



# James Robert Eichorn

FEB 28, 1995 - DEC 22, 2022



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# James Robert Eichorn

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**J**ames Robert Eichorn, of Davidson, NC died on December 22, 2022 at home. James was the only child of Jonna and Rich Eichorn. He was born in Charlotte, NC on February 28, 1995. James Robert was named after his two grandfathers: James E. Rozzelle and Robert L. Eichorn. He was a beautiful blend of both men.

James Robert was such a happy baby who rarely cried and was always smiling. He was a pure joy and blessing to his parents. After five years in Huntersville, James Rob and his parents moved to Davidson to be closer to his grandmother “Mimi,” Judy (Julia) Rozzelle. Growing up in Davidson, he attended Davidson Elementary and Davidson IB Middle School. There were countless afternoons of playing on the Town Green, eating at the Soda Shop, and bike riding on the campus of Davidson College with his friends.

James Robert played for Davidson Youth Baseball for ten years. He was a member of the first DC Force team holding down first base and throwing his famous left-handed pitches. His love of the game and for his fellow players and coaches was contagious. Those days at McEver Fields were the best.

After one year at North Mecklenburg High School, James graduated in 2013 from W.A. Hough High School. While at Hough, he was a member of the JV and Varsity football teams playing on the offensive line and also the lacrosse team as a goalie. He loved being a part of those inaugural teams. He was a member of the DECA Club.

James Robert attended Appalachian State University and then Mitchell Community College where he received his Associate Degree. He then continued his studies at East Carolina University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in University Studies with a double minor in Psychology and Sociology. James is the eighth Pirate in our family.

James was a natural athlete but he was also a musician whose talent was discovered at a very young age. He took piano lessons for six years and then picked up the guitar and never looked back. His



## Obituary

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perfect pitch and ability to pick out a tune was a thrill to watch and listen to. In middle school he also played a mean trombone. Playing alongside his mom on the piano or with his guitar were the best of times. Music was always a part of his life and brought joy to so many people. Especially his momma.

James Robert's struggles with his mental health began when he was in high school. Those struggles led to self-medicating and drug addiction. He received inpatient and outpatient treatment at multiple centers and hospitals and after a diagnosis of Bipolar II disorder he finally had some context and understanding for his disease. James Rob's road to stronger mental health and recovery was hard, exhausting, scary, and frustrating. This year while at Jacob's Ladder at Brookside Farm in WV, he finally was able to escape the hurricane that was his life and found his peace. James accepted that he would be living with Bipolar II for the rest of his life. The connections and friendships he made at the Ladder were life changing and he was finally happy and learning how to live his life while continuing his recovery. He had future goals of getting his Masters in Social Work and then working in the mental health field helping others like he had been helped. But the disease of addiction had other plans.

James Rob leaves behind his parents, Jonna Rozzelle Eichorn and Richard H. Eichorn. They were his biggest supporters and his best friends. Every child needs a "Mimi" and James had the best in Judy (Julia) Rozzelle. Their bond was like no other. He was loved and cherished by his aunt and uncle, Ann Shepherd and James E. Rozzelle, and cousin, Josie Rozzelle. Being the youngest of 18 Eichorn grandchildren, he was blessed to have many aunts and uncles: Kathleen Williams; Lawrence and Mary Pat Eichorn; Pat and Andy Harasim; Jane and Jack Harrison; and Kay Eichorn. He was loved by his cousins: Frank Williams (Melissa); Regina Roderick (Kip); Emma Cole (Tom); Rich Williams (Andrea); Tricia Mason (Dave); Megs Thaman (Kyle); Stephen Harasim (Katie); Mary Anne DeHart (David); Katie Johnson (Clay); Jean Huff (Michael); Megan Smith (Austin); Jackie Bettis (Barry); Colleen Walker (Jacob); Joseph Eichorn (Chelsea); Betsy Falls (Matt); Robby Eichorn; and Ben Eichorn. He is also survived by the 21 children of his cousins. James Robert was cherished by his great aunts and uncles: Ron Rozzelle and Rosa Patton; Davy and Sandra Crockett. And also, many second cousins who he adored and looked up to. Tim, Shaun, Grace, and Lucas Jayne were a second family for James Rob and will miss him very much.

James Robert was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert and Elizabeth Eichorn and James Rozzelle, and also by his uncles, Richard Williams, John Eichorn, and Robert Eichorn. The family has gained another angel in heaven to watch over them.



## Obituary

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A celebration of James Robert's life will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2:00 p.m. at Davidson United Methodist Church, 233 S. Main St., Davidson, NC with a reception to follow at Oak Street Mill Events, 19725 Oak St., Unit #3, Cornelius, NC. The service will be livestreamed at [www.davidsonumc.org/worship/livestream/](http://www.davidsonumc.org/worship/livestream/). A block of hotel rooms is available at the Homewood Suites in Davidson. The link to book is: [www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/jamesrobertmemorialservice/](http://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/jamesrobertmemorialservice/).

Memorials can be made to: FeedNC in Mooresville at [www.feednc.org/atthistable](http://www.feednc.org/atthistable); East Carolina University's Center for Counseling and Student Development at ECU's Center for Counseling and Student Development or <https://tinyurl.com/ycxwxx79> ; and Jacob's Ladder Assistance Fund at <https://jl-af.networkforgood.com/projects/63861-give-the-gift-of-recovery>.

The family would also like to give thanks to James Robert's many church families: Davidson United Methodist Church, Cornelius Presbyterian Church, St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, and The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Mt. Holly. He had a strong faith foundation on which he leaned on throughout his lifetime. James never doubted what his higher power was. And the family is forever grateful to the Town of Davidson Police and Fire Departments who cared for James Rob and always treated him with kindness, respect, and care. They took the time to understand his diseases and find him the help he needed at that moment.

If you or a loved one is struggling, reach out to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) for help at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or [www.SAMHSA.gov](http://www.SAMHSA.gov).

"Only when we are brave enough to explore our darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light" — Brené Brown

James Funeral Home, of Huntersville, is serving the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.




# Events


**James Robert Eichorn**

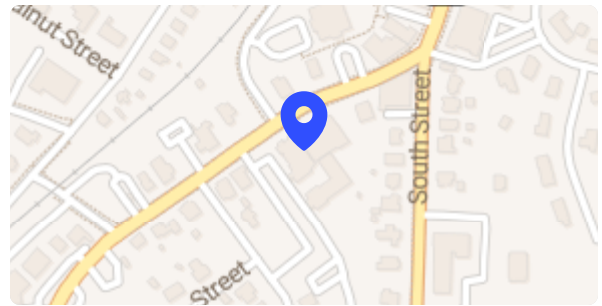
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## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, January 14, 2023

 2:00 PM ET

 **Davidson United Methodist Church**  
233 S. Main Street, Davidson NC 28036





## Tribute Wall

**James Robert Eichorn**

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**Kiya Bold** posted:

My note to James: I've attempted to write this message 39 times now – for the past 39 days. We held our first conversation over 2 years ago. I knew based off of your transparency that our meetings and discussions would be about the whole James Robert – and not just your academic pursuits. I am honored that I was chosen and blessed with the opportunity to serve as your Academic Advisor and to have interacted with you in this lifetime. Watching your celebration of life brought many smiles, laughs and tears. I wish you and your family peace and serenity in both this lifetime and the next. Mrs. Jonna's message to the University on your behalf is one that I will keep forever. Rest in paradise James Robert. My heart is with all of your family and friends. "....and I know my friends and family love me. God comforted me on the day of my distress ...."

February 1 at 11:06 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Eichorn family.



January 12 at 8:46 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Eichorn family.



January 12 at 9:21 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Eichorn family.



January 12 at 4:41 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Eichorn family.



January 12 at 2:15 AM



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**Betsy Kaufman** posted:

I remember your son as a little boy, full of life's excitements and wonder. I also remember your love that flowed freely as parents to your son. My heart breaks for you, as I send all my loving prayers to you and your family. With love, Betsy

January 7 at 9:57 AM



**Beth&John Wedgworth, Fairfield Glade, Tn** posted:

Jonna/Rich/Julia, we are so saddened to hear of James Robert's passing. It's hard to believe it's been so long since we were in Davidson and visited with you all. We remember James Robert as such a polite and smart young man! Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to your family.

January 6 at 6:09 PM



**Peggy Wike Harrison** posted:

We are so saddened by your loss. James struggle has ended and he is now in the hands of his Heavenly Father. Those we love don't go away they walk beside us everyday. Unseen,unheard, but always near,still loved, still missed,and very dear. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family . I know that James will be missed and loved forever.

January 4 at 10:26 AM



**And The Entire Single Group** sent a Lily and Rose Tribute Spray to the Eichorn family.

January 3 at 9:30 AM



**Will Kirkley** posted:

James was a good friend and like an older brother to me at App for many years. He always had my back, and always lent an ear. I remember how excited he was to get back into school at ECU. His sense of humor and blunt honesty will be missed. I know he was very proud of his family's heritage in Mecklenburg County and my prayers are to his folks. Miss you a lot buddy

January 1 at 2:13 PM



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MD

**Marilou Doughty** posted:

I am so deeply sorry to hear that you have lost your much loved son. My prayers go out to you. This is heartbreaking news. Lou Doughty

December 30 at 6:16 PM

SC

**Scott Champion** posted:

I am so sad to hear the news about James. I had the pleasure of coaching James on several DYBA teams. James was a great teammate and always had a smile to share. I remember James being focused on understanding the game of baseball and working hard to be the best player he could be. I had the fortune of coaching many young players for a number of years and James is one of the faces that always comes to mind when I reflect on those great experiences. My sincere condolences to the family for your loss. -Scott Champion

December 30 at 1:04 PM

PG

**Pete Griffith** posted:

I will always remember "Boomer" from our days at McEver Field and DYBA. He was a pleasure to coach and was a great teammate. I am sorry to hear about the challenges he faced as a young man but glad to hear he was never without the love and support of his family and friends. I hope he is at peace, and express my sincere condolences to the entire family for your loss. Sincerely, Pete Griffith

December 29 at 12:15 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Eichorn family.



December 24 at 7:08 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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