



James Richard Nichols

August 29, 1993 - May 22, 2025

With deep love and abiding faith, we celebrate the life of James Richard Nichols, who passed away on May 22, 2025, at the age of 31, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Born Into Light and Love...

James was born on August 29, 1993, in Silver Spring, Maryland, but just six weeks later, he moved to Houston, Texas—the city he proudly claimed as his childhood home—where his journey of joy, service, and faith truly began. James was the beloved son of Richard and Sonja Nichols, and a devoted brother to Richard Nichols III and Kayla Nichols.

A Journey of Wisdom and Learning...

He graduated from Myers Park High School in Charlotte and later graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he proudly marched as a bass drummer in the renowned House of Funk drumline. He was also a proud brother of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, where he shared his passion for music and brotherhood. Following his time at Morehouse, James earned a Master of Arts in Christian Ministries from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, preparing him for a life of faithful service and evangelism. He also shared his passion for God's word as owner of the Christian Bookstore at the Southern Lion, offering

Bibles and Christian literature to support others on their spiritual journey.

Called to Serve Through Vocation...

As the Director of Evangelism at The Park Church in Charlotte, James shared the Gospel with passion, empathy, and purpose, focusing especially on young adults and college students. His ministry reflected his deep belief that faith grows through honest conversation and meaningful community. He dreamed boldly, loved deeply, and led humbly.

A Life Poured Out in Passion...

James's passions were as vibrant and dynamic as his spirit. A devoted car enthusiast, he found joy in the roar of engines and the sleek curves of his favorite rides. Music resonated deeply within him—from gospel and hip-hop to Japanese pop and heavy metal—each genre adding a unique note to the soundtrack of his life. An avid gamer and anime aficionado, James held a special place in his heart for Gundam, bringing those worlds to life through his meticulously crafted Gunpla models. His love of science, sparked in childhood, fueled his curiosity about the mysteries of life, while his vast collection of fantasy and adventure novels transported him to realms of wonder and imagination. Through his collection of jewelry and hats, James expressed his bold individuality, leaving a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Most inspiring of all, James was preparing to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a missionary in Japan. His deep love for the culture and his desire to share Christ's message across borders reflected the heart of his calling—one shaped by compassion, lived with humility, and grounded in steadfast faith.

Anchored in Family, Surrounded by Love...

He is lovingly survived by his parents, Richard and Sonja Nichols; his siblings, Richard Nichols III and Kayla Nichols; his grandparents; his godparents; cherished aunts and uncles; numerous cousins; and a broad community of friends and church family who were profoundly touched by his joy, wisdom, and unwavering faith.

Cemetery Details

Sharon Memorial Park

5716 Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Park Church
6029 Beatties Ford Rd
Charlotte, NC 28216-2205
(704) 392-1681

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Park Church
6029 Beatties Ford Rd
Charlotte, NC 28216-2205
(704) 392-1681

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Soror Sonja and family,
My deepest love and care for you and the
family. God is always in charge and he will
see you through. Blessings, Soror Donna
Parker-Tate and Frank Tate



Donna Parker-Tate - June 08, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard Nichols.

June 08, 2025 at 02:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of James Richard Nichols.



June 08, 2025 at 02:23 AM

DH

“ Mon. 06.02.25 Peace Tidings of Comfort to those whose lives have
been impacted by the unexpected departure of Son, Brother and
Child of God James Nichols. I have been a visitor and Friend of The
Park Church & the Church Family from South Eastern Connecticut.
Know that Prayers have been lifted for Healing and Comfort that
only the Holy Spirit can provide. Donna Hunter, Waterford
Connecticut

Donna Hunter - June 02, 2025 at 09:52 PM

CS

“ Casey S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Richard Nichols.

Casey S. - June 01, 2025 at 10:39 PM

LK

“ Dear Sonja and the Nichols family, I just heard the devastating news of the passing of James. My heart breaks for all of you. My thoughts and prayers go out to you all. May God comfort and keep you.



Lesa & David Kelcy - May 31, 2025 at 09:01 PM

JB

“ A candle was lit in memory of James from the Bradley family. May God be your strength at this most difficult time.



Jacqueline and Marvin Bradley - May 31, 2025 at 09:42 AM

AF

“ My deepest condolences and love to the Nichols family as well as The Park Church family. What I will remember about James will be his calm and humble spirit. His welcoming smile and his hat were his trademark. I pray that God will comfort the hearts of all of us who will feel the void left by his passing.

Annetta Foard - May 30, 2025 at 11:05 PM

CH

“ It is with heartfelt sympathy, I am lifting up the family of James Richard Nichols in prayer. At just 31 years old, James’ earthly journey ended far too soon, but we hold fast to the promise found in Psalm 34:18 — “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

May God’s love surround you, His peace uphold you, and His strength carry you through this time of deep sorrow.

Rev. Charell Harper

Charell Harper - May 30, 2025 at 03:27 PM

LM

“ Always smiling, kind and compassionate, you knew when James came in wearing his cowboy hat, a sincere conversation would follow. I only knew him a short time, but I knew him as a good and faithful servant, with a caring heart. Thoughts and prayers, for all his family and friends, may your happy memories warm your heart and the power of faith continue to endure.”

Laura Manning - May 30, 2025 at 08:15 AM

DD

“ To the Nichols Family: Our condolences, love and prayers. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. We pray that God's love and peace will be your comfort and your strength during this time and the days to come. God bless you and may God keep His loving arms wrapped around you.



Deborah Dozier - May 30, 2025 at 07:03 AM

CC

“ I will truly miss James’ witt, wisdom, humor, smile, intellect and friendship.

Here’s a great memory from just a few weeks ago when traveling to NYC for a training and equipping Alpha gathering. We learned insights about how Alpha was impacting NYC and embraces best practices and learnings. With it being his first time in the city he wanted to experience the subway. So we staged a we won’t mess with you as long as you don’t mess with us look.

Each time I met with James we had great insightful conversations and encouraged each other.

Rev. Chris Cooper



chris cooper - May 29, 2025 at 11:55 PM

KC

Sonja and Richard, our deepest condolences go out to you and your family! May James rest in heaven! God bless!

*With love,
Ken and Jean Castleberry*

Ken Castleberry - May 31, 2025 at 12:26 PM

DD

James, will be greatly missed.

Darlene Dockery - May 31, 2025 at 07:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard Nichols.

May 29, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of James Richard Nichols.



May 29, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ Antoinette Dixon lit a candle in memory of James Nichols



Antoinette Dixon - May 29, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church purchased the Divine Light for the family of James Richard Nichols.



Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church - May 29, 2025 at 08:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard Nichols.

May 29, 2025 at 07:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Richard Nichols.



May 29, 2025 at 07:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard Nichols.



May 29, 2025 at 04:54 PM