



James "Jamie" Raymond Arfstrom

March 8, 1971 - June 25, 2025

Our hearts are shattered to say that our Lord came for James Raymond Arfstrom on June 25, 2025.

James "Jamie" was born on March 8, 1971, to the late Bonnie and Robert Arfstrom. At three years old, Jamie was diagnosed with autism – a challenging condition that renders one with myriad incapacities. Bonnie and Bob labored tirelessly to nurture Jamie into a life of social acceptability. Jamie developed into a very dear adult.

Teenagers drive at sixteen, yet the Arfstrom's were skeptical of Jamie achieving that skill; however, with the urging of his teacher, Jan Wilson-Sillers (recently deceased), who said, "He has the right to fail", which translated into giving him the opportunity to try. He worked hard and with assistance, passed the drivers test. Ironically, one of Jamie's favorite activities was adventuring out in his car. He especially enjoyed seeking out antique and thrift shops, searching for old books and videos of which he accumulated thousands. His favorite movies were The Little House on the Prairie series, because they were peaceful and taught Christian values.

Jamie's other enjoyments were meeting with male friends at McDonald's and gathering with family listening to stories of "yore". He astonished us with his incredible memory of recalling dates of events and even the clothing someone

had worn on an occasion.

Jamie was a gentle spirit. He belonged to the Central Methodist Church where he was an usher, he also attended the New Covenant Church. When diagnosed with Lymphoma, he told his dad that it was going to be a “great adventure”.

The Arfstrom’s insisted that Jamie contribute to his community in ways suitable to him, and so he volunteered at the Methodist and Covenant churches, Hospice House, the SAHS football games, and the Waterfront Place where he lived. He worked part-time at Arfstrom Pharmacy and assisted his family with chores during the summer.

We have not included the word “love” in this eulogy as in, “Jamie loved this or Jamie loved that”, because we wanted the word to define Jamie’s most precious loves in his life, and those would be his love for his Lord, his earthly father, Bob Arfstrom, and his sister, Mary. Near his end, he said “I am not afraid to die, Dad”. So, as we write, we know Jamie is enfolded in God’s arms, as an innocent child sent to Earth to show us His mysterious ways which we should not question.

Jamie was predeceased by his mother, Bonnie Fyvie-Arfstrom; paternal grandparents, Raymond and Ida Arfstrom; maternal grandparents, Dr. James and Vesta Fyvie; aunts and husbands, Virginia and Leonard Tafelsky, Donna and John Williams; and his cousin, Robbie Detwiler.

Surviving Jamie are his father, Robert Arfstrom; sister, Mary Arfstrom; angel caretaker, Marla Nayback; and dear friend, Sharyn. He is also leaving behind cousins, Michelle, Steven, Deborah; and second cousins, Jennifer, Kelly, Lindsey, Aaron, Carly, and Erica. He also leaves many special friends.

Services for Jamie will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at Central United Methodist Church on Spruce Street. Visitation will be from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM followed by the Memorial Service at 11:00 AM. Memorials may be given in Jamie's honor to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JUL 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Central United Methodist Church
111 E. Spruce Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Memorial Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central United Methodist Church
111 E. Spruce Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Tribute Wall

CB

“ We are so saddened by the loss of Jamie. We have so many fond memories of him stopping his yard work as the girls ran over to say hello. Often we would be pulling in to the drive and the girls would yell “Jamie’s here!” With such excitement. Or seeing him at all the sporting events would bring such joy. We were so blessed to have him as a wonderful neighbor. We love him dearly and he will forever be in our hearts. Bob, we are holding you too in our prayers and thoughts and sending so much love from Chicago

Colleen Beazleg - July 08, 2025 at 09:28 AM

GJ

“ Dear Bob,
We were so sorry to learn of Jamie's passing. We hope you find comfort in wonderful memories and in the knowledge that you raised a wonderful son. Gary and Maggie Johnson

Gary Johnson - July 04, 2025 at 05:00 PM

KL

“ Mr. Arfstrom and Mary , Im so sorry For Your loss. jamie was such a nice guy. Always had a smile on his face and always so polite. He will be surely be missed.

Keri LaLonde - July 03, 2025 at 11:24 PM

RK

“ I met Jim 1978 and became friends with him. Later I worked at glens with him. I did a lot of things with him. But the great day I spent with him and my friend Randy we went to model search and then go to the time out bar and to the soo greyhound game. I also went to Florida in 2003 and went to Disney and SeaWorld. Every Saturday we would have pizza my last pizza night with him was in December of last year. Saturday night won't be the same with our him

Ronald kerzner - July 02, 2025 at 10:13 PM

MD

“ We send our sincere sympathy to your family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are for all who knew Jamie and enjoyed his friendly smile.

Marvin and Carol Driedric - July 02, 2025 at 05:36 PM

PT

“ Ron and I are saddened to see you lost Jamie. He was such a nice guy and always helpful around the condominiums. Everyone enjoyed his smile and how kind he was when he would talk to residents. Our thoughts are with you and Mary. Please let us know if you need any assistance when she is ready to move. Please take care of yourself!
Ron and Pam Taylor

pamela Taylor - July 02, 2025 at 04:17 PM

MR

“ I was saddened to see that Jamie had passed away. I remember he loved the Lakers hockey team. He was always in such a wonderful mood every time I would see him. Thoughts and prayers go out to you and Mary!

Mary Rohrer - July 02, 2025 at 04:03 PM

SC

“ Dear Bob,

Our hearts are deeply saddened by the loss of Jamie. Please know that we are holding you in our thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow.

Jamie is now in the glorious presence of our Heavenly Father— where there is no more pain, no more tears, and no more sorrow. He is at peace, joyfully reunited with his mother and the loved ones who went before him.

The tribute you wrote for Jamie was moving and full of love, reflecting the deep bond you shared. In moments like these, we take comfort in knowing that Jesus weeps with us and walks beside us. We hold onto the blessed promise that one day, we will all be reunited in eternal joy.

*With heartfelt sympathy and love,
Scott & Dorothy*

Scott Cornell - July 02, 2025 at 09:14 AM

SS

“ Dear Bob and Mary

I was very sorry to hear of Jamie's passing. Although I saw Jamie around town and at Laker hockey games, I remember him best from deer camp. Jamie liked to eat and he always had a smile on his face.

I'm sorry I'll be out of town on Wednesday, July 9th and unable to attend his memorial service but my thoughts and prayers will be with you both.

*Sincerely,
Scott Smith*

Scott Smith - July 01, 2025 at 10:32 PM

MK

Scott, I share your sorrow and kind thoughts of James. I too had met James through Laker Hockey and his father. Was looking forward to seeing James around the apartment complex I recently moved into. James and I shared several things, the love of movies, good food and an incredible family.

*With sorrow,
Mark Kuehne*

Mark A. Kuehne - July 04, 2025 at 01:12 PM