



Raymond James Free

October 18, 2016

Raymond James Free, 35, of Mentor was a brother, a father, a friend, a grandson, a son and an uncle. RJ had been bravely fighting for recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous all while going to school to try and make a better life for himself and his children.

He was set to graduate from NewBridge Center for Arts and Technology on Friday Oct 28th as valedictorian. He was top of his class as a Phlebotomy Technician, Pharmacy Technician & Hospital Nursing Assistant. RJ was also approaching one year of sobriety. As the direct result from the many years of addiction, his fight ended on Oct. 18th.

Where ever RJ went, he was loved. The amount of smiles and laughter he would produce was without measure. He would give you the shirt off his back or take a bullet for the people he loved. He defended those people that could not defend themselves. The disease of addiction does not care about those smiles, laughs or principles; its only purpose is to destroy! RJ Free was somebody. People loved him. The world lost a great person and the best brother a guy could have. We are all proud of how hard you fought brother. I am proud of you. Mom is proud of you.

RJ is predeceased by his grandmother Cora Shutack & grandfather Ray Free.

He is survived by three children: Raymond Jr, Olivia and Macayla; Mother: Donna Polendo; Father: Gregg Free; Brother: Tony Free; Niece: Lilly; Grandfather: Robert Shutack; and many close cousins, close longtime friends and many many fellows in recovery.

The family will receive friends Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 2-6 pm at Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

The family requests that anyone interested in donating to his GoFundMe account created to help his children, please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/he-rj-free-memorial-fund-2vj67p7e>.

Send flowers or offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center

8466 Mentor Avenue

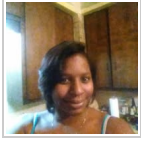
Mentor, OH 44060

(440) 255-3401

ajs@brunners.com

<https://www.brunners.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ I met R.J in the Spring of this year he was an amazing man. I saw him on the 16th at Tower City and told him to call me but he never did. My heart was literally broke when I heard he had passed. He will be missed but never forgotten. I was blessed to spend Founders Day with him in June. Once again what an amazing man.(Nakia Green)

Nakia Green - November 24, 2016 at 08:53 PM

BJ

“ BARBARA JERIC lit a candle in memory of Raymond James Free



BARBARA JERIC - October 28, 2016 at 01:30 PM

BJ

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE RJ

BARBARA JERIC - October 28, 2016 at 01:32 PM

SH

So skibidi

Shrek - February 24, 2025 at 08:40 AM

SB

“ Donna, So very sorry for your loss. May all the good memories comfort you and in the days to come. May God send his healing grace to you and family.
John and Sally

Sally Bunnell - October 27, 2016 at 03:07 PM



“ *Adoring Heart was purchased for the family of Raymond James Free.*



October 26, 2016 at 05:35 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond James Free.*



October 26, 2016 at 09:51 AM




“ *Donna, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We want you to know that we are here for you. Mike & Diane*

Diane Tadaj - October 26, 2016 at 05:14 AM



“ *RJ~ we sure did share a lot of laughs together. I know that you are no longer suffering from this disease. We sure did gain an amazing guardian angel
Fly high brotha
❤️ ~ KShea*

KShea - October 26, 2016 at 01:35 AM

 Josh
Foster

“ *I hadn't seen you in some time, but I will always remember you and the good times we had up at camp. May you rest in peace and forever look down upon your children as they grow.*

Josh Foster - October 25, 2016 at 05:57 PM

OH

Gonna miss you RJ. You were able to help so many and God will remember you for that. Sleep well my friend.

Orlando Howard - October 26, 2016 at 08:39 AM

KI

“ *I was one of the nurses that was able to share with RJ in his recovery, not only was I his nurse I was a friend whom went to the same high school. Even when RJ was in the hospital recovering he always excuded his positive personality helping others in need even though he needed picked up at times. I never had any doubt he would turn out to be nothing than he was, a good friend, a good father, a good spirit to be around. It was always nice to see your face my friend, until we meet again, rest peacefully*



kim - October 25, 2016 at 05:46 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond James Free.*



October 25, 2016 at 05:18 PM

MA

“ So sorry for your loss. May he rest peacefully in heaven

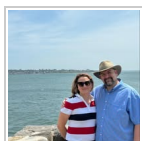
Mary Bentz (friend of Anna) - October 25, 2016 at 04:40 PM

JP

“ So sorry to the family and friends...we had just seen you on that Monday you looked so good and happy...you were a talented man.the master of all traits and could fix anything..your work was greatly appreciated....you will be deeply missed by many but we know that heaven has another angel.....love you...Jamie Pollock. Shirley Woods.....



Jamie Pollock - October 25, 2016 at 03:41 PM



“ The very last memory I have of my brother was from when I was on vacation. He told me he was jealous that I had gone on a cruise. So I told him that we were about to go power snorkeling in Dominican Republic. That is when he said, "Watch out for SHARKS!! You're a good meal size Mang!"

Love you brostephus...

Tony Free - October 25, 2016 at 03:17 PM



Tony , so sorry for your loss. This is Shauns mom down Andrews end of manor

Pamela Gilliam Schibetta - October 26, 2016 at 06:33 AM

CH

“ Cheryl lit a candle in memory of Raymond James Free



Cheryl - October 25, 2016 at 03:10 PM

CH

You will be deeply missed my son... May you soar like a eagle in heaven and all your demons be gone, not to every worry again. I'll miss and love you dearly RJ

Cheryl - October 25, 2016 at 03:15 PM

RM

As I sit here still in awe, that a good friend is not there to be seen. But to understand that it may feel as though we lost him. That is far from the truth, because he lives in our hearts, especially mines. I am so Blessed that the Lord put RJ in my path of life, he brought so much life and happiness for me in my times of needs. Have so many memories of this knucklehead. Much Love Always! Prayers as said, that through this moment of time that you will be embrace with so much love from us all!

Roderick Moore - October 25, 2016 at 04:05 PM

 Jacky Holt

*Hard to believe you are gone. We will miss you very much.
Jacky & Tom Holt*

Jacky Holt - October 25, 2016 at 04:20 PM

DJ

*It was an honor and a joy to know you, Raymond Free. Can't imagine a cook out without you...The quality of you, always trying to help someone by sharing what you learned or giving from the abundance of your many talents, expecting nothing in return...you will be deeply missed. May God Bless his children and family. Our prayers are with you all
Mr. And Mrs. Gregory Johnson*

Dawn Johnson - October 25, 2016 at 08:54 PM