



Jay Obendorfer

December 20, 1969 - December 25, 2024

John (Jay) Edward Obendorfer Jr., age 55, of Houston, Texas, passed away unexpectedly on December 25, 2024.

Jay is survived by his husband, Ricky Davidson; sister, Meg (Tom) Cook; brother, Kurt; nephews, Chad (Megan) Jones, Toby (Taylor) Cook, and Cory (Logan) Obendorfer; niece, Hannah Cook (Miles Jeffries); great-nieces, Sophie, Madelynn, and Peyton; and his beloved Bull Terrier Seymour. Jay was preceded in death by his father, John Edward Obendorfer, and his mother, Margaret Needham Obendorfer.

Jay was born in Akron, Ohio, grew up in Stow, and graduated from Stow High School in 1988. Jay was involved in gymnastics from age 4 and attended college on a gymnastics scholarship. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in Exercise Physiology. After graduating, Jay moved to Houston, Texas, where he initially worked for a hospital system followed by various healthcare leadership positions until retiring as a healthcare executive.

Jay was a lifelong gymnastics fan and recently traveled to Belgium for the 2023 World Championships. He appreciated art, especially the works of Harouni and Keith Haring, which inspired his recent leg tattoo sleeve. He was a super fan of The Chicks, traveling to Dublin, Ireland, Manchester, Britain, Toronto, Canada, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, and New Orleans to see them

perform. Jay enjoyed the company of his friends, napping, traveling, and gardening in his backyard by the pool especially tending to his bougainvillea. Jay was super stylish, loved shopping for expensive shoes, and enjoyed the finer things in life. Jay was especially caring and generous with his family, friends, and the organizations he supported.

A private celebration of life will be held for family and friends on March 8, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Western Michigan University Bronco Athletic Fund for Women's Gymnastics at <https://secure.wmualumni.org/athletics/s/give>, Avenue 360 at <https://avenue360.org/donate-now/> or Planned Parenthood at <https://plannedparenthood.org>.

Please share your memories at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I just wanted to send some condolences to John and His family. John happened to come to mind today, He was a client of mind and put his trust with his move up from Texas to Michigan. John had messaged me for months and gathered some condos he wanted to look at and he sent me. Messaged that he was flying Into Michigan and wanted to see some condos. John was actually my 3rd client when I was just getting started in the buisness, He was a big hearted guy.

Chandler McElhaney - August 19, 2025 at 05:58 PM

JA

“ I was fortunate enough to meet and work with Jay for a short while. He was always kind and considerate, and he'd most likely make you giggle with his humor! Good guy gone too soon, you will be missed my friend 🍷

Janelle - February 13, 2025 at 06:15 PM

HW

“ Jay was very sweet. A very fun guy to hang out with. So very glad that I got to spend time with him. Love you Jay!

Heather White - February 13, 2025 at 03:33 PM

DH

“ I remember Jay taking me under his wing and showing me the ropes as I started at Centerwell. Kind, gentle, patient and caring are all words that come to mind when I think back on the time we worked together. As others have shared, he was usually focused more on other people and their needs and was generous with his resources. He will be missed!

Drew Hare - January 16, 2025 at 11:10 AM

AK

“ Jay was a gentle and kind soul. He always went out of his way to see others no matter what he was going through. I will always be grateful to him for giving me a chance in a role that he created. Rest easy, Jay. You were beloved by many.

Amy Kelleh - January 12, 2025 at 01:56 PM

GV

“ Jay was an amazing person, lover of art and fine fashion and the underserved communities he served. I had the pleasure of meeting Jay in 2019 where we worked together he was a great leader mentor and friend. He was a great motivator encourager and will be greatly missed. ❤️ Gail Venyah

Gail Venyah - January 12, 2025 at 11:20 AM

VG

“ Jay was a close colleague during my first years with CenterWell, and I will miss him tremendously. He brought such energy, care for others, respect for clinicians, and passion for improving the health of underserved communities throughout the country. My deepest condolences to Jay's families and close friends - he was beloved. Vivek Garg

Vivek Garg - January 08, 2025 at 12:38 PM

CA

“ Jay was my fraternity/sorority little brother. We had so many fun times together. And have not seen him for so long and now so wish I had. A smile comes to my face every time I think of Jay. I even still have the sorority/fraternity, big sis/little bro sweatshirt he gave me.



Cathy - January 04, 2025 at 06:40 PM

CB

“ Getting together with family, Jay, Rick, Meg, Kurt and Katie, Tom, Tom, Uncle Jack and my mom, Dolores, in Ocean City over the summer was a real treat. We ate together at fun restaurants on the water, and celebrated with tropical beach drinks. It was entertaining reliving stories of our youthful beach trips and sharing stories of adult life. What a special memory i will cherish of being together.

cindy obendorfer baughan - January 02, 2025 at 07:50 PM

SM

“ Reconnecting with Jay two years ago, after 30 years apart, was a gift I'll always treasure. In college, so many of my memories include shenanigans with Jay - fun, outgoing, and always ready to lift everyone's spirits - Jay made every moment unforgettable.

Two years ago, he once again brought us all together, organizing our team for the WMU alumni gymnastics meet. It was just like him to take the lead in creating memories and rekindling friendships. That reunion was a testament to his unwavering dedication to the people and connections he cherished.

His energy, kindness, and laughter will forever echo in our hearts and in the countless memories we shared.

Rest in peace, my friend. You will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Sue McCarthy Mussat



Sue Mussat - January 01, 2025 at 02:39 PM