



## James Richard Cavanaugh

November 12, 1960 - February 2, 2025

Jim Cavanaugh: to put it quite simply, to know him was to love him.

James Richard Cavanaugh Jr. was born in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania on November 12, 1960, thus beginning his unwavering devotion to his beloved Steelers, Pirates and Penguins teams, as well as Pitt, Penn State and, later, The Tennessee Vols. He was tiny when he came into this world, but he made up for that quickly with a huge personality. He lit up every room that he walked into!

Because our family moved, Jim started his academic career in Bether Park PA, but ended it in Knoxville, TN. Jim graduated from Farragut High School in 1979 and then attended The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Jim carried his love of all things Pittsburgh and The Great Smokey Mountains with him for his entire life.

Jimmy has many friends and family all over the USA: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Georgia, West Virginia, Delaware, Florida and California. He especially loved the ocean and the mountains and would spend as much vacation time as he could in one of those two places.

Jim's love of sports is almost legendary! Jim was a sports fanatic from a very early age playing baseball, football and hockey as soon as he could hold the

bat, ball or stick. Anyone who knew him was undoubtedly familiar with “the great sports shrine” that he had erected in his home. On game day, he would arrange all his memorabilia in a very particular way, and no one could move anything until after the game. Woe to anyone bringing bad “juju” into his place on game day, he’d send them packing! Jimmy’s wardrobe was made up of mostly of sports jerseys, sweatshirts, jackets, branded socks, and his famous “Jesus Sandals”! His beloved Steelers featured most prominently. If you were a Steelers fan you were aces with him, if not, you were tolerated (unless of course you were a Ravens or Browns fan)

Jimmy was a proud member of the Stagehand’s Union Local 12 since 2008. He made lifetime friends within its ranks and always spoke fondly of all his union brothers and sisters.

Jim was preceded in death by his loving parents, James R. Cavanaugh Sr. and Joann McFadden Cavanaugh. Jim is survived by the following family members; sisters, Terri Cavanaugh-Dayton (husband Charles), Michel Ward (husband David), Lisa Cavanaugh; brother, Nathan Cavanaugh; nephews, James Ward, Joseph Ward and Dylan Dayton; nieces, Sarah Palmisano and Emily Botvinnik; great nephew, Ben; great nieces, Caitlin and Harper; aunts, Kathleen Cavanaugh, Glenda Fleeger, and Angie Yohe (husband Jim); uncles, Joseph Cavanaugh and Jack Vogler; 1st cousins, Ellen, John, Diane, Valerie, Jeff, Malene, Doug, Scott, Michael, Frances, Jeannie, Daniel, Andrea, Beth and Christopher.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no funeral. However, the family will have a “Celebration of Life” in the spring when the weather is more hospitable. For information regarding the time and place please check his page here.

Memorial donations can be made in Jim’s name to Cozy Cat Cottage adoption

Center <https://www.cozycatcottage.org> , memorial tribute tab or The Great  
Smokey Mountains National Park <https://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/donate.htm>  
, donate tab.

# Tribute Wall

GE

“ I was the person that got him into stagehand concert business; with Chucko at Polaris and Nationwide, then the Schottenstein center and later IATSE local 12, if it was in Columbus, from Rock on the Range to GCCC, we did it all. One of the only people in C-BUS that I could count on! Jimmy is on his way across the rainbow bridge to join DETROIT MATTI...PEACE OUT my brother from another mother; The LORD is WAITIN for YOU!! Gordo

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**Gordon Edford** - February 13, 2025 at 08:46 PM

SW

“ My Uncle Jim was one of the most fun people I've ever been blessed to have in my life. He always made us laugh when we were little. I'm not athletically inclined or interested myself, but we did bond over music. Everything from loud, fast rock to high school musical, he always had fun stories about the behind the scenes world. Thanks for helping me get my Barbies out of their boxes on Christmas morning, Uncle Jim. 🕊️💖

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**Sarah Ward** - February 13, 2025 at 12:13 PM

DW

“ The first sentence above accurately describes Jimmy, who couldn't love him. He would invite folks over to play friendly games of poker. He would entertain us with stories and his wit, he was a very entertaining man. I was stunned when I heard of his passing, it came as a complete surprise. I am so sorry for his family and friends and extend my most sincere condolences. To know Jimmy was to love Jimmy!

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**Don Writesel** - February 13, 2025 at 02:12 AM

JA

“ My husband and I loved Jimmy. We always looked forward to being with him at the Christmas parties or any other time together. He always gave us the biggest hugs and the sweetest smiles. He surely will be missed, but remembered with much love. Fly high Jimmy. ❤️

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**Joy & Jim Angus** - February 12, 2025 at 10:15 PM

DW

“ Jimmy C. always wore a smile. He was a hard working man. He will be sadly missed. Rest In Peace, my friend.

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**David Williard** - February 12, 2025 at 09:54 PM

RS

“ I loved Jimmy very much and truly considered him a member of my family. I've worked with him since the Polaris amphitheater days. I always said when I saw Jimmy on a call I knew it was going to be fun. I will miss him very much. I always called him my favorite Jimmy cavanaugh in the whole world and he would always laugh. and he always will be. Hugs and love to his family and friends. ❤️🙏  
He was truly one of a kind.

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**Rebecca Swartz** - February 12, 2025 at 09:11 PM

JA

“ Little Jimmy “ as my son Scotty always called him. Oh how we loved you!! My husband and I always looked forward to Christmas dinners or any excuse to be with him. He always gave me the biggest hugs and smiles. He will surely be missed, but always remembered with love and fond memories. Fly high “Little Jimmy “.

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**Joy & Jim Angus** - February 12, 2025 at 09:58 PM

TW

*He was my favorite Steelers fan!! ( I am a Brown's Fan) lol we got along since day one and until the end. Alot of years and memories!! If I got in the truck with him he would say "Rigger in the truck" and tell me to know my roll!!! Lol I told him I was there to make him shine but we all know he shined bigger than our full moon in August!! Rest Easy Sir. Love You Brother*

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**Tommy Ward** - February 12, 2025 at 11:25 PM

KC

*My sweet nephew Jim. Watching this little spark of life grow into the delicious man he did was something that made my heart smile. Full of energy, wit, stories, he was a delight to be with. He followed the Georgia Bulldogs and we'd connect on game days. It was fun sharing his undeniable excitement about everything sports. And was quite knowledgeable about sports. His parents would have been filled with pride and laughter at his grown up antics and selection of clothing style.*

*A cute, mischievous little boy who grew up to be a gentle, kind, funny man so full of life.*

*Rest in peace my Irish lad, you have left many happy memories for me to hold close to my heart where I will hold you. I love you Jim.*

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**Kathleen Cavanaugh** - February 14, 2025 at 12:12 AM