



Dr. Jay H. Jones

August 7, 1961 - September 6, 2020

Jay Hutchinson Jones, age 59, passed away on September 6th 2020 at Munson's Hospice House in Traverse City, Michigan.

Born August 7, 1961 in Detroit, Michigan to Mike and Judy (Bates) Jones, he grew up in Ypsilanti and Milan Michigan alongside his brother Kyle. Jay attended Eastern Michigan University on swimming and academic scholarships and Wayne State University for medical school. He was a well-decorated collegiate swimmer, and at one time he was in the top ten fastest swimmers in the United States for the 200 meter butterfly.

Jay married Jill Fenton on May 3, 1986 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Together they raised two wonderful children, Emily and Carter.

Jay graduated from medical school in 1987, then residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 1991. Jay and Jill then moved to Traverse City where he practiced medicine for the rest of his life, first in group practice and then in a private practice. He was also an adjunct professor at Michigan State University. Jay ended his career back in a group practice at the Munson Pain Clinic before he retired in September, 2019.

He enjoyed playing harmonica and guitar, being on the praise team at First Congregational Church, swimming, golfing, fishing, flying his drones, playing pinball, and reading fantasy novels on his hammock.

Family was Jay's top priority in life. He loved his "6" (Jill, Emily, Andy, Carter, Laura and Tessa) with all his heart and would do anything he could for them.

Jay had a number of friends he kept in touch with from his swimming days, medical school, church, and hobbies; He was cherished by many.

Jay leaves behind his beloved wife, Jill Fenton-Jones, children Emily (Andy) Petran and Carter (Laura) Jones, granddaughter Tessa Jones (born July 2020), brother Kyle (Merri Lee) Jones, Mother-in-law Victoria Fenton, brothers-in-law Jim (Jane) Fenton, and Scott (Nora Webber) Fenton, nephews Justin (Madison) Fenton and Max Fenton, and nieces Sonja Fenton, Aubrey Fenton, Collette Fenton, Clara Jones, and Meg Jones, as well as many friends.

Jay was preceded in death by his mother Judy, father Mike, and father-in-law Jim.

The memorial service celebrating Jay's life will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 2:00 pm at the First Congregational Church. Seating will begin at 1:30 pm.

Please remember to bring and wear your masks. The family respectfully asks for no handshakes or hugs. Capacity of the Church is limited to 200 people. If you live in another state or are immunocompromised please watch the livestream of the service.

Watch the livestream here - <https://vimeo.com/455962809>

In Lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to Munson Hospice House at 450 Brook Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Events

SEP **Seating to begin due to COVID** 01:30PM - 02:00PM

19

First Congregational Church

6105 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

SEP **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

19

First Congregational Church

6105 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ I was lucky enough to have first been introduced to Jay during one summer between college semesters. I recall playing in a pickup baseball game that I'm sure Jay had a huge part in organizing given his enthusiastic love of life. Jay had a cannon for an arm and could throw a ball from the outfield to home plate on the fly with effortless ease! While batting in this game, Jay hit a laser of a line drive right off the girl's thigh who was pitching. He immediately dropped the bat, called himself out and tended to her injury. I didn't know at the time that I was a witness to the man who would later become the compassionate, caring physician that all of us knew. Rest in peace Jay and much love to all his friends and family.
Chris 'Hank' Andrews

Chris Andrews - September 19 at 09:52 PM



“ "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3

Jay was a friend to everyone and one of the most genuine people I have ever known. In high school he was in almost all of my classes--and made the day a little brighter.
-Sherri Couch

Sherri Couch - September 19 at 05:32 PM



“ Jay lived his life well! He was a dedicated athlete and scholar!
In high school I marveled at and was inspired by his commitment and discipline as a swimmer!
He was easy to talk to and laugh with...authentic and real! No cover up.
I am saddened by his passing and can only share one of my favorite scriptures from the book of Revelation: 21: 4-5 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.....I am making everything new...
My family will be lifting up your family in prayer! In Jesus name!
Scott Staulter.... Class of '79

Scott Staulter - September 19 at 06:26 PM



“ Jill I was unable to come to Jay's memorial service but watched on line. What an amazing tribute to an amazing man. I always remember Jay as the guy who saved my Canadian camping trip. He saw me last minute for hip pain. He was the only doc who was ever able to calm that pain down. Due to him I had a wonderful trip to the Maritime Provinces.

I know Pete enjoyed getting to know him more these past few months. He will be missed in their men's group.

Blessings to you and your family. I hope you find peace and comfort during this very hard time.

Barbara Springsteen - September 19 at 04:07 PM



“ Jay you WERE poetry in life. You will be dearly missed. I'm sorry David and I couldn't be there today because we had a covid exposure this week...but we were watching it all online. Beautiful service and stories and music (hail Neil Young) and YOUR recordings and photos...we wept and smiled and prayed along with your loved ones. I will never forget all Jay did for others. Love you so much Jill, Emily and Carter.

Leslie and Dave Heimburger - September 19 at 04:20 PM



“ Sue and I are so sorry for the loss shared by Jay's family And friends. It was my privilege to play with Jay for a few years on the worship team at First Congregational. He was a devoted teammate..kind, humble, funny, generous, hardworking and always a joy to be around. Jay was also serious about his faith in Jesus Christ. As one who devoted his professional life to alleviating the pain of others, it's great to know he's now in a place where those skills will not be needed. I gratefully look forward to our next meeting.

Dave Anderson - September 19 at 11:48 AM



“ I send a heartfelt message from the entire Kolon family (5 of us were swimmers). We met Jay, Kyle and Judy through his dad, Mike Jones, who was our swim coach at Plum Hollow in Southfield, MI. Jay and I were in the same age group and both swam butterfly. We also shared a fleeting crush on each other; I remember fondly the year we both won our individual events was also the year we won the club championship, and for that win, the two widest grins on the pool deck belonged to Jay and Mr. Jones. Jay was a good friend to me. I believe those formative years influenced our family in immeasurable ways and we have often reflected on those times with fondness and good fortune. Please accept our condolences and know the positive affect that Jay and your family has had on us.

Susan Kolon Rachlis

Susan Kolon - September 18 at 12:21 PM



“ Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your dear loved one.

I feel privileged to have had the chance to befriend Jay so many years ago. Jay was my partner on the middle of the ball field, him at Short Stop and me at Second. I

loved shooting the breeze with him in the dugout, on the team bus or just about anywhere. Jay's quirky sense of humor and insights were hilarious and riveting.

I always knew Jay was special and would go far.

With much sadness but also special loving memories,

Bruce Ludwig
Kirkland, WA
Milan High School class of '79

Bruce Ludwig - September 16 at 06:15 PM



“ We knew Jay and the Jones family so long, I can't remember meeting them for the first time. I'm guessing it was around 1968-69. We lived in the same neighborhood in Ypsilanti and then both families moved to Milan for our high school years. The kids and the parents got along so well, they were truly close family friends. Jay was funny, upbeat, always looking for the positive in people. As young kids, we all swam for Chippewa. I tolerated swimming, Jay excelled. He had records still on the board when I took my kids there many years later. He was academically advanced from the beginning. We were once paired up in elementary school for an astronomy report. As the lesser student, Jay let me transcribe while he changed the wording so we wouldn't be plagiarizing. Glad he thought of that, I didn't! At Milan High School, he also was our baseball varsity short stop and a great hitter. He was one of the best athletes ever to come out of Milan High. Regretfully, I only saw him a few times after HS but I'd get updates and was not surprised when I heard he was going to med school, starting practice in Traverse, etc. Jay's passing was very tough news for my family and our Milan '79 class. He was a great guy, truly unique, with an outstanding family. RIP Jay

Steve Barnes & Family

Steve Barnes - September 15 at 09:52 PM



“ Jay was a Titan who lived among us. He's been a part of my life for over 40 years. We met as high school athletes who played golf, swam, and played baseball (different high schools). Our friendship grew deeper as we enrolled in EMU the same year. A few years later he hired me to work at Travis Pointe CC (where I also had the good fortune to become pals with Jill) and the bond increased. We've been lucky to have been in a stable group of friends (ASW) ever since even though all of our lives grew in different directions.

Jay could hit a golf ball a country mile. Big hitter. He was the champion butterflyer on every swim team he was a part of. In baseball, he had a rocket arm that we all envied and was, of course, the star shortstop. A Titan. When you really got to know,

Jay, though, you learned that his true strength was in his incredible, curious, brilliant mind and his Titan-sized, caring heart. I've had hundreds and hundreds of interactions with Jay and I came away from every one of them standing a little taller and feeling at least a bit better about myself. He had that power, it was magical in its effect and he shared it freely.

As much as my heart aches for the loss of my dear friend, it goes out to Jill and the rest of his family who love him so. I think it was appropriate that Jay moved up to Northern Michigan many years ago as the man he has been and life he has led has been my "true North" for many years and will remain so. Love you, Jaybird.

Cory Bergen - September 15 at 09:05 PM



“ Jay was a great friend to me and played a huge part in making me feel welcome at ASW. His upbeat attitude and sense of humor were contagious and it was hard not to laugh when he was around. I'll especially miss hearing his stories and listening to him play the guitar/harmonica. Sending love and my best wishes to the Jay's family and friends.

Michael Chestnut - September 15 at 07:27 PM



“ Dr Jones treated his patients with kindness and compassion. When he learned there was a need for lymphedema awareness in our community, he supported the patient network and shared new treatment options with his colleagues. May his family find comfort in knowing that everything he did to improve the quality of life for so many will never be forgotten. My condolences to the Jones Family.

Nancy Winters - September 15 at 06:17 PM



“ Dear Jill and famil,
I am sorry to read of, your husband, Dr Jones, to me.passing. He was a great doctor for me and my MS. He was the one who encouraged me to continue my exercise program, got me to use Botox for my muscle spasms. He was always upbeat about my condition and always had a smile on his face. You should always be proud of how he treated his patients. I am sorry that you didn't have the many years of joy with him hat you had hoped for. He was a great Dr.and will be missed.
Sincerely, Roz Nadeau

Rosalind A. Nadeau - September 15 at 06:16 PM



“ Jay was a great friend. He'll be sorely missed. All Sports Weekend will never be the same. Jay always had a kind word or a compliment for you. You just loved being around him. My best to all his family and friends. We are all better for having known Jay.

Ray Macika - September 15 at 02:01 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Memories Album



Ray Macika - September 15 at 01:50 PM



“ I was most saddened to hear about Jay's passing. We were one time housemates during our medical school years, and I shall always remember this as one of the most best times in my life. Jay's personality and relaxed demeanor during this busy time in our lives was not only enjoyable to the rest of us, but was probably therapeutic to someone like me who needed that in his life. I remember that time fondly of living together in a Dearborn, and going to many a Tigers game during the World Series Championship Season of 1984. Jay helped organize our lottery requests for Series tickets, and we were all fortunate enough to receive some. In my mind, Jay was a class act all around, with a disarming smile that would be infectious to anyone he came in contact with. I know it was for me. He was full of life and personality. His Jay-ism lines such as "tuning your melon" (when bumping your head playing sports) stayed with me thereafter, even being recited by me during my own children's sports exchanges. I graduated from medical school a year before Jay, and after moving away, I lost touch in the years that followed. Of that, I have much regret. To Jay and his family, I offer my deepest condolences, as I do to all who knew him and loved him. May your memories be everlasting.

Steve Ajluni

steven ajluni - September 14 at 06:07 AM



“ Dr Jones was a wonderful physician and very caring human being. He was one of the first physicians in TC to acknowledge patients with lymphedema and actively participated in the care. As a nurse, I found him to be open to new concepts and ideas. As daughter, I watched as he cared for my Mom, who had complications of

Alheimers, as if she was a member of his family. He will be missed by so many.
Condolences to the Jones Family.

Jane Rolf - September 14 at 01:20 AM



“ Jay was in our youth group at Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan along with Kyle. Ken and I always really enjoyed both boys as they were very happy, fun-loving and respectful young men. We all had some wonderful times at meetings, retreats, and community activities
It is not a surprise to us that Jay became such a compassionate, uplifting and capable doctor. His patients were certainly blessed to have been cared for by Dr. Jay. We are so proud to have known him as he was growing up and to see how he developed into such an amazing man.
Our memories of Jay will be close to our hearts forever. May God bless your family, Jay, as you guide them from above.
Love you bunches,
Ken and Carole London

Carole London - September 13 at 10:00 PM



“ I, too, was surprised and deeply saddened by Jay's untimely early death. I was Jay's Biology teacher at MHS. He made my classes 'buzz' with his great sense of humor, intellect, and love of discussion for depth. He was especially loved by a most unusually bright, curious, and discussing group of classmates...pure joy for me. Jay was never absent, except for one day, that is embedded in my memory. As I was finishing taking roll, a classmate stated, with surprise and loudly, "Hey, Jay is absent, we can't have that"! Then, in unison, all classmates grabbed all of their books, etc., got up, and piled them all on Jay's chair seat, and on the floor around his chair (to represent Jay's usual array of books carried with him to class, daily). I laughed so hard, along with the students, that I bent over my lab desk vibrating in "ha-has"! They all went back to their seats, and we had a most lively session (as usual), with the day's material.

Jay and his classmates were very special, bright, curious, fun, and made my teaching them a delight. He was loved by all of his classmates and was their favorite.

We (wife Linda and I) offer our sympathies and condolences. It is hoped that Jay's wonderful persona, in memories, will lighten your grief with the joy the he brought to life.

Sincerely,

John and Linda Petrie

John Petrie - September 13 at 01:27 PM



“ I am saddened to learn of Jays passing. My condolences to Jill, Kyle and their families.
I have a memory, albeit a bit foggy given we were kids at the time, of Thanksgiving dinners together. Aunt Judy and Uncle Mike had a nickname for Jay, Jaybird. Have a restful flight Jaybird

Rick Streby - September 13 at 12:00 PM



“ I offer my deepest condolences for the Family of Dr. Jay. He was my Physician for many years, and what I remember most of him is how he made my heart feel better, as well as my physical issues. He became a great friend. My family and I will always remember that he cared about all of us, and we will miss him. God’s Speed Doc.

Beth Elliott Karns - September 13 at 11:39 AM



“ Dr. Jones was one of the best doctors I ever worked with, we referred patients to each other often and he helped me and my son with some pain issues over the years. His compassion and gentleness were always present and amazing. He will dearly be missed. Condolences to Jill and his family.

Laura Dale Laubhan - September 13 at 08:55 AM



“ In so many words, Dr. Jones saved my life! Being a long time chronic pain sufferer, I was running out of answers from questioning Dr.s of the past as to what and why my back pain persists. With many injections, prayers and deep conversation, Dr. Jones took the time to be in tune with me! Countless office visits included laugh's and tears! He was a one-of-a-kind Dr. and person.
There are not enough "Thank you's" in the world for the gratitude felt for all Dr. Jones did for me physically and mentally. At the end of each appointment came 2 words that I still hear him say; Most Welcome!

Charlie Wyckoff - September 13 at 07:53 AM



“ I knew Jay as a leader in Teen Community Bible Study and on Sundays as he led us in contemporary worship at FCC. (Loved his harmonica playing!) He provided a great example of how to serve the Lord... Now he is rejoicing in His presence! Russ and I send our deepest sympathies to Jill and the entire family.

Sally Miller - September 12 at 01:53 PM



“ Jay brought caring and comfort to so many he served. Many of the patients he treated have expressed how much they valued him.

Julie Smith - September 12 at 07:51 AM



“ Our family had a cottage in Oscoda just a couple of doors down from the Jones family. My brother and I were younger than both Kyle and Jay and I know for a fact, they were older and WAY cooler than I was. They made up games like "Bolf" and never made me feel anything other than good about myself. I think I got some of my love of reading fantasy novels from the entire family including Jay (turned me onto the Sword of Shannarah). The last memory was one as an adult. My wife Linda, my Father in Law Henry were on the Vasa trail and we ran into Jay. Henry asked what Jay did, and he said "I work at the medical center". Always humble and seemingly comfortable in his own skin. We have a candle lit in New Hampshire tonight for all the memories of Jay and the entire Jones family in Oscoda.

Mark Fisher - September 11 at 05:57 PM



“ I graduated with Jay from Milan High School in 1979. Jay, his brother Kyle, and their parents were always kind and gracious to me during my high school years. I had the pleasure of corresponding with Jay a few times over the years, and was pleased to hear of his vibrant faith. May God provide you with blessed consolation as you reflect on Jay's life of service.

Chuck Hartman

Charles Hartman - September 11 at 02:34 PM



“ He is truly one of the good guys. You will be missed Jay. My condolences to Jill and the family. You are in my prayers.

Robert Barger - September 11 at 10:09 AM



“ Jay was in my class in school in Milan, MI. He was definitely our class comic. He was also a great swimmer on our swim team. While we were not real close, I always thought of him as a great classmate. RIP my friend.

Julie Holmes - September 10 at 09:02 PM



“ I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Jay Jones. I was a patient of his for several years. He walked with me through one of the hardest times of my life. I will be forever grateful to him for helping me. Dr. Jones gave me my life back. May you Rest In Peace Dr. Jones. You will always be remembered by those you cared for.

Tina Davison - September 10 at 01:51 AM



“ Such a caring man. He enhanced many lives. God Bless Jay and his family.

crystal feeney - September 09 at 09:27 PM



“ Such a caring and down to earth physician. I remember how he would often pull out his harmonica during chart rounds for a tune. And we would celebrate another "rehab success story". So very sad and sorry for this loss.

Janet Wessels - September 09 at 07:37 PM



“ My sincere condolences to Jill and family. Many fond Rehab memories... his harmonica tunes, humor - reciting lines from Caddy Shack, taking time for prayer during stressful times. He touched many lives. I was blessed to know and work with him.

Diane Glowicki - September 09 at 10:05 PM



“ In the 26+ years Jay cared for us both physically and spiritually, he set all else aside when with us. He made us feel loved and thought about often. We will always think of him with utmost respect and we loved him as our own. His knowledge of the human body and the mind within it, was beyond supernatural. God gave him a gift of serving the broken. May we see you again Jay in the Kingdom to come. We pray that Jill and the children will have many arms around you in your grieving.

Tom and Jody Bambas

Jody Bambas - September 09 at 07:10 PM



“ I was fortunate to have worked with Dr. Jones as a nurse on the Rehab Unit. He was a kind man and a good doctor. Always a willing teacher. He truly cared about each patient and was willing to take the time to teach nurses about the different things going on with patients. I learned a lot from him. He has left this world a better place because he has lived. Now he walks with God.

Jeanette Lemcool - September 09 at 06:44 PM



“ I met Dr. Jones at Munson's inpatient rehab unit and enjoyed working with him for many years. I remember him as a kind man who was able to connect with people, making him a wonderful rehab physician. Sincere prayers for Jay's family at this time of great loss.

Laura Hayes - September 09 at 05:51 PM



“ Jill and family, so sorry for your loss.

Juanita Strait - September 09 at 04:09 PM



“ I first knew Dr Jones working as a nurse on Munson's Inpt Rehabilitation Unit. Loved his approach, patience, kindness, and time he spent with his patients. I was fortunate to work in the PM & R office a few yrs covering their nurses vacations and saw that same attentiveness & patience. When I became one of his patients I knew I was in good hands and thankful Dr Jones was a man of God. I have many memories, him talking me though injections, procedures, and pain. Would joke with him I always hurt a little more after an eval. The following is....Dr Jones squeezed me in on his lunch hour one particularly bad day for me. So much pain I asked a friend to drive me. After his assessment, test ordered, & discussion he said, "that's about all I can do except pray for you." Me, "please do." After handing some papers to the nurse he sat down in the chair next to mine. Asked if he could hold my hands while he prayed. As he prayed for me I felt his sincerity in his wishes for God's work with my physical ailments. When my husband got home from work I told him about the prayer and how Dr Jones prayed like a seasoned minister. After that Dr Jones prayed @ the start of my appointments asking God to guide him in his care of his sister in Christ. Oh there were the rare occasion we didn't pray. One time we didn't & he remembered right after leaving the exam room. He hurried down the hall saying "We forgot to pray." We prayed. I am so thankful he prayed for me & over me. I'm so thankful Dr Jones helped me through my health journey and I was able to witness his work with others. I am most thankful God sent my brother in Christ and shared Dr Jay with us.

Juanita Strait - September 09 at 03:57 PM



“ Juanita...this is such a lovely snapshot into how Jay was...thank you for taking the time to share these memories!

Lynne Severt - September 09 at 08:18 PM



“ I was honored to have worked as the office assistant for Dr. Jones in the Munson Professional Building for many years. Blessings to his family. '

Ann Reincke

Ann Reincke - September 12 at 09:37 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dana Wood Ladner - September 09 at 12:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dana Wood Ladner - September 09 at 11:30 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dana Wood Ladner - September 09 at 11:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album





Dana Wood Ladner - September 09 at 11:11 AM



“ I was fortunate enough to meet and work with Dr. Jones for about a year. He was a wonderful man who cared deeply about his patients. Every Friday at work he and I did a special, Happy Friday High Five. I feel lucky to have known him, and I'm grateful for the fond memories.

Jamie Stowe - September 09 at 11:04 AM



“ I'm so sorry for the loss of Jay. He was a wonderful person and friend. My heart goes out to Jill and family. I love all of you.

Dana Wood Ladner - September 09 at 11:04 AM



“ Jay was first and foremost a Christian brother, and then a great friend. Jay's compassion for his patients was always over the top, as he gave so much of himself to treating his patients in serious chronic pain.
Dr Jay Jones was an incredible clinician and the medical community has lost a great caregiver.
God speed my brother!

Jim Bolinski - September 09 at 10:51 AM



“ Dr. Jay Jones helped me when no one else would. He was compassionate, understanding, and knowledgeable. He treated me with respect. So many people I know have benefitted from knowing him. What a great loss.

Lija Ditmar - September 09 at 11:03 AM



“ The world is a better place because Jay was in it! We will miss you.
The Stych Family

peggy - September 09 at 10:34 AM



“ I started my career as a Physical Therapist in 2000. Jay is one of the physicians who significantly impacted me and the way I practice with his “pearls” of wisdom. I always appreciated his humor and caring nature. He will be missed, but he has also left a big impact on many people. My prayers for peace for Jill and the rest of his family.

Terri Waugh - September 09 at 10:04 AM



“ Thinking of the family & friends of Dr. Jones.
He was one of the good docs.
I'm glad our paths crossed.
Peace and love,
Susan Odgers

susan odgers - September 09 at 12:44 AM



“ I will remember Jay for his big smile, hardy laugh, goofiness, faith and friendship. Prayers to you all for peace and comfort. God bless your family. Rest in peace, Jay.
With love, Jo

Jo Peregrine - September 08 at 10:41 PM



“ I only met Jay a handful of times but he left an impression of sweetness, confidence, loving support of his family, humor, and genuine unfiltered joy. So sorry for your loss, Jones family. You're in my prayers for the God of all comfort to wrap you up in His arms.

Gretchen Palmer - September 08 at 09:22 PM