



Travis Jonas

March 26, 1975 - March 5, 2021

Travis Allen Jonas, age 45, of Greenwood, passed away on Friday, March 5, 2021. He was born in Indianapolis on March 26, 1975 to Jerry W. and Gloria (Sizemore) Jonas. He graduated from Morristown Jr./Sr. High School in 1993 and from Purdue University in 1997 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Travis was a true Poly-Math. He was an expert at systems engineering, mechanics, aerodynamics, hypersonics, and computer-aided engineering. He began his career at Metalex Manufacturing in Ohio, designing and building parts for the Space Shuttle. He joined Gencorp Aerojet in California in 2001 and worked on multiple programs, such as the Airborne Laser, NERVA, and Upper Stage Engine Technology (USET) program. In 2007, Travis returned to Indiana and joined Rolls Royce/Liberty Works. He again worked on the USET program, hypersonic programs amongst other classified projects. In July 2011, Travis joined Mechanical Solutions, Inc. as Manager of Turbomachinery Design. He worked on a wide variety of projects, such as a Department of Energy funded hydro turbine, Radon fan, environmentally friendly residential air conditioner and heat pump, an oxidizer turbopump for a commercial rocket, and a revolutionary pediatric heart pump. Travis not only provided the mechanical designs for these programs, but he managed them with an expertise seldom encountered. He additionally served as an adjunct technical engineer for an Aerospace course at Purdue University. He jointly lectured specialty courses in Rocket Turbopump Design and analysis, as well as a Professional Course in Computational Fluid Dynamics at the Texas A&M Turbomachinery Symposium. He authored multiple turbomachinery related publications for AIAA, ASME, Joint Army Navy NASA Air Force (JANNAF), and Nuclear applications. Travis received NASA's Space Flight Awareness (SFA) Award in 2000 for his contribution in the development of the Space Shuttle's High Pressure Fuel Turbopump/Alternate Turbopump (HPFTP/AT). The SFA is considered one of the highest awards presented to NASA and/or significant industry partners related to the human space flight program. Travis was recognized as an international expert in turbomachinery. His work was respected in the United States, Europe, Australia, and India. The engineering contributions of Travis Jonas will be recognized for many years. Engineers of his magnitude come around once in a

lifetime.

Travis was full of life and had a spectacular sense of humor. He enjoyed adventures with his dedicated friends and quality time with his family. Travis had a special connection with his horse and cats. He played the saxophone and piano and loved watching Drum Corps International competitions. He also enjoyed almost anything related to cars— especially the Indy 500 and NASCAR and his mom's home cooking.

He is survived by his mother Gloria Jonas of Fountaintown; daughter Ashley Jonas of Cincinnati, Ohio; sister Tricia Hackleman (Jeff) and nieces Claire and Paige of Bishop, Georgia; and loving partner Kelly Smith and her daughters Marin and Maeve of Greenwood. He was preceded in death by his father Jerry W. Jonas.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory, 1484 W. US Hwy. 40, Greenfield, IN 46140 with a funeral service following the visitation at 2 p.m. Pastor Colin Cress will be officiating. Burial will follow at New Palestine Cemetery in New Palestine, Indiana. As a reminder, the government mandate requires guests to wear masks when inside our building. We must limit the number of guests at a time and please practice social distancing.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to www.fontanbloodpump.com by clicking the "DONATE" button. The Fontan pump will contribute to the quality of life for many children born with heart defects. Travis made outstanding contributions to this program, and his tireless efforts assisted in achieving a major National Institute of Health (NIH) Grant to continue and finalize its development. Contributions may also be made to the Fairview United Methodist Church, 1880 W 900 N, Fountaintown, IN 46130. Friends may share a memory or condolence at www.erleweinmortuary.com.

Cemetery

Events

New Palestine Cemetery

5055 S 500 W

New Palestine, IN, 46163

MAR

13

Visitation

11:00AM - 02:00PM

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

MAR

13

Funeral Service

02:00PM

Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield

1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - March 12, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ Travis, or TJ as I called him, was a great colleague, and a dear friend. I met him about 20 years ago while working on the USET program. He had an infectious enthusiasm and undeniable charisma. Yes, he was technically competent and had a great work ethic, but he was also just a blast to be around. He made work fun. He had a tremendous sense of humor. One of my favorite memories was when he was giving a presentation in a design review. A senior reviewer asked him something, and TJ thought he said, “What does that sound like”? Without hesitation, he made a sound effect of a turbopump rotor spooling up to high speed – it was actually remarkably accurate – and the whole room burst out laughing. After work, we spent way too much time at Mark and Brian’s trying to solve technical challenges or just talking about life. He loved to talk about his daughter. We stayed in touch after he left Aerojet, and I had the pleasure of working with him again just a few years ago. Again, he did exactly what he said he would do by when he said it would be done. And of course, it worked perfectly. TJ and I had so many great times together – memories I’ll cherish.

Philip Pelfrey - March 16, 2021 at 02:09 PM



“ I worked with Travis in 2000's while I worked at AFRL. But we quickly had more than a customer relationship and I would call him a friend. We shared many laughs. He is a great guy, smart engr, and always made work a joy... We both went separate ways but would share a random phone call or txt when something reminded us of the other one. Travis I will def raise a pint for you and say a prayer for you and your family. You will be missed but your memory will be eternal! With deepest sympathies, Steve Hanna

Stephen Hanna - March 16, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ With deepest sympathy for your loss. Keeping you close in our hearts.

LaVonna Jonas and family

LaVonna Jonas - March 14, 2021 at 07:27 PM



“ We send our deepest condolences and heart felt prayers. Danny and Pam Robinson

Pam Robinson - March 13, 2021 at 09:02 PM



“ Gloria,

So sorry to hear about Travis. He was an amazing young man, We will be thinking of you, much love.

Lloyd, Susan, and Jennifer

Jennifer Valentine - March 13, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ Praying for the family at the untimely passing of Travis.
Travis was like a son to us as he and Jason grew up. We remember his jokes and smiles and many happy times around our dinner table.



Dave and RuthAnn Hausz - March 12, 2021 at 04:09 PM



“ My condolences to Travis' family and other friends towards this sudden loss at a way to young age. I worked for several years with Travis a LibertyWorks/Rolls-Royce and was always impressed by his high level of enthusiasm and energy towards Work and life in general. We had some common special interests in the area of hypersonics related to work and cars and music outside of it.

He will be missed.



Daric Escher - March 11, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ Gloria you had a wonderful, talented and so much love! He will be missed by so many! May God give you peace and love and be with you to help you through this heartbreaking time. May Travis's memories be helpful. Love and Prayers Gerry Gaskill

Geraldine Gaskill - March 10, 2021 at 09:44 PM



“ Very sorry for the loss of Travis. Many prayers for his family and friends.

Trista Evans - March 10, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ Gloria and Tricia, I was so shocked and saddened to hear of Travis's passing. Love and prayers from my family.

Virginia Davis - March 10, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ I am so sorry for the loss of Travis. He was a leader and integral to the pump we are developing for children with congenital heart defect. He was a kind, humble man with exceptional engineering knowledge. We spent quite a few evenings and late nights performing experiments, discussing engineering challenges and how this device can help kids. I am still in shock and cannot believe he has passed away. I can only imagine how profound his loss is to his family. My deepest condolences to his family, colleagues, and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

Guruprasad Giridharan - March 10, 2021 at 08:58 AM



“ This was so sudden. We'll miss you Travis. You were a great friend, and a tremendous asset to our company, as well as to the high-performance pump industry. I am praying for your family, and that God blesses your soul in your new home in heaven.

With Condolences to Travis' Family and Friends,
Bill Marscher, CEO, Mechanical Solutions, Inc.

Bill Marscher, CEO, MSI - March 09, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ May God bless Travis's soul. Will miss his great enthusiasm, wit, humor and engineering skill

Alan Palazzolo - March 09, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ I am so sorry for the loss of Travis to his family and friends. The shock has yet to wear off. I first met Travis in early 2000 when he worked for Aerojet, and was immediately impressed with his knowledge, energy, and outlook on life. In 2011 I was able to begin working with him more closely at MSI. One of several fun Travis stories resulted from a great time one night in Morristown NJ with Travis and some of our younger engineers. I think it was the first time I saw Travis do his spot-on Jim Carrey imitation. He will be missed so much and remembered always. Eric Olson

Eric Olson - March 09, 2021 at 08:09 AM



“ Pam Thomas lit a candle in memory of Travis Jonas



Pam Thomas - March 08, 2021 at 10:01 PM



“ I was blessed to have Travis to be in our families life and looking to see Travis in heaven. May GOD give the Joni's family comfort and peace. Doug maudlin

douglas maudlin - March 08, 2021 at 08:29 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this very difficult time. God bless you all.

Kevin & Terri (Meiser) Willard - March 08, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ Travis, we were partners for 18 years. We traveled the world and designed many machines together. You were simply the best engineer that I could have as a partner. You were also the greatest friend. You were truly like a son to me. I pray that Travis' family will remember the loving and caring man who graced this world for far too short a time. May God Bless you all and keep you in His Grace.

Respectfully,

Ed Bennett (Papa Bear) and Laurie Clossey (Mama Bear)



Edward Bennett - March 08, 2021 at 07:30 PM



“Wow. How to share a memory of one of the kindest souls I've ever met? He was funny as hell and a humble genius. Who would have ever known? He was down to earth and as honest as they come. May his soul Rest In Peace. So blessed to have met Travis. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family and friends.

Treva Steele - March 08, 2021 at 07:05 PM



“Travis was a sweetheart & his memory will forever fill my heart with admiration, great joy & endless love. My deepest condolences to Travis's Family & Friends like Family. Everyone was blessed to know him.
“Now Travis sees Him face to face,
Jesus our Savior full of grace.
So when our work on earth is o'er
He'll be waiting for us at Heaven's door.”
Respectfully, Ted & Debbie Brown

Debbie Brown - March 08, 2021 at 03:27 PM