 07:32 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Lee Erskine.*



---

November 29, 2023 at 07:14 PM



“ *Jimmy's compassion and love for everyone changed the way I walk through the world. I was with him one night cooking dinner for him. I got his meatloaf all heated up and sat him down. Then I went to heat up my dinner. I told jimmy to go ahead and eat. But he just sat there. My dinner was heated up and I stood across from him. I asked What's matter Jimmy? are you not hungry? He reached over and grabbed my hand and started praying for us and our food. That simple act of kindness changed my whole day. Everytime I came over and went out to taco bell with him. He was sure to wait for me. He didn't know what that meant to a woman who is a caretaker and putting everyone else first. He took the time to eat with me.*

---

**casey** - November 29, 2023 at 05:39 PM

JH

“ Jimmy such a dear one! I always loved his exuberance for music and the fun we had sharing music. His desire for a new/ different keyboard was always a joy and his times he would come into the radio station with Carl on Saturday mornings with John Gunter and myself at our little bit country morning show was always a treat, and from those visits came the idea for little bit country jamboree for special Olympics. Jimmy did so much for the community and special Olympics. We all need to love like Jimmy!  
Rest Pal. You are loved!

---

**Jeff Hardin** - November 29, 2023 at 04:05 PM