



James H. Kitchen Jr.

August 2, 2015

James H. Kitchen Jr., 58, of Chardon passed away August 2, 2015 at Tri Point Medical Center in Concord. He was born in East Cleveland, the son of the late James H. Kitchen Sr. and Martha (Booth) Kitchen of Kirtland.

Jim was a self taught computer programmer who was internationally known. He worked full time on his own website where he designed and programmed computer games that were accessible to the blind. He was an extraordinary person who used his own disabilities to bring joy to those facing similar hardships. He could always bring a smile to your face with his quirky sense of humor, random jokes and comical taglines. Jim also served as Vice Chairman for the Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for many years.

Surviving in addition to his mother are his step mother Ginny Wagstaff; his sister Cynthia Kitchen; brother Glenn Kitchen; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father; his sister Katherine Ewing and his beloved companion Marcie Brown.

A memorial service to celebrate Jims' life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Cleveland Sight Center 1909 East 101st St. Cleveland, OH 44106.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com

Tribute Wall

JA

“ I want to send my condolences to you and your family. Thank you so much for keeping Jim's website a life especially for the blind community. You don't know how much this means to me i've been looking for blind games to play on my iPhone when I came upon this email I was so happy. Once again thank you for making this website excess ability to the blind now I can be like everybody else when I go out and play my games.

Jasmin - March 24, 2016 at 10:35 AM

KI

“ sorry for your loss never easy to loose someone you love but how proud you must be of jim what amazing games he left for so many to play what pride you must have



kimberly - August 22, 2015 at 04:00 PM

RM

“ Raul M purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of James H. Kitchen Jr..



Raul M - August 16, 2015 at 01:04 PM

BT

“ Our grandson, a recent graduate of the Governor Morehead School (GMS), advised us of Jim's death today. GMS is the NC school for the blind and visually-impaired. I can't begin to tell you how much Jim and his efforts will be missed. I've spent countless hours playing some of the games with our grandson, most recently the Pizza Delivery game. He always does better. Others at GMS have caught on to the games as well. Our heartfelt thanks and warm thoughts go out to the family.

Bruno Toffolo
GMS PTA Treasurer

Bruno Toffolo - August 15, 2015 at 12:32 PM

GK

Thank you Bruno Toffolo. I wasn't aware of my brother's wide scope of folks he helped in his programming endeavours. Your thoughts have been meaningful and helpful during this trying time of losing Jim.

Thank you and God Bless;
Glenn T. Kitchen | glennTK@gmail.com

Glenn T. Kitchen - September 07, 2015 at 08:43 AM

QP

“ *The passing of Jim came as quite a shock to me. Even though we hadn't really spoken in a very long time, the first audio games I ever played, were programmed by Jim. He also encouraged me to learn how to program, since I have so many ideas for games. Sadly though, life happened, and up to this day, I'm no where near a programmer. Maybe one day ...*

Another thing that struck me about Jim, was how I always got the idea that he was never too caught up in life or too busy to talk to me and give me advice on stuff. I still have some of his emails from back in 2003, 2004 when we spoke more frequently.

I fondly recall his sense of humor, sometimes forcing you to read or listen between the lines; he was as sharp as anything!

To his family:

You have lost a great man, and I cannot even begin to imagine how raw your wounds might be. But for what it may be worth to you, take heart from the fact that he brought joy to many, many people, not only through his work and through what he offered to the "blind" community, but also through his friendliness, encouragement, and just being overall positive.

To conclude:

I recall how, in one of his emails to me right at the beginning of our conversations, he used the acronyms "hth" and "bfn". Being all new to this internet thing at the time, I emailed him back, enquiring what they meant. In his typical Jim way he explained. And, this leads me to end off this brabble by just saying: Thanks for everything Jim; BFN; See you again one day.

Quinten Pendle - August 14, 2015 at 03:51 PM

GK

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us Quinten, they are very special AND true - Jim. It truly is soothing to know he is special in many peoples hearts! Jim would always downplay his wonderful character, humble he was. I loved (love) my brother dearly, will miss him even more but will always look forward to our special reunion! I thank you greatly for sharing your thoughts!

Glenn T. Kitchen | glennTK@gmail.com

Glenn T. Kitchen - September 07, 2015 at 09:16 PM

TB

“*Jim's sense of humor was second to none, from the sarcastic sound files he used for his casino game backgrounds, to the Star Trek sound files he used for the motion of the characters in his Pong recreation. Though I hardly knew him, Jim will always be remembered by me for his big heart and his love of what he did for his corner of humanity. Rest in peace, and my prayers to all his surviving family members and friends.*

Travis Butler - August 14, 2015 at 11:32 AM

KS

“*Jim's pong game was the first game I ever played on my computer; I'm forever grateful. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*
Katherine Schneider from Wisconsin

Katherine Schneider - August 09, 2015 at 09:12 AM

GK

Thank you Katherine, your thoughts and words are helpful, kind and meaningful! God bless you!

Glenn T. Kitchen | glennTK@gmail.com

Glenn T. Kitchen - September 07, 2015 at 09:17 PM

JF

“ I played a fair few games by Jim Kitchen and am very impressed, he was a talented longtime developer who, while he may not still physically be with us, his games and his contribution to the community will live on for years to come. RIP Jim Kitchen!

Jack Falejczyk - August 07, 2015 at 10:29 PM

JG

“ I can not begin to say how much I will miss Jim. He was always there to give you a laugh or just to lend an ear. I just want to say to Jim's family, I am sorry for your loss. Jim has touched so many lives and will be truly missed.

Jonya Griffith - August 07, 2015 at 10:27 PM

JG

“ I've known Jim over 20 years. We didn't always see the same side of the coin; but he has always been a good and faithful friend to me. Words cannot express how much he has impacted my life. I will deeply miss one of my closest friends. -- Josh Griffith

Joshua Griffith - August 07, 2015 at 10:13 PM

GK

Thank you for your thoughts Josh; he would often talk of you in our conversations but I don't ever recall him saying anything derogatory. I think he valued different views though may not have directly stated such. I know clearly you were often on his mind and in a positive manner.

I wish you peace and solace in the loss of your great friend and thank you gratefully for sharing your loving and meaningful thoughts of my brother.

Glenn T. Kitchen | glennTK@gmail.com

Glenn T. Kitchen - September 07, 2015 at 09:17 PM