



Mr. Jean-Claude "JC" Kergaravat

January 14, 1953 - March 20, 2021

Jean-Claude "JC" Kergaravat, 68, of Lee, MA died peacefully at his home on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

He was born on January 14th, 1953 to the late Wilfred Joseph Kergaravat and Marie Yvonne (LeGuern) Kergaravat in Carhaix-Plouger in the Finistere department in Western Brittany, France.

JC came to the USA with his parents as an infant and grew up in Lee and Stockbridge. He attended St. Mary's and the Stockbridge Plain School. He was a 1972 graduate of the Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA. He attended Monmouth College and Hofstra University.

Mr. Kergaravat served as a troubleshooter for Hallmark and resurrected many stores along the East Coast in the late 1970's-early 1980's. He ran his own card and gift shop, Back Bay Greetings, in the Back Bay Section of Boston for several years.

JC moved back to the Berkshires in the latter part of the 1980's and worked for the state of MA Department of Mental Retardation as a direct care worker for almost 20 years before retiring in 2009.

After his retirement, he joined his wife and became the business manager for Berkshire Pet Pals, LLC. Together they provided pet care services to residents of Berkshire County and the surrounding areas.

JC loved softball and often played in the Monterey pick-up league. He sponsored several local co-ed teams and was always willing to share his insight and knowledge of the sport. He was a lifelong fan of the New York

Yankees and the New York Giants. He was an accomplished and self-taught musician. He played guitar for several local country bands including: Eldorado, Southern Cross, and Sierra Pearl. His latest project was playing guitar for local recording artist, Jeannie Romeo. He enjoyed doing yard work and relaxing at home with his wife and pets.

JC had a quick wit, sense of humor, and strong traditional values & beliefs. His imitations, skits, and antics would put a smile on everyone's face.

JC was diagnosed with stage IV Merkel Cell Carcinoma, a rare neuroendocrine/skin cancer 2017. He immediately enrolled and participated in a clinical trial for immunotherapy under the guidance of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and did quite well for 3 years. The last 8 months were a struggle as the cancer gained momentum, but he fought bravely and was always positive and upbeat. He was determined to do his part to help find a cure for this rare form of cancer. He was proud to have participated in the avelumab trial, which is now the preferred first line of treatment for those with this type of cancer.

JC is survived by his wife and best friend of 21 years, Kathy Sue Mullett. He also leaves three adult children: Joel, James, and Brittany and two grandchildren.

As per his request, there will be no calling hours. A private graveside service will be held at the family's convenience. In lieu of flowers, donations in JC's memory may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Kathy would like to acknowledge and extend a heartfelt thank-you to JC's dear friend, Earl Scott, for his unwavering support and help through this most difficult time: "Your kindness and compassion mean more to us than you will ever know. Thank-you."

A special thanks to Dr. Guilherme Rabinowits, Dr. Glenn Hanna, Dawn F., Dr. Ayal Aizer, Dr. Manisha Thakuria, and the whole team of Merkel Cell

Specialists along with their wonderful support staff at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA.

Thanks to Dr. DeLeo and his staff at the BMC Cancer Center in Pittsfield, MA and to Hospice Care of The Berkshires.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Kathy..

I don't know if you remember me. But I will never forget J.C., you, and at the time, your

3 little ones. My name is Mike Cochran, and I worked at the Home on Marble St. with J.C.

At the time Joel, and James were little spitfires, and you were preparing for the birth of

Briiany. I spent my last Christmas Eve downstairs at your home on the couch. I believe it was the fall of '94 that I left for Texas. The last thing I did before I left was to go to J.C.'s

first concert. Complete with cowboy hat, and guitar. He did quite a great show! Today all

these memories came flooding back to me when I saw this very terrible news online. J.C.

and I talked a lot about how much he loved you, and his boy's. And his anticipation for the

new addition. He didn't want me to leave for Texas. I told him that with him staying in place with a steady hand everything would go smoothly. The last shift that I ever worked

with J.C. was a little emotional at the end. I told him it was the first time I ever hugged a

Yankee Fan, and he laughed. "I never hugged a Red Sox Fan, now I've got to get my

jacket dry cleaned." That was how we left it. But I never forgot J.C.

or, his great little family. Kathy I am so very sorry for your loss. I wish I had known him longer. I will always

have my memories. I will pray for J.C., and for you, Joel, James, and for the now grown

Brittany, and your Grandchildren....

May God Bless You All.

Mike C.

Mike Cochran - August 06, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ I am pretty sure that this is my former boss from my first job I had in Salem, MA back in 1977/1978. Oddly enough, I woke up this morning and thought of JC, so I googled his name and sadly found his obituary. After all these years I still remember his kindness to me. I will always remember JC fondly and send my condolences to his wife, and other family and friends.

Susan Mercier - May 05, 2021 at 01:40 AM

KK

Yes! And thank-you!

He was a very kind and big-hearted person! He was brutally honest and always fair. A man of integrity, for sure!

Thank-you for sharing.

Kathy S. Kergaravat(wife)

Kathy Kergaravat - June 06, 2021 at 09:54 AM

IT

“ i will miss my friend j.c.
but i know i will think of him often and certainly during each and every softball game i play without him nearby
love and condolences to kathy
ira

ira transport - April 07, 2021 at 09:28 AM

GM

“ So sorry to hear of J C passing. He was a great neighbor for many years, and a talented musician, I know my dogs all loved him 😊 thinking of you Kathy at this difficult time. Condolences to the entire family. R.I.P Greg & Missy 🙏❤️❤️❤️❤️

greg mosca - March 31, 2021 at 09:39 AM

JR

“ I will always remember JC's supportive nature, He helped to bring my music to life. He was kind, caring and a true gentleman. He is with the angels playing music! Your spirit will be with us. Jeannie Romeo



jean romeo - March 29, 2021 at 09:28 AM

KK

“ I wish I could have met you sooner so that I could have loved you longer, but I could never love you more that I do right now.



I will always love you. I will keep your memory alive. I will carry out your wishes to the best of my ability.

Until we meet again, my love, rest in peace. I know you are probably up there playing softball and making everyone smile. Please save a place for me.

Thank-you for the best 21 years of my life.

With All My Love Forever,
Kathy

Kathy Kergaravat - March 27, 2021 at 08:39 AM