



James M Matheny

October 12, 1966 - March 2, 2021

James Michael “Jambo” Matheny passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 in Yakima, WA. James was born October 12, 1966 at Clarkston, WA to Patricia Webb Matheny and Ronald H. Matheny and was raised in Lapwai, Idaho where he graduated high school in 1985. He was a proud member of the Nez Perce Tribe.

James was a gifted athlete and excelled in all sports including baseball, softball, football, soccer, and especially basketball. He was a member of the 1985 Idaho State Champion Lapwai Wildcat basketball team and won countless championships on the All-Indian basketball and softball circuit.

Jambo was a well-known and respected athlete and made many good friends throughout Indian Country during his travels.

James met Andrea Adams on the basketball trail in 1996 and moved to Yakima in 1997 to be near her. James and Andy were married in August 2003 and built their home and raised their family at the Adams’ property on South Ahtanum. He loved his family more than anything and felt blessed to share his October 12th birthday with his daughters Ally and Alexa. They referred to themselves as the “Libra gang.” James and Andy were blessed with daughters Drea; Ally; and Alexa; son James, Jr.; nephew Jay Walter; and grandchildren Amara and Cyrus.

James supported his kids’ academic and athletic pursuits and always encouraged them to work hard and do their best at whatever they were doing. Although he played thousands of games himself, he was most stressed

watching his kids play. He was very proud of all of his kids' accomplishments in the classroom, on the court, and in life. He was particularly proud that his daughter Ally chose to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

James appreciated the little things in life and was always happy and got along with everyone he met. He shared his beautiful smile and contagious laugh freely. He was a loyal fan of the Dallas Cowboys, Boston Celtics, and Seattle Mariners and loved watching and talking about sports. He understood that sports and life are analogous and that nothing is achieved without commitment to success.

James worked for Washington DSHS in Yakima as an Information Technology System Specialist from 1997 until his passing. He was preceded in death by his parents, Patricia Webb Matheny and Ronald H. Matheny. He is survived by his wife Andrea; children Drea (Kaimana) Haleakala-Town; Ally; James, Jr.; Alexa; and Jay Walter; brothers Troy (Serena) Matheny and Kermit (Sally Jo) Mankiller; sister Traci (Mike) McKarcher; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends.

A memorial dinner will be held at Lapwai, Idaho o Pineewaus gym on Sunday, March 7th, 2021 at 1 p.m.

Family request in lieu of flowers donations can be made to Venmo @Ar_matheny for burial expenses at a later date.

Family requests masks be worn.

Tribute Wall



“ *James M Matheny*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Prayers n Condolences to Jambo's family n Friends all over Native country..Our Spoonhunter family sends their best to James "*
Jambo's and Andrea Adams Matheny's family with our deepest sympathy, and prayers for your loss of your loved one.....He has been always will be a great brother n friend of our Spoonhunter family..May the Creator Bless & watch over all Jambo's family n Friends in your time of sadness n sorrow..to comfort & ease your hearts pain...take Care from the Spoonhunter family!

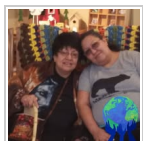
Darin Spoonhunter - March 17, 2021 at 05:54 AM



“ *Darin Spoonhunter lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



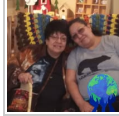
Darin Spoonhunter - March 17, 2021 at 05:32 AM



“ *Dee Benson lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Dee Benson - March 11, 2021 at 08:09 PM



May the memories you hold most dear, bring you comfort .

Dee Benson - March 11, 2021 at 08:11 PM

 Monica Pina

“ *James was such a great guy! He was always helpful and had a very helpful, sweet demeanor. I'm so sorry to the family for your loss.*



Monica Pina - March 10, 2021 at 08:06 PM

EC

“ *Evelyn Carter lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Evelyn Carter - March 08, 2021 at 12:54 PM

MG

“ *Melissa Gwinn-Castilleja lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Melissa Gwinn-Castilleja - March 07, 2021 at 08:23 PM

BO

“ *Bernice Owens sent a virtual gift in memory of James M Matheny*



Bernice Owens - March 07, 2021 at 05:39 PM

DJ

“ *Was a great basketball player and was always respectful on and off the floor. We would pick our poison on to who to leave open and it would always be Jambo ... he would always bury us with his mid range shot. Miss those days battling against you James RIP.*

don jones - March 06, 2021 at 09:21 PM

DR

“ *I worked with James when he started working for DSHS. At that time, he was working at the Toppenish CSO. He then transferred to Yakima DSHS. He was such a nice person and he truly knew his computers. He would never get upset with us workers when we bugged him about some problems we were having with our computers. He was always willing to help us out and always maintained a smile on his face no matter how many times we pestered him. I was sad when he left working in our office and went to Yakima. He was always such a joy to work with. He will be truly missed. My condolences to his family.*

Dixie Ross - March 06, 2021 at 08:29 PM

DH

“ *Denise Fiander Hill lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Denise Fiander Hill - March 05, 2021 at 07:14 PM

NH

“ *Nabil Hassan lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Nabil Hassan - March 05, 2021 at 07:09 PM

JL

“ *Jeanne Lewis-Smiskin lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Jeanne Lewis-Smiskin - March 04, 2021 at 03:48 PM

DW

“ *Debra Whitefoot lit a candle in memory of James M Matheny*



Debra Whitefoot - March 04, 2021 at 12:47 PM

DW

Prayers for Andy, the children, and all of his family and basketball family.

Debra Whitefoot - March 04, 2021 at 12:48 PM

AS

“ *You will be missed very much in our lives!!! Once you married Andy, you always accepted my family into yours and it became ours!!!! Especially the family pets. A great man who loved his family very much. The more the merrier!! We spent great times together and always there for each other with our kids. Our kids have grown up together off and on the basketball court.*

I am very grateful for you being there to help guide, coach and support our basketball sons. I know you made an impact on everyone of them and they will miss you too. You knew how to coach each kid in their own individual manner. They always responded well to you with respect because you respected and cared for them. I know they will carry it with them as they continue in their paths of life. A great role model. One of many lifeskills they will inherit through the game of rezbball. Family!!! Love!!! Respect!!! Pride!!! Family!!!

Prayers for Andy, Drea, Ally, Big Boy, Alexa, Jay & Grandbaby!!! Also Buddy & Jenny. I will be here for you all.

Love you all!!! <3

Armetha and Kirk



Armetha Smiskin - March 04, 2021 at 12:31 PM

RS

“ Dear James: There are so many things we could say and share, but the most important thing is how you touched so many lives with your modest nature and caring attitude. We thank you for making your home on the Yakama Nation. Our condolences to your wife and family. You're home now James.

Respectfully,
Renee Spencer & James Spencer

Renee Spencer - March 04, 2021 at 11:08 AM

MH

“ Jambo
You were the epitome of class
From the day you and Jim Taylor showed me ESPN on the World
Wide Web back in the early 90's and I was in awe!
I will always love you my friend, gone too soon
Monte Heggie

monte heggie - March 04, 2021 at 02:15 AM

BW

“ For my fellow baller your an angel now playing with the past baller s
my rest in peace and fly high my friend bless you !!🏀🏀🏀🏀🏀
👉👉👉👉👉 100 100 100 ❤️❤️❤️

Bobby g Whitefoot - March 03, 2021 at 10:59 PM