



James Poliziani

August 13, 1961 - July 2, 2022

James "Jay" John Poliziani Jr.

Born August 13, 1961, passed away July 2, 2022 after a short battle with melanoma. Born in West End Pittsburgh, Jay thrived in his beautiful home and community in Pittsburgh for the last 61 years. Jay was one of those rare individuals who truly lived out his values and ethics every day. Jay was committed to treading lightly on the earth. His backyard was a magical little Eden, overflowing with daises, lilies, and cone flowers, once filled with chickens, and often filled with friends. Jay loved all animals, although raccoons in his kitchen –not so much. Jay was a passionate advocate for the homeless, having served as the director of North Side Common Ministries for many years. Jay recognized the humanity and inherent dignity in each and every person; he faithfully attended the annual winter solstice service under the Fort Pitt Bridge in remembrance of those homeless who had died the previous year and always made sure the shelter maintained a Halal food pantry for its Somali community. He also worked at Goodwill over 30 years, first in placement services helping people with disabilities then moving on to various other programs enhancing many, many lives. For instance, he would help arrange for dances with his clients and create spectacular evenings for them. He made it so easy for volunteers to be a part of his helping communities and demonstrated, daily, how to pay kindness forward. He was embedded quietly but firmly in the LGBTQ community and worked subtly and

tirelessly for political rights, social progress, and equal justice. Jay had an uncanny ability to find all the fun, free happenings in the 'Burgh. He loved half-priced appetizers at happy hours, and adored musical theater, demonstrated by his season tickets to the Pittsburgh CLO. He was so brave and always truthful to himself and inspired many others to be their true selves. He received many honors and accolades for his tireless work and advocacy, but humble as he was, Jay avoided having his photo taken for any award. Jay preferred to work behind the scenes, bridging divisions and healing brokenness. He was a safe harbor; a source of comfort, love, and joy to all his many friends; and the dearest, gentlest, and most loyal friend. He leaves behind his beloved husband, Chaofan "Fan" Zhang, his son John, his brother Jeff and sister Jenny, along with cherished nephews and nieces, Gabe, Eli, Eden, Cassie, Abby and Alex. His parents, Jim and Carol Poliziani, predeceased him. Donations in Jay's name can be made to North Side Common Ministries or the Melanoma Research Foundation. A memorial service will be held on July 16th at 10 o'clock at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, with a luncheon following at the church. Please wear casual, happy clothing that will represent the joy that Jay had for life. Professional Services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville. www.dalessandrold.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **16**. 10:00 AM.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Tribute Wall



“ *James Poliziani*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Jay*



Chaofan Zhang - July 21, 2022 at 08:12 AM



“ *I met Jay a few years back while waiting for a bus "in the tressel" in Greenfield. We chatted a bit and then I saw him pretty frequently in the mornings for those rides until I realized we were neighbors. He is absolutely the person that every one of his friends and family have described him. Gentle natured, caring, a dedicated servant, and super warm and friendly. I send my condolences to his husband, his son and extended family. You were so blessed to have him, and know that his spirit will not be far from you. God bless.*
Debby Gibson

Debby Gibson - July 14, 2022 at 10:27 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Poliziani.*



July 08, 2022 at 11:55 PM



“ *Jay, John, Arthur and I would go to church together and then lunch every weekend while I Lived and worked in Pittsburgh over 20 years ago... I still keep strong memories of that sweet time, when our kids and us were best friends. Jay I have never forgotten you and never will. John, Arthur and I send you all our love from Brazil. Ana & Arthur Andrade*

Ana Andrade - July 08, 2022 at 11:36 PM



“ *With deepest sympathy.
Jay and Christine Kelly and family*

Jay Kelly - July 08, 2022 at 08:13 PM



“ *For quite a few years I would meet and greet my Wilkinsburg neighbor Jay with his son John walking to the busway, and then occasionally at our church in East Liberty (ELPC). It was always obvious that he was a loving father to his son. Later I learned of his work at North Side Community Ministry and read of his important work there. Thank you, Jay! May you enjoy eternal peace. Carla Depperman*

Carla Deane Depperman - July 08, 2022 at 05:44 PM

LP

“ It was heartbreaking to hear the sad news that you are gone Jay. You gave so selflessly to help others in need. You had such a kind heart & were definitely one in a million. And what an amazing dad to John. I pray your luminous spirit lives on in all those blessed to have known you. Fly high with the Angels now Jay & Rest In Peace. Larry Pollastrini

Larry Pollastrini - July 05, 2022 at 09:44 PM

DK

“ It might be ten years since I've seen Jay while working at Goodwill together, but I feel this loss deeply. He was the sort of person you wanted to keep around because you know he'd be doing something good, for someone, somewhere and just sending positivity and good vibes into the stratosphere. He was immensely dedicated to service, strong willed, kind and generous. You felt his warmth the moment he said, 'hello'. The Earth lost a beacon of hope and positivity when he passed. Sending strength to his family and friends. I'm so sorry. Sincerely, Danielle (Blanchard) Krane

Danielle Krane - July 05, 2022 at 02:53 PM

CZ

“ 1 file added to the album Jay



Chaofan Zhang - July 05, 2022 at 08:47 AM