



James C. "Jake" Pongrace

June 6, 1991 - April 27, 2014

North Hampton – James C. “Jake” Pongrace was born on June 6, 1991 to Joseph and Ellen (Erickson) Pongrace in Homestead, Florida. He passed from this world in the arms of his brother, Matthew and his father, on Sunday, April 27 at his home in North Hampton, NH. He was 22.

Jake graduated from Winnacunnet High School with the Class of 2009 and attended CDIA Photography School at Boston University. A strong athlete, Jake was a four-year high school varsity lacrosse player. After high school he explored two loves: the outdoors, with the National Outdoor Leadership School in the Pacific Northwest and photography, as he captured the beauty of the New Hampshire Seacoast, his beloved family and large group of friends.

Known for his loving personality and warm bear hugs, Jake will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Family members include his parents, Joe and Ellen, and his brother, Matthew, of North Hampton; his paternal grandparents, Don and Mary Pongrace of Rye; his uncles and aunts, Don and Olwen Pongrace of Washington, DC, Michael and Sue Pongrace of Fairfax, VA and Thomas and Heather Erickson of Marietta, GA; and his cousins, Kathleen, Sarah, Aidan, Marya, Erin, Steven, and David Pongrace, and Logan and Seth Erickson.

Jake was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Shirley and John Erickson of Portsmouth, his uncle, David Pongrace and his cousin William Pongrace.

Visiting hours will be from 4-7 PM on Friday, May 2, 2014 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. Services will be held at 11 AM on Saturday at the Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Rd., Rye. Burial will follow in the Central Cemetery, Rye. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in support of Team Jake Pongrace and the Out of the Darkness Walk scheduled for September 27, 2014 in Portsmouth, NH. Visit <http://goo.gl/Cri8HQ> for information.

Cemetery Details

Central Cemetery

20 Central Road
Rye, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Memorial Service

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rye Congregational Church
580 Washington Road
Rye, NH

Tribute Wall



“ *Remick & Gendron Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - May 01, 2014 at 01:25 PM

AN

Mr and Mrs Pongrace and son Matt, my heart is heavy for your great loss. This is a beautiful video tribute of your son. May the memories you hold in your heart forever help you get through. Having lost a loved one as well, time does not heal all wounds it will just get easier. So sad for you all. Such a beautiful Family. God Bless You All.

Angela - May 01, 2014 at 04:19 PM



“ *James C. "Jake" Pongrace*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

DL

“ Hello Joey,
I'm sorry that I am so late to this horrific news regarding your son. His resemblance to you is remarkable. You and your family have always been a strength and a comfort for me and mine. I now work in the field of suicide and suicide prevention. This is truly a subterranean epidemic within our culture. You and your family's bravery and honesty in dealing with Jake's death is the only way to confront and alter these tragedies. Please know that you are in my thoughts and if there is any way I can be of help to you in your process, find a way to contact me and I will always be available. You cannot know how sorry I am for this loss.
Dean Ludington Charleston, SC

Dean Ludington - June 17, 2014 at 12:37 PM

DN

“ While I do not know your family we know your pain having lost a brother and nephew at the same age. With the same birthday I also feel a different sense of shared loss. I admire your courage to open up your lives so others understand the silent epidemic that tears at the fabric of our society. You are in my family's thoughts and prayers as you learn to live a different kind of life without your son.

Doug Wheaton, Hampton NH - June 17, 2014 at 07:57 AM

JH

“ Dear Joe, Ellen & Matt
We have been thinking of you and praying for a while. We are so sad and have just not been able to put words together. We love you so much and just hurt. So many happy memories have been flooding our mind. Grief is a painful journey. We are so sorry for your suffering. We loved Jake.....such a precious one.
Lovelovelove,
Jerry and tricia hall

Jerry and Patricia Hall - May 26, 2014 at 08:38 PM

JH

“ *Jerry And Patricia Hall lit a candle in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace*



Jerry and Patricia Hall - May 26, 2014 at 08:30 PM

JS

“ *Dear Joe, Ellen and Matt, May God Bless you, may angels guide you and your loving family. We pray every day for Jake, for your family and for us, your friends, Jake, you have made this world a better place by being part of all of us... I will never, ever, forget you, only celebrate you and what you still are to us. Our angel "Jake" forever!*

Jeanne Swain - May 12, 2014 at 10:19 AM

JS

“ *Jeanne Swain lit a candle in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace*



Jeanne Swain - May 12, 2014 at 10:13 AM

JK

“ *Dear Ellen, Joe and Matt,*

We just got back from Fl. and found out about Jake. We are very sorry for your loss. He will me missed by many.

With our deepest sympathy,

Joe and Janice Korowski

joe korowski - May 07, 2014 at 12:41 PM

MM

“ *Ellen, Joe and Matt*

Coming up with words to express deep sympathy does not come easy. Praying that the good memories, love and support from friends will comfort you.

With a heavy heart.

Mary McCarthy

Mary McCarthy - May 05, 2014 at 05:32 AM

ED

“ *Ellen and Joe,*

I am so sorry to hear of your terrible loss, and so sad that this is our connection after all these years. I did want you to know that I will keep you in my prayers, as I do believe they can help in very difficult times, and that I am thinking of you. Knowing the people that you are I am certain there is lots of love and support around you, please let them all help where they can. With my heartfelt sympathy, and ITB, Ellen Lakey Daly

Ellen Daly - May 04, 2014 at 11:03 PM

LO

“ *Ellen, Joe and Matthew, My deepest sympathy to you all for the loss of your beloved Jake. No words can take away your sorrow, but please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.*
Laurie Phillips Ota

Laurie Ota - May 04, 2014 at 09:29 PM

LP

“ *Joe, Ellen, and Matt....I'm overwhelmed with grief. i am so so so sorry for your loss of Jake. I am just so sorry. I am at a loss for words. I will always remember Jake riding his bike, skateboarding, running around the neighborhood with Matt, Andy, and Rachel with their walkie talkies playing army man, just being a kid. I know this is a very difficult time for you and your family. Jake couldn't be held down. He was so active and involved everything, having many interests. Remember how much he and Matt liked to fire those rockets into space from the school yard? Good times! That's how I remember Jake! I lift your family up in prayer, and pray God will grant you some level of peace in the coming weeks, months, years.*
With a heavy heart,
Laura Pooler

Laura Pooler - May 04, 2014 at 09:29 AM

SP

“ *Dear Ellen and Joe,*

So sorry to hear about the loss of your son, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Stacey Patrick

Stacey Patrick - May 04, 2014 at 03:29 AM

DW

“ *Sending our heartfelt sympathy. May happy memories and the caring of others comfort you. God bless you all.*
Steve and Debbie (Genimatas) Walker

Deb Walker - May 03, 2014 at 09:48 AM

MP

“ *Dear Joe, Ellen and Matt,*
We can not imagine the pain you are suffering now, but you are always in our hearts and prayers.
Love,
Michael and Tanya Passero

Michael Passero - May 02, 2014 at 09:20 PM

EL

“ *Dear Ellen, Joe and Matt,*
My words are not adequate to express the sorrow I feel for your loss. I imagine there is no pain more far-reaching and deeper than losing a child. My heart and prayers go out to you at this most difficult time.

Love,
Ellen French Suther

Ellen - May 02, 2014 at 07:57 PM

JM

“ Dear Joe, Ellen and Matt
Scott and I and the whole Mitchell family send our love and prayers to you during this difficult time! We have so many memories of Jake growing up and have laughed and cried looking at old pictures of the boys. We will not forget his smile!
Love,
Jennifer

jennifer Mitchell - May 02, 2014 at 03:30 PM

MA

“ Dearest Ellen, Joe, and Matt,
The Allan family is thinking of you in this time of difficult loss. We are holding you in our prayers and love. We will see you this afternoon and Grace is hopeful to attend the services tomorrow. I know you will have many people expressing their love and care, so if we only see you from a distance, know that we are there expressing our care.
Most sincerely,
Michele Bagby Allan, James, Grace, and Aidan

Michele Allan - May 02, 2014 at 11:06 AM

DM

“ Donna Miller lit a candle in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace



Donna Miller - May 02, 2014 at 06:19 AM

MC

“ Ellen and Joe -- I am stunned by the news of Jake's passing. I know you miss him terribly and always will. Please know that all of the Calls stand with you at this awful moment. May the good times you shared provide great comfort in the hard days ahead. There is light at the end of this tunnel. Love, Marcia and Lonnie, Mark and Gail, Michael and Carol

Marcia Call - May 01, 2014 at 09:06 PM



“ Ellen, Joe, Matt.
My deepest sympathy. Your young man was loved by many. Much love for all your family. Jake my Youngblood you are an Angel among Angels.

Shelley Towle - May 01, 2014 at 07:31 PM

KX

“ Dearest joe and Ellen,
Our hearts go out to both of you and Matt. The last time we saw Jake was at the Maury reunion at the pongrace homestead in Rye in july of 1994. We can still see your beautiful Jake's infectious smile as he climbed trees with his brother and cousins. He so reminded me of you, Joe, when you were little. Obviously, he grew up to be a generous and loving young man who brought much light to this often dark world. We will remember him climbing that tree and believe that he is now at peace. our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help. We love you so very very much.
kathy(roderick) and lionel xavier

kathy xavier - May 01, 2014 at 06:19 PM

MM

“ *Marshall Mason's Mom lit a candle in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace*



marshall mason's mom - May 01, 2014 at 05:05 PM

AN

“ *Angela lit a candle in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace*



Angela - May 01, 2014 at 04:20 PM

DP

“ *I will keep your family in my deepest prayers at this most difficult time.*
Love,
Dot Perham

Dot Perham - May 01, 2014 at 03:26 PM



“ *Celestial Love was purchased for the family of James C. "Jake" Pongrace.*



May 01, 2014 at 01:44 PM

DE

“ *Ellen and Joe, My heart goes out to you both in this difficult time. I can't imagine your pain and want you to know that even those who knew you way back when are sending healing thoughts and prayers your way.*

Debbie Beeman Fitzpatrick

Debbie - May 01, 2014 at 11:37 AM

HS

“ *Matt & Family,*

Our thoughts are with you and our hearts are heavy for you during this difficult time. If there is anything we can do, just ask.

Howard & Patti Stiles

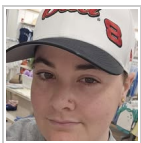
Howard Stiles - May 01, 2014 at 11:29 AM

WA

“ *Ellen, Joe and Matt ,
Our condolences on your tremendous loss. It was a privilege to have known Jake.*

Bill, Shelly, Wills and Chelsea Abbey

W Abbey - May 01, 2014 at 11:16 AM



“ *Chels Chase lit a candle in memory of James C. "Jake" Pongrace*



Chels Chase - May 01, 2014 at 11:08 AM

MA

“ *Mary lit a candle in memory of James C.
"Jake" Pongrace*



Mary - May 01, 2014 at 10:11 AM

BH

“ *Ellen and Family, Our deepest thoughts and prayers to your family.
The loss of a young one is hard to imagine. The thought that he is at
peace and not in pain shall help in the understanding. Brad, Jo
Anne Hutchings and Rj Surprenant*

Brad Hutchings - May 01, 2014 at 09:41 AM

DR

“ *Our sincerest sympathies to you and your family. Joe, be strong and
know you have friends who are thinking of you. Dale and Tina
Rockefeller*

dale rockefeller - May 01, 2014 at 08:10 AM

BA

“ *Dear Sweet Ellen, Joe & Matt: My entire family sends our love and
deepest sympathies for your loss. We did not know Jake, but we
knew the love and spirit of your family and hold you close in our
hearts and prayers. ~Barbara, Edward, David & Kathleen Hopkins*

Barbara - April 30, 2014 at 08:43 PM

CL

“ Joe, Ellen and Matt,
We are so sad to hear of your loss. Such wonderful memories of our time with you all in Phoenix. We send our deepest sympathy and many prayers to you during this difficult time.
The Lanagans

Christal and Gerald Lanagan - April 30, 2014 at 07:52 PM

DW

“ Oh Ellen, Joe and Matt. How deep this loss must go sending you our love.
Doe and Bill

Doe Wright - April 30, 2014 at 07:02 PM

BR

“ Joe, Ellen, and Matt,

My deepest sympathy to your family in this most unfortunate time in your lives. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Bob "Remi" Remillard

Bob "Remi" Remillard - April 30, 2014 at 05:45 PM

SK

“ My deepest sympathy and prayers are with you. Having been personally impacted within my family to this very same reality, I offer myself as someone with this shared experience and offer my time and sincerity to talk about it as you grieve in time. With Love from the Kroner Family. Shep Kroner

Shep Kroner - April 30, 2014 at 03:04 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you*

Mike Kiernan

Michael Kiernan - April 30, 2014 at 12:39 PM

DM

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Pongrace family.*

Denis & Peggy Metivier

Denis Metivier - April 30, 2014 at 12:27 PM

LR

“ *Oh Joe and Ellen... no words can describe our heavy hearts! We have such fond memories of all of the times we have shared with your family over the years. We will pray for grace in your hearts to get you through this! With much love and tears...*

Derek, Linda, Meagan and Alex Rydholm

linda rydholm - April 30, 2014 at 11:40 AM

JL

“ *I have nothing but fond memories of Jake and his kind heart and infectious smile. He will be deeply missed by all who were lucky enough to have known him. Sending love and light to the Pongrace family in this terribly difficult time.*

- Julie Lawlor

Julie Lawlor - April 30, 2014 at 10:51 AM

EM

“ Dear Joe and Ellen,

It's been a few years since I first met you when you purchased your home in North Hampton. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing either of your sons but remember you both with fondness knowing that you wanted a home where your sons could have a wonderful place to grow up. I share the sadness of so many others in hearing of Jake's death. May God give you grace in your grief and a sense of purpose in encouraging others to find life "out of the darkness."

Esther Martindale

Esther Martindale - April 30, 2014 at 10:48 AM

JG

“ *Ellen and Joe*

Tom and I are heartbroken at the news of Jake's passing. Although its been years I have fond memories of that little chubby baby at his first birthday party getting icing all over him.. what a doll baby... so sad for all of you. Please know that you are all in our hearts and prayers now and always.

Judy Gagne

Judy Gagne - April 30, 2014 at 10:22 AM

RS

“ *Ellen and Joe, my heart breaks for your loss at the same time that I give thanks for your courage to name the demon that took Jake from this life. Know that you are in my prayers. Rev. Dawn*

Rev. Dawn Shippee - April 30, 2014 at 09:47 AM



Well said Pastor. Ellen and Joe are wonderful people.

Shelley Towle - May 01, 2014 at 07:33 PM

MC

“ Joe and Ellen, I am so sorry to hear of your unimaginable loss. You and your family are in my thoughts. Mark

Mark Costello - April 30, 2014 at 09:35 AM

EN

“ Dear Ellen, Joe, and Matt:

Our hearts are heavy with the news of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ellen and Jim Nemetz

Ellen Nemetz - April 30, 2014 at 07:48 AM

LI

“ So sorry and saddened by your tremendous loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love, Jeff and Linda Hebert

Linda - April 30, 2014 at 07:47 AM

TW

“ Ellen, Joe and Matt,
*Our hearts have been aching for you since we learned of your unimaginable loss. You are fully in our thoughts and prayers. We send much love and support your way,
The Whitneys (Jen, Lee, Alex, Andrew and Kayleigh)*

The Whitneys - April 30, 2014 at 07:42 AM

MC

“ *Ellen and Joe,*

So very sad to learn of the loss of Jake. My heart and all my best thoughts are with you both and the rest of your family.

Mike Costello

Mike Costello - April 30, 2014 at 07:19 AM

TF

“ *Ellen and Joe, I cannot begin to express my condolences for your loss. Although we have been separated by the years, know that my heart and thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time.*

Tim Finan

Tim Finan - April 30, 2014 at 07:11 AM

RF

“ *Jake was as genuinely considerate and thoughtful as any student I've ever had. His smile and personality would light up the classroom on a daily basis. Matt, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Ryan Francoeur

Ryan Francoeur - April 30, 2014 at 07:04 AM

AR

“ *Ellen and Joe, so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in the thoughts of many.*

Andy

Andrew Rowe - April 30, 2014 at 06:45 AM

JM

“ *My heart is heavy for you all, but filled with love and support for you, Joe, Ellen and Matthew.*

Jon Mooers

Jon P Mooers - April 30, 2014 at 06:32 AM

DS

“ *There are no words that can fill the loss, but may God, prayers, love, kindness and memories give you all comfort.*

Dan Stoneking

Dan Stoneking - April 30, 2014 at 05:53 AM

KW

“ *We are saddened beyond words for your loss. Our prayers and condolences are with you at this unspeakable time.*

Ken,Lori,Brandon and Dylan Wilbur

ken wilbur - April 30, 2014 at 05:19 AM

TF

“ *The Pongrace family is in our thoughts and prayers Our deepest condolences during this very sad time.*

The Weissmans

The Weissman Family - April 30, 2014 at 04:57 AM

LL

“ Impossible heartbreak, sad beyond words...sending love and comfort to the Pongrace Family as they grieve the loss of sweet Jake.

The LaChance Family

Leah LaChance - April 30, 2014 at 04:49 AM

EW

“ We're thinking of you and your whole family and sending you lots of love and hope for comfort. Jake made the world a more beautiful place for everyone.

Eric, Deb and Anne Whitney - April 30, 2014 at 03:23 AM

KD

“ He shared 1,000 years worth of love, compassion, and genuine kindness to everyone he met during his short time with us, that's is a beautiful thing. In this time of despair, try not to forget the beautiful things. Many prayers for the Pongrace family during this impossibly hard time...

Katherine Doyle - April 30, 2014 at 01:15 AM

KP

“ May you find peace in your memories and remembering Jakes amazing smile and kind heart... You are in our thoughts and prayers.

The Palmer family

Kim Palmer - April 29, 2014 at 09:03 PM

AH

“ We have many wonderful memories of Jake, both in school and the times that he worked here with us at home. We are so very sad for such a great loss.

Art and Sherry Hoffman

Art and Sherry Hoffman - April 29, 2014 at 08:40 PM

KW

“ My heart aches for you all. The world is diminished by the loss of Jake. Thinking of you in this time of unbelievable sorrow, hoping you can hold onto each other to get through.

Karen Weinhold

Karen Weinhold - April 29, 2014 at 07:51 PM

PV

“ Holding you close in my heart, thoughts and prayers.

Patti Venenga - April 29, 2014 at 07:44 PM

KP

“ May the memories of Jake help you find peace.

The Paine Family

kathy paine - April 29, 2014 at 05:02 PM

PF

“ Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Pattow family - April 29, 2014 at 03:09 PM

TF

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Pongrace Family. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

The Magri Family - April 29, 2014 at 02:24 PM

LF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jake will be missed enormously by all those he touched.*

The Lafond family

Lafond family - April 29, 2014 at 01:29 PM

DP

Oh sweet Jake...the wonderful memories I have of him.. infectious smile, kindness and beautiful spirit. Ellen and family...sending you love and warm hugs to embrace you. during your unimaginable sorrow, May you hold each other close for strength. Love you - Denise

Denise Pazdon - April 30, 2014 at 05:03 AM

AN

Although I don't know you I feel compelled to extend my sympathies. May Jake be at peace now instead of living in torment and may you find the peace in your hearts and your journey of understanding...my prayers are with you all.

Anonymous - April 30, 2014 at 06:43 PM

LS

No words can convey the deep sorrow in my heart at this unimaginable loss. I fondly remember Jake from his time at NHS and also from the roles he played to add laughter and light to your Kindergarten classes, Ellen. May you all find comfort in the prayers and love that God is sending your way. Peace, Linda Sherouse

Linda Sherouse - April 30, 2014 at 08:09 PM

CB

To Joe, Ellen, Matt and all the Pongrace family

Our hearts truly ache for all of you. May you know there are prayers from many at this time of unbelievable sadness.

Chuck and Mary Ellen Barrett

Chuck & Mary Ellen Barrett - May 01, 2014 at 10:53 AM