



## James Michael Tiller

May 27, 1963 - August 23, 2023

### James M. Tiller Obituary

James Michael Tiller (age 60) died on August 23, 2023 at his home in Muscoda, Wisconsin. He died from respiratory distress due to Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy.

James was the sixth child of the eleven born to Donald R. Tiller and Dorothy O. (Gerken) Tiller. He was born in Dubuque, Iowa on May 27, 1963. Since early childhood and for most of his life, James lived in Madison, Wisconsin. Later he lived in Richland Center and then Muscoda.

Before becoming too disabled, James worked as a caregiver at several assisted living facilities in Madison. He also helped many people overcome their struggles with substance abuse.

James was a kind, sweet, generous and caring person. He loved classic Rock-n-Roll and Reggae music, all sorts of trivia, and was an avid sports fan. Some of his favorite recent activities were riding his wheelchair around town, watching television and reminiscing on his adventurous, sometimes mischievous, past. Having a great sense of humor, he loved telling jokes and funny stories. James was a loyal partner, friend, brother and son. He had a courageously positive outlook, especially considering his long-term debilitating Myotonic Dystrophy.

James is survived by his siblings: Carolyn Tiller (Rick Thiel), Denise Tiller (Paul Pisaniello), Margaret Kraege, John Tiller (Robyn Horrall-Tiller), Jane Hatzinger (Cary Hatzinger), Joseph Tiller (Laura Tiller), Mathew Tiller (Heather Tiller), and Jennifer Tiller (Mike Christan). Also, sixteen nieces and nephews, and four grand nieces and nephews. James was preceded in death by his parents: Donald R. Tiller, Dorothy O. (Gerken) Tiller; siblings: David G. Tiller, Mark D. Tiller, and his loving partner, Jessica Runstrom.

A celebration of James' life will be held at Elver Park in Madison, WI, on Sunday, September 24, 2023, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Association or Agrace Hospice.

[www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **24.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Elver Park  
1250 McKenna Blvd  
Madison, WI 53719

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ I remember James liking to go on little adventures. He loved seeing fireworks and I would get him and drive to the top of the hill at Olin Park and sit in the car to see the fireworks across the lake. A few times we went to the Harvest Moon Fest at Lake Farm Park. Going to see the Mad City Ski Team shows at Law Park was another annual favorite of ours. I'm glad he was usually up for doing the spur of the moment stuff with me. He even helped me with keeping needles threaded so I could tie the yarn knots for quilts. James seemed to remember everything and my memories with him bring me comfort.

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**Margie Kraege** - September 04, 2023 at 06:23 PM

SM

“ I am so sorry to James' surviving family for their loss, which sounds weird to me because I loved him like a brother. Dorothy always treated me like I was one of her kids, so I suppose it could be said that I am sorry for our loss. In the 40+years that I knew James we had a lot of fun together..Drinking pitchers at the memorial union &chasing girls..going to Badger football games and concerts..playing madden football as the packers and smoking the bears! Since I have been trucking we would talk on the phone until my ear would get sore from the headset. He was a good man. I have never had another friend like him in my life and I doubt I ever will again. I will miss you James, peace my brother.

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**Steve Moen** - September 04, 2023 at 05:08 PM

JT

“ James is in my earliest memories as he was my brother closest in age. We shared rooms growing up, James watching out for his little brother. We were almost always together as kids and always in close contact as we grew older. James and I were so different in many ways yet so close. I'm glad to have been in so many of the stories that he remembered in detail. And I will cherish all the memories of my brother James and appreciate that he was in my life.

John Tiller - September 04, 2023 at 03:47 PM

ST

“ Sending prayers for the repose of the soul of James Michael, and condolences to all the family and friends who are hurting without him here. I pray that you may be reunited again one day in Heaven. God bless. (From Stacy Blang, Pastorate XXII).

Stacy - August 27, 2023 at 02:12 PM

JD

I was fortunate to get to talk to James whenever I would call Dorothy. James would pick up the phone and in his very positive, cheerful way start a conversation. I always looked forward our few minutes together. Have not spoken to him since Dorothy passed, but still treasure my memories of James and how our conversations always left me feeling uplifted. Thank you James.

Jean Dolan - September 01, 2023 at 06:32 PM

MK

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Margie Kraege - September 03, 2023 at 05:54 PM

JT

*James is in my earliest memories as he was my brother closest in age. We shared rooms growing up, James watching out for his little brother. We were almost always together as kids and always in close contact as we grew older. James and I were so different in many ways yet so close. I'm very glad to have been in so many of the stories that he remembered in detail. And I will cherish all the memories of my brother James and appreciate that he was here in my life.*

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**John Tiller** - September 03, 2023 at 08:12 PM