



Jay "Chris St. James" Smith

March 20, 1969 - December 14, 2014

Jay R. Smith

(aka Chris St. James)

Jay R. Smith died suddenly of a massive heart attack at home in The Woodlands on Sunday, December 14 at the age 45. He was born March 20, 1969 in Bellaire, Ohio to Peter J. Smith and Theora Morris Smith, who pre-deceased him.

Jay is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Tracey Boase Smith and their furry four-legged child, Ivey Westie St. James. Also surviving him are his sister and brother-in-law Carolyn and Johnny Williams of Pasadena; sister Linda Cooper of Jonesborough, Tennessee; and brother David Cooper of Pawley's Island, South Carolina. Other family members include his parents-in-law David and Beverly Baldwin of Friendswood; John C. Boase of Midland; and brother-in-law Michael D. Boase of Houston. Jay also had several loving nieces including Stephanie, Kimberly, Alicia, and Barbara and their spouses. Many friends in the music/entertainment world also mourn his passing.

During a long career in the entertainment and music industry, Jay was known professionally as Chris St. James. He began DJ-ing at the age of 13 when his parents accompanied him to local gigs in Ohio. He graduated from high school in Bellaire and began his career with MTV as Downtown Julie Brown's DJ. He earned an associate degree in recording production from the LA School of Recording in the early 90s.

Jay's career also included touring with well-known bands as Front of House Sound Engineer. He moved to Houston in 1992, where he was heard on several popular stations as Chris St. James. For many years, Chris (Jay) was entertainment director and DJ for The Hop night clubs located in Clear Lake and north Houston.

He and Tracey established Custom DJ Drops in 2001 to provide production for mix tapes and CD's for an international DJ clientele. Despite being legally blind from severe diabetes, he most recently served as a popular DJ at Johnny B. Daltons in Conroe, and was quickly nick-named JayBird.

Jay was devoted to Tracey and often expressed his deep love for her publicly and in numerous romantic ways. Besides music and spoiling Tracey and Ivey, he enjoyed singing karaoke, all water sports, cruising, and dining out at nice venues. His favorite charities were all animal rescue organizations and the Diabetes Foundation, both of which would

appreciate tributes in his honor.

His family is comforted in the knowledge that he was a Life Gift Donor whose corneas will help others to see, and to aid burn and accident victims with skin and bone grafts.

Fun-loving and living large, Jay's favorite motto was "Go Big or Go Home!"

Comments



“ I've got to know Jay for several years over the phone and words could not express how a true friend Jay was. He was very passionate about his business and always told me to stay with him for dj drops because he had the best drops around. I've had the privilege to purchase several drops from Jay and all I can say is "Wow'. I still use his drops for my parties and mixtapes to always remember a good friend he was. Even tho we never met in person, He was always a well respected person in the industry. I miss you Jay and your drops will always be in my mixes. God bless you Tracie and pray that God will keep you strong.

chino rivera - January 20, 2015 at 02:27 PM



“ I met Jay when he was 18 years old, fresh out of High School. He had the skills and talent that you had to be there to see him in action. A microphone, two turntables and it was Game On!!! Even though we lost track of each other, thanks to Facebook, we connected 5 years ago. I met Jay's wonderful wife Tracey when they came back to the Ohio Valley two Summers ago. We shared our dreams and hopes together and with his talent it was going to happen. As one of his friends, he was concerned of what was going on in my life and tried to help, that's who he was. I will miss him for sure and I know he will be watching over everyone he touched!!! R.I.P. Jay and condolences to Tracey and family.



Artie Armann - December 28, 2014 at 03:44 PM



“ Jay loved to help people more than anything else. That is what I'll always remember about him. I will miss him and I know others who were helped and influenced by him will miss him more and more. My condolences to Tracey and his family.

Brian Geddes - December 27, 2014 at 09:53 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Misc Pics



sherman - December 26, 2014 at 08:11 AM



“ Let It Snow was purchased for the family of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith.



December 26, 2014 at 08:00 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith.



December 24, 2014 at 10:25 AM



“ I am shocked and saddened at this news. Early in my DJ career Chris was extremely helpful and caring. He would give me music and help me in any way. I stood beside him countless nights while he worked. He invited me into his home and was a friend for many years. Thoughts and to all his family and friends.

Chris Snyder - December 18, 2014 at 07:38 PM



“ Holiday Homecoming Basket was purchased for the family of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith.



December 18, 2014 at 07:37 PM



“ Chris could run a dance floor like nobody I've ever seen. We all learned a lot from his DJ skills back in the Club Days. In later years we remained good friends. You will be greatly missed my friend! My deepest sympathies and prayers to Traci and family.

SoundHound



Richard Allabaugh - December 18, 2014 at 06:01 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Misc Pics



Tracey Smith - December 18, 2014 at 05:27 PM



“ So sorry to hear of his passing. I only every worked with him on Facebook and my family worked with him over the phone. Such a professional in his field and a great person. His drops have been in my DJ sets and will be forever! Prayers and healing for family and friends. Godbless you all.

Luis Silva - December 18, 2014 at 01:09 PM



“ It won't be the same without you Chris. My deepest sympathies to Tracey and the family. Joyce Kato

Joyce Kato - December 18, 2014 at 09:29 AM



“ My Custom Drops Will Never Be The Same Jay .. "Another DJ ILL WILL & Custom DJ Drops Exclusive"

Ill Will - December 18, 2014 at 12:36 AM



“ I went to school with JR here in Ohio. He was a great guy and would do anything for anybody. I remember going out to thr skating rink and he would DJ out there. He will be greatly missed. Heaven just received an awesome angel. RIPmy friend. Prayers to his wife and family.

stephenie (miller) miles - December 17, 2014 at 05:14 PM



“ I could so many memories of "JR" and I tearing up the Rollerrama in Marion Ohio while learning to DJ and run sound for Tom Danner and Dave Wells, or spending the nights together at either of our parent's homes, playing board games, running around the neighborhood all the way up to high school when he joined me as one of the very first people to march tenor drums for Marion Harding.. Jay had such an appetite for fun and life, but he always knew what he wanted to do, what he wanted to be and it stayed he same. He got to live his dream in so many ways. I am so thankful that I was able to reconnect with him over the last couple of years and hear that spark again in his voice when he would speak of Tracey, or his work. RIP my friend and I will see you again!

Chris Dodds - December 17, 2014 at 04:57 PM



“ Red Poinsettia was purchased for the family of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith.



December 17, 2014 at 01:17 PM



“ Jay Smith was a great person, always made you feel welcome. I enjoyed his and Tracey's friendship very much. He will be missed tremendously, RIP Jay. My prayers and thoughts are with Tracey and their family.



Lydia Harvey - December 17, 2014 at 01:10 PM



“ About 3 years ago I submitted a request online for a DJ drop to a website, I immediately received a call from the owner of Custom DJ Drops Voice-Over Production, Jay Smith letting me know he received the order. In that conversation I learned he was here in Houston. Since then there had been lunch together with he and his lovely wife Tracey Smith many conversations on the phone and text messages between us about family, health, work, projects we planned to do together and of course internet radio and music. Over time our conversations were less about drops and business opportunities but rather a genuine concern for each other. When we hadn't spoken in a while he would call or text just to check on me and likewise. He was a very caring man whom I will deeply miss. Rest in peace Jay

Tim "midas reTouch" - December 17, 2014 at 07:21 AM



“ Rest in peace my friend. ..Thanks for all you did for me and the station.



Scott Shields - December 17, 2014 at 05:55 AM



“ Sheri sent a virtual gift in memory of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith



sheri - December 17, 2014 at 12:21 AM



“ Sheri lit a candle in memory of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith



sheri - December 17, 2014 at 12:18 AM



“ Rest in Peace, Chris.



Rachel - December 16, 2014 at 11:47 PM



“ 3 files added to the album 2012 Houston Rodeo BBQ Cookoff



Jay Trotsky - December 16, 2014 at 11:28 PM



“ Kyle Baca lit a candle in memory of Jay "Chris St. James" Smith



Kyle Baca - December 16, 2014 at 11:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Artie Armann - December 16, 2014 at 10:38 PM



“ Words can't describe how I will miss him.

Sheri Imer - December 16, 2014 at 10:49 PM



“ Man he was awesome. There is no one like Jay in every way.

Kyle - December 16, 2014 at 11:02 PM



“ Tracy , you have had love and great memories with this man. God bless and give you comfort.

Wyvonne Autrey - December 17, 2014 at 11:21 AM