



James E O'Leary

August 16, 1971 - March 13, 2015

James Edward O'Leary was born on August 16, 1971 in Boulder, Colorado to James and Jane (Nelson) O'Leary. He grew up in Wayne where he attended grade school and was a confirmed member of the First Presbyterian Church. As a young boy, Jed's interest revolved around music, band, and taking things apart and putting them back together. The first instrument he learned to play was a clarinet.

Jed graduated from Wayne High School in 1989 and earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Education in Music and Psychology from Wayne State College in 1994.

Jed worked as a band director in Wisner from 1994 to 1995 and then in Ponca from 1995 to 1996 before moving to Fremont where he taught music at the Fremont Middle School and Johnson Crossing. Jed went on to earn his Master of Music Degree in Woodwind Performance in 2001 from the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) and his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from Boston University in 2010. He was also an Adjunct Teacher at Midland University and taught on-line

courses for Wayne State College.

Jed played clarinet in the Sioux City Municipal Summer Band and also for many

years in the Sioux City All America Band. He played cello in the Sioux City Symphony for more than 15 seasons. Jed played clarinet and saxophone in various

events around the Fremont area and was a member of many educational and musical organizations where he held several offices. In 2013-2014 Jed was a writer

and editor for the new Nebraska State Standards for Music Education.

Jed married Sarah Pavey on August 8, 1998 at the First Presbyterian Church in

Wayne, Nebraska and they were blessed with two sons: Jay (10) and Ethan (6).

Jed and Sarah made their home in Fremont from 1998 to 2010 before settling in

Elkhorn.

Jed lived his entire life at a non-stop pace. He enjoyed learning about technology,

running, flying his Cessna 172 airplane, swimming, was a certified scuba diver,

and also participated several times in the Bike Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN).

He

was also a pilot and Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) at Fremont Aviation. Jed was

also on a streak of 8 years of daily exercise without missing a day. He was creative, talented and musical. Jed, also, could fix anything mechanical and was a

dedicated church member at Countryside Community Church. He enjoyed listening to Jazz and Classical music.

Jed was also a wonderful, son, uncle, husband, and father. He loved to teach

his

older son, Jay, how to play the recorder, piano, trombone, and cello. He also enjoyed going to Denver Bronco games with him and was teaching him how to

play golf and chess. Jed's younger son, Ethan, enjoyed building LEGO projects

with his dad and going for fun rides in their old 1992 Ford Ranger truck. Jed loved

spending time with his family, including taking Disney Cruises and trips to a family home in Pueblo, Colorado.

Jed enjoyed running with his sister and they participated in local running events

together several years in a row, and his first 10-mile trail run last October where he

placed 2nd in his age group. He took a great deal of pride in pushing himself and

setting new personal records.

Jed passed away on March 13, 2015 at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha,

Nebraska, the result of a traffic accident, at the age of 43. He was preceded in death by his brother Jay D. O'Leary (1992) and his grandparents; Jed is survived

by his wife Sarah; sons Jay and Ethan all of Elkhorn; parents Jay and Jane O'Leary

of Wayne, NE; sister and brother-in-law Jill and Arick Scott and their children Abby and Mark of Bennington, NE; In-laws Norman and Sybil Pavey of Vero Beach, FL; and brother-in-law Christopher Pavey of Merritt Island, FL.

Jed has left a legacy behind him and made an impact on all who encountered him.

He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Tribute Wall



“ *James E O'Leary*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Dear Jay and Jane,*

Our hearts break for you and the rest of your family. We are so sorry to hear of your loss of Jed. Please know that you have been and are in our prayers.

Dennis and Linda

Dennis & Linda Quigley - March 23, 2015 at 09:11 AM



“ *Mr. O'Leary will be greatly missed. I remember him as he helped teach our band class in high school back in 2000-2001. Fast forward and he currently was my daughters 6th grade band teacher:) She told me he was "her favorite teacher." Our thoughts and prayers to your family!*

Megan Amrein & Haley - March 18, 2015 at 10:20 AM

BL

“ Jay & Jane:

My sister in Lincoln called tonight with the news of Jed's accident and passing. Having just had lunch with the two of you in November, it took my breath away. I enjoyed our time together so much as Jed and I had a common W-P past that we could talk about and knew that each other understood.

I was always impressed with the way Jed looked after you at NMEA. Not being in Nebraska for the past several years, I was unaware of Jed's great accomplishments that were written about in the Fremont Tribune.

There are no words that I can offer other than to assure you that you are in our prayers. May God grant you the strength for the coming days and weeks to come.. "And the peace that passeth all understanding shall keep your minds and hearts in Christ Jesus" Phillipians 4:7

Bruce and Bonnie

Bruce and Bonnie Linafelter - March 17, 2015 at 10:05 PM

DM

“ So sorry to read of the tragic accident and loss of your Jed. Death is an enemy to all of us. God refers to death as the 'enemy that will soon be brought to nothing,' [1Corinthians 15:26.] Please be encouraged by these words from the Bible, because the Bible gives us the wonderful resurrection hope. [John 5:28,29.] Our creator, God , promises to remove from the earth all bad things and the 'righteous will live on the here forever',[Psalms 37:9,10,11,28 and 29].
" God will wipe all the tears from their eyes and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry, nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."[Revelation 21:4,5.]
There is much Bible-based comfort to be found on jw org

d mullins - March 17, 2015 at 07:42 PM

BR

“ To Jed's family, it is so difficult to handle when a loved one is taken so suddenly. I worked with Jed for all his years at FPS. I was custodial at 3 of the elementary schools. Jed was a wonderful person, very friendly and helpful. Students and staff loved him. He touched many lives. He will be missed so much. You have my deepest sympathies. Betty Rohwer

Betty Rohwer - March 16, 2015 at 02:52 PM

TM

“ O'Leary family,
We are so sorry for your loss and are praying for you at this very difficult time. Mr. O'Leary was a wonderful music teacher and we appreciated his love of music and ability to bring out the talent in the kids.
We are lifting you all up in our prayers,
Travis, Tracy, Reese and Rylee Mumford

The Mumfords - March 16, 2015 at 10:05 AM