



Jay Woodruff

March 19, 1970 - July 21, 2009

Jay Lance Woodruff, husband of Tara M. (Gvodas) Woodruff, of Royersford, PA, formerly of Bradenton, FL, and Virginia Beach, died at the age of 39 after only a three week battle with Leukemia on Tuesday evening, July 21, 2009. Born in Freeport, IL, he was the son of Michael Woodruff, and the late Verla (Fairbairn) Woodruff. Jay was a graduate of the Shore Crest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg, FL, and of the United States Naval Academy. After the Academy, Mr. Woodruff served as a United States Naval Officer, until joining the reserves, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Professionally, Jay had worked in the banking industry for the last eight years. Most recently, he relocated his family from Florida, back to his wife Tara's home town in Pennsylvania, where he joined Bank of America as their Vice President, Market Performance Manager in the Philadelphia-Bucks county areas. In addition to his father and wife of 15 years, Jay is survived by his daughter; Natasha T. Woodruff, son; Nicholas A. Woodruff, brother; Kent Klemz, husband to Julie of Monroe, MI, and paternal grandmother, Joyce (Woodruff) Ripps, of Seminole, FL. Jay was a selfless and dedicated husband and father who always put the needs of his family first. No personal sacrifice was ever too great for Jay when it came to his family. He loved them completely in everyway possible. His kindness and generosity were second to none. Perhaps due to his military training at Annapolis, or the guidance he received from his Grandmother, Jay was viewed by all as someone who could be called upon to help with anything anywhere-always arriving with dynamite

smile, welcoming hug, a strong arm and a brilliant mind. He was the compassionate "go to" guy for many people. Whether through deeds or words, Jay was always there to help, never asking for anything in return beyond friendship, acceptance, and love. Jay came from a very small family, having only a half brother to call his own. However, over the last 15 years through his marriage to Tara, he quickly became an integral part, if not a cornerstone of a much larger family. Tara's mother and father John and Mary Kay Gvodas, Sr., her six brothers and sisters and their spouses and her 15 nieces and nephews all knew Jay as a Brother, Uncle, and Son. Being a part of the family unit was paramount to Jay. Everyone could see that he was on a quest to give back more than he received. Though out numbered, he never gave up the fight-not with his love for his wife, his children (who he was immensely proud of), his extended family, and his co-workers. Jay's impeccable character, citizenship, compassion and generosity has touched so many of us. He will be deeply missed by all. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Service at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Lewis Road at Walnut Street, Royersford, PA on Monday, July 27, 2009 at 1:00PM. Burial with full military honors rendered will be in the Limerick Garden of Memories, Limerick, PA. Friends will be received from 2:00 - 4:00PM, and 6:00 - 9:00PM on Sunday, at the Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home, 600 Washington Street, Royersford, PA. Friends will also be received from 11:30 - 12:45PM, Monday at the Church. There will be no calling time on Monday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in his name to the "Jay Lance Woodruff Memorial Fund", C/O Bank of America, 130 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426. Condolences may be made online at www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Tara and Family - I am so sorry for your loss. Cat Weiss told about it as I am searching for classmates to try to organize a 20 year SPX high school reunion. I am so, so sorry to hear about this news. If you need anything, please let me know. I would love to get your updated contact info to keep you in the loop about reunion. Please take care and take one day at a time...

Lise Cassarella Leonard - cassarel@hotmail.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

BP

“ Dear Tara, my sincere condolences on the recent passing of your husband, Jay. Michele sends her thoughts and prayers to you and your family during this difficult time. I am deeply saddened to hear of your husband's death. Jay was a wonderful man, loving father and one of the most courageous individuals I will ever know. It has always been apparent how beautiful and wondrous the life you two have shared - in friendship and marriage. You were truly blessed to have loved such an amazing man. Please pass my deepest sympathies on to your children and family. With Love and Prayers, -
Brian A hunger seized my heart;
I read Of that glad year which once had been,
In those fall'n leaves which kept their green,
The noble letters of the dead:
And strangely on the silence broke
The silent-speaking words,
and strange Was love's dumb cry defying change
To test his worth;
and strangely spoke
So word by word, and line by line,
The dead man touch'd me from the past,
And all at once it seem'd at last
The living soul was flash'd on mine,
And mine in this was wound,
and whirl'd About empyreal heights of thought,
And came on that which is, and caught
The deep pulsations of the world,
- Lord Alfred Tennyson

Brian - proxie99@hotmail.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

AR

“ I am so sorry for your lose. My condolences to Mike (classmate) Tara M. Woodruff and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you and I hope the memories, you hold close to heart. of Jay and your devotion to God will sustain you during this difficult time. Heartfelt, Ardy Geiseman (classmate of Mike Woodruff)

Ardis (Andre') Geiseman - rdskids@yahoo.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

IT

“ Thank you Sir for being such a great person. It was a pleasure serving under you. May you rest in peace.

IT2 Torres - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MW

“ I served with Jay in FL. He was a great Naval Officer. He will truly be missed. Fair Winds and Following Sees.....

MAC Michael Williams - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

SM

“ Condolences from yet another sailor touched by Mr. Woodruff. His lessons will be remembered. May his children find solace in service to others just as their dad did. Warmest regards, Petty Officer Russell

SK2 (IS) Mary L. Russell - MaryL.Russell@gmail.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MV

“ Dear Woodruff family, I hope God keeps you close to his heart and helps you through these troubled times. I left the reserve unit in 2005 and have not heard from anyone until recently. I am so sorry to hear anout Jay. He will be truly missed. My heart goes out to you and your family. God Bless, Paul lezzi

MA2 Paul lezzi - VulcherA2@aol.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

AM

“ You will always be in our hearts,

Ashley Martone - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

GG

“ Jay was a great freind and an inspirational leader. I served under him in the USNR and he was the banker for my personal business. He was a very positive influence on my life. He was that rare person who could inspire great respect and be very well liked at the same time. I will miss him very much.

Gray Young - graytyoung@verizon.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

JF

“ I was tremendously saddened today upon hearing of LCDR (Jay) Woodruff passing. Mr. Woodruff was my Commanding Officer, not once but twice. He was the person that I had a genuine appreciation & respect for. Not only as a Naval Officer but also as a person of outstanding moral & military character who gave us all the insight into being a better person, sailor & citizen. Sir you will be missed by all former NRC St. Petersburg, FL, members and by those who served with and for you as C.O. of SIMA and COMDESRON 2. Anchors Aweigh, Sir we'll miss you.

Jeff Newland - firemedic91@msn.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MT

“ Dear Tara, Please accept my very deep condolences on the death of your husband. We've not met, but my late husband, Frank Wittwer, was a classmate of Jay's at Navy. Frank was killed 3.5 years ago...we have 3 children; Erin is 10, Abbie 8.5, and Jack is almost 4. I know the circumstances of death are different, but if you'd EVER like to talk, I'm here. Most Sincerely Yours, Mendi Wittwer

Mendi Wittwer - teamwittwer@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

DD

“ Tara - I was heartbroken to learn last night of Jay's passing. Jay's name somehow came up during conversation last night, and that is when I learned of your loss. I do not have the words to express how deeply saddened I am by this. Everything that has been said about Jay in all of the prior postings is spot on. I truly wish that I had not fallen out of touch with you. Perhaps I would have learned of this sooner and could have been there for you and your family. Please know that you, Natasha and Nicholas are in my family's thoughts and prayers. much love - Deb

Deborah (Halvorsen) Raupp - deebmole@yahoo.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

TA

“ So very saddened to hear of Jay's passing. He was a memorable Shorecrest alumnus and as a Charger football player as well; just ask Coach Phil Hayford. My prayers go out to his lovely family. Fondly, Sra. Teresa Andrés/Shorecrest Preparatory School, Saint Petersburg, FL

Teresa Andrés - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MS

“ Tara, I am truly sorry for your loss and wish I could help in some way. I've followed you guys at more than arms length through your Uncle--I offer my prayers and support. I pray for your strength, your family, and hope for you and the kids. To Jack and Mary Kay, I am truly sorry. I also pray for your strength through this as well as the rest of your extended family. May the support and love from your family and good memories--of which there are many--carry you through this time in your life. Sincerely, Matt Clay '94

Matt Clay - sfna18@cox.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

NN

“ Dear Tara and Family, I knew Jay from our time at the Naval Academy and had many classes with him. While he and I, like many, went our separate ways after graduation I did have the chance to sit with him for a while in Savannah back in Feb'08. As many have been recollecting, his was a personality that lifted the room. I consider myself lucky to have been able to catch up the intervening years. I believe we can now understand what the Irish poet William Yeats meant when he wrote: "Think where man's glory most begins and ends and say -- my glory was that I had such friends." My sincerest condolences on your loss. Noel Fagan '94

Noel Fagan - nfagan@vestapartners.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MH

“ Woodruff Family: Jay was a pleasure to work and fly with at VAW 120. He was a committed instructor and good friend. He will be missed.

Mark Hendrickson - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MM

“ Dear Tara and Nick: Our family and everyone at the Longhorns are deeply saddened by your loss. I only had the pleasure of knowing Jay briefly, but held him in great regard from the moment we met. His fine character came across immediately and we will miss seeing him around the field and on the sidelines during our games. We hope you're hanging in there and please advise if there's anything that we can do for either of you. Regards, Mike

Michael DiLeva - mike_experior@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

CK

“ My deepest condolences to your family. He truly is a great man.

Chief Keith Gunsel, USNR - kgunsel@optonline.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

DS

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Dr. Wirant & Staff - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

WW

“ Tara, Natasha, and Nicholas, It is so hard to believe that Jay's life was so short. I keep thinking about times we spent with you guys. We had such fun with you all. It was fun having you guys at church, going to Disneyworld, going down to Kitty Hawk and just hanging out with you all. Jay was such a happy, determined guy. I remember how nice it was for him to help lay boards in the attic of our new house. I remember being skeptical of his new career in banking, but he succeeded in making a successful second career for himself. I'm not sure we'll ever understand the reason his life was so short. I do know, from personal experience, that underneath the pain and turmoil, lies peace. It is my hope for all of you that you find this soon. I'll be in touch. Wayne Creef

Wayne Creef - wcreef@gmail.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MM

“ I am truly saddened by your loss. I remember Jay from Plebe summer, Navy Football games, and his company was next to ours in Bancroft. He never seemed short of energy or a smile. He will be missed. Marv Carlin Class of '94

Marv Carlin - marv.carlin@navy.mil - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

ES

“ Dear Tara and family, I, too, was Jay's company mate and classmate. As you can tell by the numerous posts, his positive outlook and unique (!) personality carried many of us through some difficult times. I'll always remember Jay's singular cadence calling and his quick, ready smile. You have my deepest condolences. Eric Severseike

Eric Severseike - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

DS

“ I am truly sorry to hear of the sudden passing of Jay. We were company mates at USNA. It feels like only yesterday we were plebes getting yelled at on a hot July afternoon in Bancroft Hall. Jay's unique spirited yelling provided great cover fire from the 2/C detailers. "Dogwood," you will missed. V/R, Dan Sheridan

Dan Sheridan - sheridandan@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

DD

“ Tara, Natasha and Nicholas, We feel fortunate to have had the pleasure over the years to get to know your family, and we consider you part of ours. We've had lots of laughs and great times. We'll always think of Jay when we play "The Pit" game, as he was the master at it. His smile, humor and positive outlook on life left an imprint on our hearts forever. We will miss him. We love you all. Love, Dan, Michele, Daniel and Rachel

Dan & Michele Dougherty - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

AB

“ Tara, we met Jay at Chris and Mike Texas Holdem night. My husband and I sat at the same tabel with him. While we olny met him for the first time that night he was such a fun guy to hang out with. We are so very sorry to hear about Jay's illness and passing. Our prayers are with you and your children during this very difficult time. Sincerely, Al and Barb

Al and Barb Benson - barbara.benson@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

SS

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Jay on our team at Regions Bank. Always with a big smile, always encouraging us. He will be greatly missed. Please accept my condolences, Jay and his family will be in my prayers.

Sonia Martinez - sarevallo@aol.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

BB

“ To the entire Woodruff family, My thoughts and prayers are with you all as together we grieve the loss of Jay. Although he was taken too soon, I hope it is a comfort to us all that he impacted so many. Professionally, Jay gave me my first shot in my new career and guided me to success, and personally, he was there for me a few years ago during a difficult time in my life. I will remember his energy, kindness, positivity, tenacity, and selflessness.

Bryan Boudreaux - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

RR

“ Woodruff family-- My sincere condolences on the passing of Jay. I remember him from the Academy, and as soon as I read the name I could see his face. Prayers for all of you during this troubled time, and always be proud of what Jay did and who he was, since you all had an integral part in that. "Remember not that I died, but that I lived." Sincerely and prayerfully, Rob Ballister, USNA '94

Rob Ballister - rballister@verizon.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

TT

“ Dear Tara and family: Please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences. May God comfort and strengthen you as only He can in a time such as this. Though we've not seen one another in person for many years, you have been thought of often...and never without a smile! You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Tina (Morgan) McIntyre

Tina (Morgan) McIntyre - tjmcintyre@aol.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

CC

“ To the entire family I send my deepest and heartfelt condolences. Jay was an exceptional person. He was an amazing asset to the crews that flew with him, as well as the Hawkeye community and the Navy as a whole. He was a great friend and will always be remembered fondly. I am desperately trying to reschedule my work for the week to enable me to attend the services for Jay. If I am unable to do so, I want you to know that I will be with you all in spirit and will be honoring my friend in prayer and thought. Respectfully,
Cricket

Cricket Kimble - crickete2@msn.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

PP

“ Tara and the Woodruff family, My heart goes out to you all. I was one of Jay's roommates plebe year at USNA and counted myself a friend our whole time there. I lost touch with him after graduation and am sorry about that. I have very fond memories of Jay and wish I could have re-connected with him. I knew him to be a devoted patriot and a selfless friend. Please accept my condolences on behalf of the whole Dwyer family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sincerely, Phil Dwyer

Phil Dwyer - phdwyer2002@yahoo.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

PP

“ Dear Woodruff Family, I am sad to hear of Jay's death. He was quite an encouragement to me while I attended the Naval Academy- definitely there to help his brothers. May you find comfort from the Lord. He was a good man. Patrick

Patrick H. Crais - phcrais@yahoo.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

BB

“ Jay, too soon you were taken! One always thinks there is more time. We were just discussing your illness, and I thought as soon as I get back from deployment I am going to make it my goal to communicate with you as much as humanly possible. I am gutted that I missed the years just past. How quickly 15 yrs has passed while we work to get to a place where we can look around. I am profoundly moved, as the obituary of you was so spot on that I found myself remembering you as the young midshipman, so full of piss and vinegar and ready to rage by anyone's side as a support figure. Sounds like in your post USNA life you still easily lifted large burdens and carried with grace loads that many could or would not bear. Tara, what can I say for you that has not already been said. I wish I were there to show my support, but I am off the coast Australia and would lose 2 days in travel. Small excuse, but a limiting reality. Know that I have wept openly only 3 times in my adult male life: The birth of my son, the passing of my father to cancer at 49, and the senseless passing of my very good friend Jay. I am Powerless...Bereft...and quite obviously verbose and ineffectual at relaying my profound sadness. Please do not hesitate to contact for ANY need. Byron

Byron Alexander - Byron.alexander@ctf70.navy.mil - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

PH

“ I only knew Jay for a short time, but he was an inspiration to me at Regions Bank. He always had a smile and a word of encouragement. I know he was a good and fair man. My deepest sympathy.

Peggy Hodson - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

TT

“ Woodruff Family, Please accept my family's deepest condolences for your tragic loss. Jay was a good friend of mine at USNA. Someone who always shared a smile and comforting personality. I have not seen him since our graduation in 94 so this sudden loss is very saddening to me. I always knew he would be a great success in life, both in business and as a dad. He was exactly that and more. Your family remains in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all,
TJ Staffieri

TJ Staffieri - tjs3tjs3@yahoo.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

JB

“ Dear Tara & Family, Woody and I were roommates during plebe year at the Academy, and company mates and friends through graduation. Jay was one of the brightest people I've ever met; funloving, smart, and able to take on the challenges of the Naval Academy in stride. My family and I are deeply saddened by his passing and extend our most heartfelt sympathies to you and your family. Jim Brady

Jim Brady - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

KK

“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Our prayers are with your families. God Bless

Karen & Terry Diehl - kdiehl80@hotmail.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

JB

“ I remember Jay from Shorecrest. He was always smiling and very friendly. I am sorry for your loss.

Jennifer Babat - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

GG

“ My Uncle Jay was the *BEST* uncle anyone could ever have by a mile. I loved him *SOOO* much. He was so much fun to be around. I will miss him more than anyone can ever imagine. I love you Uncle Jay and i always will. <3

Grace Gvodas - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

WW

“ Please accept my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies. While I only worked with Jay for a short time, his inner light and bright smile were very motivating and supportive. I'm sure that light will shine down on your family bringing you peace and comfort.

Wendy Pearson - wendy.pearson@micorp.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MS

“ My thoughts and prayers to Tara and the family on the loss of Jay. He was a fine Naval Officer, talented NFO, and a good man.

Mark Simms - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

BC

“ Oh my gosh, I can't believe Jay is gone. He was an absolute pleasure to work with, even a mentor. It was an honor to be his friend and squadron-mate for three years. My condolences to Tara, the children, and his extended family.

Brian Cantrell - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

YP

“ Dear Michael Woodruff: We wish we could find words to ease your pain. Do know that we are thinking of you during this time of loss. You have our sincere condolences and sympathy. In Sympathy,
Your friends at Primero Management

Your friends at Primero - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM