



James Kerr Ballard

March 29, 2010 - July 13, 2021

James "Kerr" Ballard was a gift from God sent to Wes and Lori Ballard on March 29, 2010. Kerr had a larger-than-life personality and an old soul. This unique combination manifested in friendships of all ages. It's also fair to mention that he never met a stranger and enjoyed conversing with everyone. He packed more life experiences into eleven years than most pack into fifty years. He also packed as many pancakes on his morning breakfast plate as his mom would let him get away with, which is how he became known as the pancake eating machine. Kerr was his mom's dream and his dad's best friend.

Kerr had a tremendous belief in God and was not afraid to share God's message. He was a confident disciple in the Lord and it was his goal to lead everyone he met to Jesus. During COVID-19 when churches were asked not to hold Sunday service in-person, Kerr took it upon himself to deliver online messages from his mom's Facebook page.

Kerr loved and cherished his entire family and was the quintessential big brother to his adoring sister Ruby. One of his favorite activities was going to Rutledge where he could always negotiate a fine deal. A most noteworthy deal was one he made for his sister Ruby's Christmas gift, a very special rock. His many cousins were like siblings. He loved to be doing any activity indoor or outdoor with his cousins and friends. In fact, one of his favorite activities was playing Fortnite into the wee hours with his cousin. Kerr also loved to

travel. He enjoyed daytrips to The Ranch, weekend trips to Lake of the Ozarks and family trips to Dauphin Island and Captiva Island. He had a thing for water, sand, sun and a ton of fun.

As much as he loved to play he also loved to work. Kerr could often be found assisting his dad in the machine shop on their family farm, a place he loved immeasurably. He was his dad's best friend and tinkering together was their favorite. He was also known to work on broken-down equipment at Ballard Brothers Concrete or work as his Papa Randy's second-hand-man for any project--large or small. Kerr considered himself part of Roger Strang's auctioneer team and looked forward to receiving his Christmas bonus in the mail sent from Roger each year.

Many pillars of strength both on earth and in heaven have helped bolster the family during this time. The family has been surrounded by Kerr's Paternal Grandparents Jim and Lyn Anne Ballard and Maternal Grandparents Randy and Rhonda Wahl. Paternal Great Grandmother Dolores Harp and Maternal Great Grandparents Don and Shelby Pence. The Manchester Baptist Church family (where Kerr was a member) and many other church families in the surrounding area. An amazing group of friends, school and community members have all celebrated Kerr. We are grateful that he was welcomed to heaven by the loved ones that preceded him in death; Paternal Great Grandfather Merle Harp, Paternal Grandparents Jack and Elizabeth Ballard, Maternal Great Grandparents Jesse and Anna Pence, Clarence and Eileen Shepherd and Velma and Percy Wahl and a Maternal Cousin Oakley Cooper.

Most importantly the family wants to express that there truly is no way to organize enough words on paper to adequately reflect the life of Kerr, the most amazing young man. Wes and Lori are simply humbled to have been chosen as his parents; and while they're utterly broken they're grateful that he returned to be with his Savior on July 13, 2021.

A funeral service will be held 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 18, 2021, at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Winchester with interment in Manchester City Cemetery. A visitation will be held 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 17, 2021, at the church. Memorials are suggested to the Kerr Ballard Memorial Fund.

Cemetery Details

Manchester Cemetery

Manchester, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Baptist
226 Cornerstone Dr.
Winchester, IL 62694

Service

JUL 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Baptist
226 Cornerstone Dr.
Winchester, IL 62694

Tribute Wall



“ Mackey Daws Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Kerr Ballard



Daws Funeral Homes - July 16, 2021 at 07:05 PM

JH

A beautiful video of a beautiful child of God!

Jeanette Marie (Ballard) Hester

Jeanette Marie (Ballard) Hester - July 16, 2021 at 07:59 PM

SH

Lori, Wes, and your families. I cannot imagine what you are all going through, but my heart is broken too. There is no answer why such a wonderful, bright light with such promise should be snuffed out so very young. Hold tight to the faith young Kerr believed in so strongly, and to each other. May each day get easier for you, and I'm sure Ruby will be a great comfort. May the Lord grace you with peace as you go through what is probably the most difficult time in any of your lives. You have my most sincere condolences and prayers.

Sue Hopper

Sue Hopper - July 17, 2021 at 05:50 PM



The places and things left to do, but Ohhh the places and things he did! So beautiful! So many wonderful memories! <3

Debbie Pence Johnson - July 21, 2021 at 01:02 PM



“ *James Kerr Ballard*

January 28, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ *White Calla Lily and Daisies with Red Roses (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of James Kerr Ballard.*



July 26, 2021 at 10:44 AM



“ *Melissa Russell purchased the Memories 44" Sonnet for the family of James Kerr Ballard.*



Melissa Russell - July 22, 2021 at 02:21 PM



“ *Wes and Lori,
I am at a loss to find words to express the sadness I feel for your family. I cannot begin to know the depth of your pain, but I do know Almighty God will lead you through it, and there will be brighter days in the future. Have faith.
Bob Cummins*

Robert Cummins - July 19, 2021 at 07:20 PM



“ *Southern Magnolia Tree was purchased for the family of James Kerr Ballard.*



July 18, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ *Kerr is a sweetheart. I so enjoyed our Saturday morning visits and being shown his latest toy. Wes and Lori, you have created a beautiful family with wonderful memories. Love to you all.*

Conie Bell - July 18, 2021 at 05:25 PM



“ *We are so saddened by your loss. I enjoyed having Kerr during computer time. He could always light up a room with his smile and a joke or two. Praying for you all.*

*God Bless,
Leo and Shari Anslyn.*

shari anslyn - July 18, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ *Ron & Daisy Teaney lit a candle in memory of James Kerr Ballard*



Ron & Daisy Teaney - July 17, 2021 at 09:36 PM

SH

“ Sue Hopper lit a candle in memory of James Kerr Ballard



Sue Hopper - July 17, 2021 at 05:49 PM

RP

“ Rick & Rosemary Peterson lit a candle in memory of James Kerr Ballard



Rick & Rosemary Peterson - July 17, 2021 at 12:10 PM

JH

“ Looking Everywhere

*I looked for you in the house,
Traces of you were everywhere,
But you weren't there.*

*I looked for you among the flowers
Placed around your earthly shell with care,
But you weren't there.*

*I looked for you at the graveside,
While at a flower draped casket I stared,
But you weren't there.*

*Then I looked inside my heart,
In my memories that lay bare,
And with warmth, I found you there.*

*But if some day my memories fade,
No matter how much I care,
And I can no longer find you there,*

*I'll know that when I leave this world,
And reach Heaven's realms so fair,
Once again, I will look, and I will find you there.*

Jeanette Hester

Jeanette Marie (Ballard) Hester - July 16, 2021 at 08:02 PM



“ *Lori Beth, Randy, Rhonda, Uncle Don, Aunt Shelby and families, May knowing the many prayers, consoling thoughts and love from friends and family help you through the trying days ahead. Our deepest sympathy to you all. <3*

Randy Johnson & Debbie Pence Johnson

Debbie Pence Johnson - July 16, 2021 at 04:06 PM

AL

“ *Didn't know your son, but his story touched my heart. Cannot express how sorry I am for you and family's loss of such a tender soul. May he rest in peace and may you find strength and comfort in God's graces.*

Ann Larsen - July 16, 2021 at 02:19 PM

GH

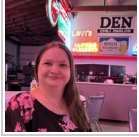
“ *Wes, Lori, and family- Praying that the pain you are feeling now will soften with each passing day. Hold onto those sweet memories Kerr has given you. May the love and support of family and friends help ease the sorrow and give you strength to get through this most difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Glenda Howard, Jesse Downey, Wanda Ballard and family*

Glenda Howard - July 16, 2021 at 11:48 AM

RW

“ *Rick and I are praying for you and your families. Hang onto each other and take it minute by minute. Our thoughts are with you!!*

Rick and Brenda Witt - July 16, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. He seemed like a wonderful young man.



Sue Meyer - July 16, 2021 at 11:15 AM

KB

My thoughts are are for your family loss ! So sorry...God will see that he is protected.
Joe Ballard's wife

Kathryn Ballard - July 17, 2021 at 09:09 PM

JP

“ So sorry for your families loss prayers go out to all of you in this time

jenny picou - July 16, 2021 at 10:37 AM

PS

“ May God's love and grace be with you. My sincerest condolences.

Phronsie Spaulding - July 16, 2021 at 08:59 AM

IF

“ Wes & Lori, I cannot even begin to imagine all you must be going through. Lynette, Abbi, Eli, LilyGrace, & I are praying for and thinking of you and your entire family. Praying for comfort. God bless you and hold you tight as you walk this journey. Much love, the Hallocks

Isaac Hallock and family - July 16, 2021 at 01:47 AM

DS

“ *Ivan (Shade) still has a story that Kerr helped him write from 2nd grade - The Golden Bread Story. We send love to you all at this very sad time.*



Deb Shade - July 15, 2021 at 10:51 PM

JL

“ *Joe and I are so sorry for your great loss. We didn't know your SON, but he sounds like quite a young man. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of his FAMILY.*



Joe and Gloria Lawson - July 15, 2021 at 08:17 PM

DP

“ *We never met Kerr, but he sounds like an amazing young man. Our heart breaks for your family, & will keep you in our prayers.*

Dan & Karen Pence - July 15, 2021 at 07:02 PM

ER

“Lori, Wes, Ruby, and all family, we are deeply heartbroken for you. Words fail, emotions soar, and our imaginations cannot understand the sheer grief you are enduring.

Thank God for His immeasurable peace and comfort. The hope of eternity we have in Christ guarantees a not so distant future with Kerr.

We didn't personally know Kerr well, but your description of him made us feel as though we did. We did watch his mini-messages during Covid that he did. What a blessing to all!

We don't grieve as the world who has no hope, but we still grieve and please know we are constantly thinking of you and praying peace over you.

As soon as we heard of the accident, Earl and I prayed for you all immediately and since have continued to pray for God's comfort and peace to flood you all. We will not cease in praying for you for the many days to come.

"Now, may the Lord himself, the Lord of peace, pour into you his peace in every circumstance and in every possible way. The Lord's tangible presence be with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 TPT

With love,
Earl and Jennifer Rice

Earl and Jennifer Rice - July 15, 2021 at 05:44 PM

KE

“Kim Evans lit a candle in memory of James Kerr Ballard



Kim Evans - July 15, 2021 at 05:24 PM

CR

I never knew this young man, but saw him once or twice and thought, "I'd have loved to have that young man in my classroom, when I taught school. It saddens me that he has left us and gone to be with the Lord so soon. May God bless, comfort strengthen and keep His arms around you in this time of great grief.

Carol Randall - July 16, 2021 at 10:16 PM