



James Michael Bryan

August 13, 1967 - December 31, 2020

James Michael Bryan, 53, of Southampton, a world champion arm wrestler who could bench 500 pounds, lost the biggest fight of his life on December 31st, 2020, against Covid. Jimmy passed away with his loving family by his side, at Our Lady of Lourdes in Camden, NJ.

Born in Woodbury, NJ, Jimmy grew up in Lumberton, NJ. He was a 1985 graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School and earned his bachelor's in criminal justice at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He joined the New Jersey State Police in 1987, moving up the ranks to Lieutenant, managing a private detective unit, and developing a certification program for the Security Officer Registration Act that would become the standard for all other such training programs, before retiring in 2012.

Jimmy had many passions beyond law enforcement. His passion for armwrestling and weight training began in 1998 and spanned twenty-two years. One of the top pullers in the northeast, he won dozens of tournaments including Northeast Armwrestling Challenge Titles, many Can-Am titles, AAA titles, and two World Armwrestling Federation World titles. His biggest armwrestling accomplishment was earned in 2005, when Jimmy won two world championships in Japan, competing both left- and right-handed. Voted AAA Armwrestler of the Year in 2006, his dedication surpassed competition; he was also a coach, a mentor, a referee, and a tournament director. His drive

to excel made him an expert in both armwrestling and weightlifting, and just three short weeks ago, he reached his personal goal in weightlifting, benching 500 pounds.

Jim's biggest passion, however, was spending time with his wife Brenda and daughters Kalyn and Casee; his "girls," whom he adored. A devoted husband, father, and friend, Jim is survived by his wife of 27 years, Brenda; two daughters: Kalyn (fiancé James) of Maryland and Casee of Southampton; his parents Joan & Jim Bryan of Milford, DE; his brother Michael (Theresa) Bryan of S. Dennis Township; his sister Lorraine (Marc) Levine of Boyton Beach, FL; his mother-in-law and father-in-law: Betty & Bill Phillips of Southampton and his father-in-law Gary (Nancy) Shettel; his brother-in-law Barry (Chris) Shettel of Lewisberry Pa; his brother-in-law Bill (Michelle) Widders, of Mechanicsburg, Pa; and many nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends who became family.

Though cut short, Jim's life was well-lived. He was a compassionate leader, well-known for being kind, funny, and humble, and for always reaching out to help people solve their problems and the problems of the world. Jimmy lived life to the fullest, and his memory will live on in the hearts and souls of those blessed by having known him. His favorite sayings will be remembered by many:

Go Big or Go Home

I'm Kinda A Big Deal

"I am not a man because I am a State Trooper, I am a State Trooper because I am a man, and I am so much more."

On December 31, 2020 we lost a beautiful man to Covid. James Michael Bryan known to all that love him as Jimmy. Jimmy touched many lives and left a huge void in our lives and our hearts. His celebration of life was delayed due

to the Covid restrictions. Friday, August 13, he would have been 54 years old. The family would like you to join them in a celebration of life at their home at 261 Red Lion Road, Southampton, NJ, 11:00 am. All are welcome especially his family, friends, state police family and arm wrestling community to share your love and honor for Jimmy, Brenda, Kalyn, and Casee Bryan. Additional parking available at the Red Lion Airport with shuttle service available. Close friends and family are welcome stay for a light lunch.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

AUG **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bryan Home
261 Red Lion Rd.
Southampton, NJ 08088

Tribute Wall



“ *James Michael Bryan*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *James Michael Bryan*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *I went to high-school with Jimmy--homeroom for 4 years. No matter who he associated with, he was always Jim Bryan. He was always very polite, sweet and a friend. There is never an answer to why the world frequently gets robbed of someone who has so much to contribute,....and taken so young. Put the MASK on everyone. Shirl Frazier Worobetz--Class of 1985*

Shirlee Frazier Worobetz - February 28, 2021 at 12:06 PM



“ *Jimmy Bryan was a great guy and fun to work with, my condolences to the Bryan family.*



Nicole Rura - January 22, 2021 at 07:27 AM

LM

“ We have such gratitude to Jim and Brenda for their coaching and mentoring with our children. So many good memories at the snack shack and eighth grade dinner dances! We've lost a good man.
Love, the McCardells

Linda McCardell - January 15, 2021 at 05:16 PM



“ Tree of Life Heirloom Urn Pendant was purchased for the family of James Michael Bryan.



January 12, 2021 at 01:43 PM

SB

“ Our hearts are so very sad for the Bryan family and our community lost a great man, Jim Bryan. Although our paths have not crossed socially in a long time, we will never forget what an awesome and fun guy Jim was. Jim was our daughters softball coach, mentor, teacher with so much patience. He taught our son when he was in 9th grade how to lift weights. Jim was there for every social gathering to support his daughters and always there to support our community. Our community, and friends have lost a great soul.

Thank you, Jim, for being that all around, genuine, great guy, who touched the hearts of many. Rest In Peace and God Bless you.

Sue and Don Butella

Sue Butella - January 11, 2021 at 12:35 PM



“ *Tear of Love Pendant was purchased for the family of James Michael Bryan.*



January 10, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ *Infinite Love Pendant was purchased for the family of James Michael Bryan.*



January 10, 2021 at 10:55 AM

DB

“ I met Jimmy B in the summer of 1973.. We were instant best friends and next door neighbors.. So many great memories.. His family was mine and vice versa..He was the brother I never had..The Lexington Ave boys.. I called him Jimmy B.. He called me Berm.. He was a friend you could always count on no matter what, something very rare. Even though in recent years I lived across the country, we knew that we were just a phone call away and we could catch up in minutes. It was an honor to know Jim Bryan. I know I am a better person and physician because of him. When my Mom died in 2011, he was at the funeral service. As he approached me, he could see that my knees were going to buckle.. He put his large arm around me and propped me up and said " I got you Berm". As I write this and my knees are about to buckle, all I can hear and see is Jimmy putting his big arm around me and saying " I got you Berm" I will miss you dearly my friend.

Dean Berman

Dean Berman - January 07, 2021 at 08:38 PM

WR

I'm with you Berm on Jim always being there. And the good times living on Lexington Ave during our childhood with Jim. It was always a big time with the Bryan's. More recently, Jim and I both retired from state service and I felt fortunate to have been able to share old and new memories with this man in a lifelong friendship that ended way to soon. The world was a brighter place with him, and I will always cherish my friendship with him.

Wayne Robbins - January 07, 2021 at 11:22 PM

MR

“ Jim was on my squad at Bellmawr Station...he was an outstanding trooper and a fun guy to be around. His State Police Family will sadly miss him. Rest in Peace my Friend

Michael Riggs #3445

Michael S RIGGS - January 07, 2021 at 07:30 PM

BS

“ My deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the Bryan family and all who knew and loved Jim. I will forever be grateful for having Jim and his family who opened their home to my son (Nate) and I so many years ago.

When my son lost his mother, Jim, Brenda and the girls were like a second family to us and provided a place of happiness in a time of sadness. Ours is just one of many stories of the same heartfelt kindness that Jim and his family provided to countless others. Even to this day I reinvasion working out with Jim every time a Linkin Park song is played., seems like that was the only CD Jim owned (□). Jim will forever be missed and remembered as an outstanding individual with a big heart.



Bob Strano - January 07, 2021 at 08:27 AM

CG

“ Dear Brenda and girls, my heart goes out to you at the loss of your husband and father. Prayers that you will find peace in your memories. Sincerely, Connie Heidingsfelder Gaumer



Connie Gaume - January 06, 2021 at 10:44 PM

KB

“ My deepest sympathy to Jim’s family. His armwrestling family will miss him and his huge presence he always brought

karen brisson - January 06, 2021 at 07:22 PM

JW

“ Our condolences to Jim’s wife & daughters and to the entire Bryan family.
Many memories have come back as I think of Jim, some funny, some sad, some change your life. For example, He was with me the very night I met my wife. I can still hear his booming voice call “WIGS” across the various bars we visited.
I know one day I’ll hear that voice again, until then Godspeed my friend!

Jim & Gigi Wigley

Jim Wigley - January 06, 2021 at 06:33 PM

AP

“ I will never forget Jim and the impact he had. The first time I met him was when my husband brought me to arm wrestling practice. Jim made me sign a waiver to participate and after one session, I was hooked! I loved the Team NJ group and everyone welcomed me into the "dungeon" with open arms (HUGE open arms). I remember Jim teaching me a few techniques and I was afraid to push too hard. Jim looked me in the eyes and said " I promise I wont break your arm" I laughed and then gave it my all. He didnt let me win, and I liked that about Jim, but he made sure i gave it my all! Jim made a huge impact on my husband life as well. As a mentor, as a friend, as a coach. He will forever be grateful for that. What an honor it was to have known such an amazing guy. Our hearts have truly felt the tremendous loss and ache for the family. Please know we are all thinking of you. Jim and the Lord will give you all the strength to continue on and live your life with his memory and spirit close by. - Alisa & Francis Pedersen



Alisa Pedersen - January 06, 2021 at 05:38 PM

AS

“ My condolences to the Bryan Family... May he Rest In Peace and may God provide his family strength.
Angela Susu

Angela Susu - January 06, 2021 at 05:34 PM

SC

“ Jim and I were friends for more years than I can remember. He was a very positive impact in my life and I only do I consider him my best friend but a brother. He will be sorely missed!

Stephen Carbone - January 06, 2021 at 05:31 PM

 Anna Eskin

“ He was an awesome first cousin. My memory of him will always be remembered. I pray for the whole Bryan family for their loss and the time spent with him a children will always be remembered. I will miss you Jimmy! Love Bunny Bryan-Eskin.

Anna Eskin - January 06, 2021 at 05:29 PM

MA

“ Condolences to the family. I was shocked to hear about Jim, he was such a strong person. Rest in peace, Jim, you will be missed.

Marteen - January 06, 2021 at 12:05 PM

HB

“ Condolences to the entire Bryan family from the RISC team. Jim was a fun, energetic, co-worker, always eager to get the job done. We wish you all well during this difficult time.

Holly Balogh - January 06, 2021 at 11:47 AM

DS

“ My deepest sympathies to all of the Bryan family. My memories of the Bryan's go back to the 1970's growing up across the street from them. Rest In Peace Jimmy.

Sincerely

Don Stellwag

Don Stellwag - January 06, 2021 at 10:01 AM

DP

Dear Jim and Joan, Our kids grow up together and Chad and I are so sorry to hear about Jim. God be with you all. Doris

Doris Prieat - January 07, 2021 at 04:20 PM

DS

On behalf of DDS, we want to send our sincere and heart felt condolences' and prayers to the entire Bryan family. Jim was a knowledgeable, positive and energetic piece of the industry innovation he helped provide. We always enjoyed his input and enthusiasm. May he rest in peace.

Dan Stevens - January 07, 2021 at 07:01 PM

PB

Dear Lorraine - we went through grade school together. I'm so sorry to hear about Jimmy. My sincere condolences to you and your family.

Paula Cavallero-Budden

Paula Budden - January 28, 2021 at 11:42 AM