



## Jason V. Fritz

December 9, 1975 - March 23, 2021

Jason V. Fritz, age 45, of Kalamazoo, passed away unexpectedly on March 23, 2021 following a motorcycle accident. Jason was born December 9, 1975 in Kalamazoo, son of Paul and Undine Fritz.

Jason's love of music was apparent from the time he could talk. He was in the Congregational Church Bell Choir and excelled on the euphonium throughout his school career. Jason was a large strong man active in school sports. He played football and set school records in shotput. His academic grades were excellent.

He graduated from Bangor High School in 1994 and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in conducting from Western Michigan University.

Jason met and fell in love with Dani Ryskamp. They were married in 2012. Jason loved cooking, gardening, fishing, and hunting for morel mushrooms, but most of all Dani, his brothers and family.

He was employed as music director at Comstock schools and inspired not only his students but everyone he encountered. His compassion and caring for others was who he was. He was a pillar of his family and community and will be remembered, missed and loved always.

Surviving is his wife, Dani; parents, Paul and Undine Fritz; brothers, David (Melissa) Golden, Eric (Debby) Fritz, Carl (Ashley) Fritz; and cousin, Jim (Erin) Bodine. He was preceded in death by grandparents, Vincent and Harriet Fritz and Evert and Janet Bradbury.

Following his wishes cremation has taken place. A memorial service is being held on July 17, 2021 from 1-4 PM at the Colt Center, Comstock High School, 2107 N. 26th Street, Kalamazoo. Arrangements entrusted to the Bangor Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, [www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 17. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Colt Center, Comstock High School  
2107 N. 26th Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

# Tribute Wall

LU

“ I was one of his student for band I was the best teacher one could ask for I wish I could talk to him one last time I wish I was able to say goodbye but I wasn't able to when I got the new that morning or so to speak then I logged into class that morning due to the pandemic they were saying how Jason will be missed and I said "you make it sound like he's dead" end when they said he was idk it got hard to think and my grades plummeted. It was a huge hit to me as well as the rest of the band because we went from having like 45 members to being a 15 person band most of the people I didn't even know when the ceremony happened I did speak. I spoke all I could as much as I could I wish I could see him. I wish he could have seen me graduate. It didn't really matter my freshman year I got expelled for being to violent for schools the only thing I wanted was the trombone I was given but they wouldn't even try to give it up we offered them enough money to buy a whole new one but they wouldn't budge I have a new trombone now and I still occasionally play just to remember his face lol. Y'know he had this candy everyone in the class used to hate but since his passing I've bought a bag every year and even every few months I choked down so many of those suckers I actually like them now to everybody who actually read this garbage of a text all the band members who thought I disappeared off the face of the earth I am Lucius Fonseca and I am proud I was apart of the Comstock band be safe don't drink and drive that's how people get hurt



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Lucius - January 08, 2025 at 12:39 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Jason V. Fritz.*



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July 17, 2021 at 07:29 AM



“ *Janet Villarimo lit a candle in memory of Jason V. Fritz*



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**Janet Villarimo** - April 08, 2021 at 04:52 PM



*From the Villarimo Boys in STEM Band*

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**Janet Villarimo** - April 08, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ *I know I am not family but I was one of his students he was the best teacher anybody could ask for and he was the most kind hearted man and he would come to class telling use that he was going sap tapping and making his hot sauce and he lit the room up and that is how good of a man Mr.Fritz was*



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**skylynn** - April 02, 2021 at 09:02 AM

KO

“ Jason was a former student of mine during my years as band director for Bangor. I watched him blossom from a 6th grade baritone student through his high school years in band. You could see his love of music grow. During his time at GVSU he became a student assistant with me at Holland. The students often commented that he was taller than me, even when I was standing on the podium. My reply was that he taller than me even in 6th grade. He always had a gentle soul and a giant personality. It thrilled me that he went into music education. I am glad he had the opportunity to apply his love of music education to the communities he served and am sure he is greatly missed by them. My condolences go out to his family. Know that the huge space left in your hearts are because Jason was a great person. Kay O'Neill (Mayer)

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**Kay O'Neill** - March 29, 2021 at 09:55 AM



“ Karen Wellman lit a candle in memory of Jason V. Fritz



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**Karen Wellman** - March 28, 2021 at 11:28 PM

LF

“ Jason was the sweetest and smartest young man I ever met. he was such a joy when he worked at my State Farm Office. he always brought a smile to every one's face. I always looked forward to he and his dad bring water for our pool each year. i would have a chance to catch up on his life. He leaves a hole in our hears as big as his heart was. He will be greatly missed. Love and prayers to his dear parents and his brother and sister in laws. Lynne and Dan Farmer

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**Lynne Farmer** - March 28, 2021 at 02:31 PM

PB

“ Jason was an affable colleague in our circle of Jackson County. He was musical, funny, and devoted to his students at Concord. We went to many festivals and marched many Memorial Day parades together. His passing leaves us all shocked and saddened. My deepest condolences for his family and his students (past and present). May his love of music continue to inspire all of us to carry on in his honor. We miss you.

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**Paul Bickel** - March 28, 2021 at 09:47 AM

BM

“ Jason was one of my first students when I started at Grand Valley State University in 1994. He was beloved as many of the students I had in those early years. He had a great sense of humor and was a great musician. Words cannot describe how it feels to lose a former student, colleague and great person. It is was great to work with his fine students at Concord HS and watch him grow as a musician and a human being. I know this is a huge loss for all of us, but I take it personally. We should never lose a great human being like Jason. The world will not be the same without him. I send my condolences to his family and everyone that knew and loved him.

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**Barry D. Martin** - March 27, 2021 at 11:18 PM

MB

“ Jason will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Mary Burnside - March 27, 2021 at 01:38 PM

CF

“ Carl Fritz lit a candle in memory of Jason V. Fritz



Carl Fritz - March 27, 2021 at 12:40 PM

CF

“ There are no words to describe how wonderful of a person Jason was. He was my brother and my best friend in the whole world. We did everything together fishing, hunting, wood, video games, traveling, working; pretty much everything else in my life I can think of, in some way reminds me of him. He was always a caregiver. He always took care of everybody else before himself even if it was not always good for him. He was a true pillar of strength for the family and any community he was in. I will miss him with all my heart for the rest of ever. He will never be forgotten. Jason was always concerned about other people being happy around him. This is a tragic event but I know he would want us to go on and try to live happy lives. That was all he wanted was to make sure that people around him were okay. He was a great man and nobody will ever be like him.

Love Carl

Carl Fritz - March 27, 2021 at 12:32 PM

MZ

“ From the young lad that I had in my Sunday School class Jason grew into a remarkable person. Loving person, son, husband, teacher, friend...this list is long. Also gentle and caring. A quiet encourager focused on other being the best they can be and that indeed brought out Jason's God given best through his many achievements in all his roles. My heart goes out to Dani, Paul and Undine and the entire family. For his family is truly large as it knew no boundaries. Prayers for Dani especially during this difficult time of physical healing as well. May God comfort all. -Melanie Thompson Walantyn Zeiger

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Melanie Thompson Zeiger - March 27, 2021 at 09:37 AM

TT

“ I did not know Jason that well, I am 20 years older than him, but I was band director at Jonesville MI near Concord, and in my retirement I would on occasion meet up with him by happenstance. My wife has remarked that she remembers him from the Spring Arbor Parades (where we still live). I knew he was a class act...as as sub teacher a few years ago I watched him work with his small marching band in Concord MI the 2nd time he took the job, and was totally impressed by his demeanor with the students. I am so sorry for your loss. For his brothers, I know what that kind of loss that is as I lost my only sibling, my younger brother last year. God Bless all of you for supporting his wife for even after recovery she has a tremendous emotional mountain to climb and I know you will all take her in and be there for her all the way.

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Thomas Paul Timlin - March 27, 2021 at 07:36 AM

LT


“ *What a terrible and tragic loss. Jason will be missed by many.*



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**Liz Tebo** - March 27, 2021 at 07:35 AM

GM

“  *RIP Jason such a sweet kind person. Prayers for your family and wife. God bless her and give her peace at this difficult time. Jason will be missed dearly and someday everyone will see him again teaching band, playing his instruments, doing shot- put & discs in track. Your an angel. Like a big brother/ good friend to many. Sincerely Ginger*



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**Ginger Muniz** - March 27, 2021 at 03:22 AM

MJ

“ *Mr. Jason Fritz was an amazing coworker and educator. He used his love for music and sports to establish a rapport with all his students. I remember him coordinating a field trip so our students could experience what it was like to attend a symphony. He will definitely be missed by all. Jason, “May you continue to play music in God’s Symphony now amongst the angels in heaven.”*

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**Mrs. Sheri James** - March 27, 2021 at 12:26 AM

KC

“ Kathleen Conley lit a candle in memory of Jason V. Fritz



kathleen conley - March 26, 2021 at 11:44 PM

KC

my prayers go to your family.

kathleen conley - March 26, 2021 at 11:45 PM

BB

“ Dani, its a long road to healing but you have more prayers and helping hands than you know. We are all here to help you any way we can. Brenda Balfour

Brenda Balfour - March 26, 2021 at 10:28 PM

BB

“ Such a tragic loss. My prayers are with you.



Brenda Balfour - March 26, 2021 at 10:22 PM

JL

“ Julaine Lorenz lit a candle in memory of Jason V. Fritz



Julaine Lorenz - March 26, 2021 at 05:46 PM

RH

*“ We have so many happy memories of Jason helping with band trips. He was a joy to be around. No matter what it was you needed help with, he was willing to step and do his best. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!! God bless and be near you at this difficult time!! Russ& Kathy Hodgman; Bill, Rachel, Hoyt, Drew, Annie & Maggie Edmondson; and David, Rebecca, Sawyer & Everlee Hodgman*



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**Russell D Hodgman** - March 26, 2021 at 05:38 PM

AC

*“ Jason used to deliver water to us for our pool for years. We used to converse about the WMU Broncos as my husband and I are alumni! He was so vocal about his love of music and wanting to be a high school band teacher. We are so sad to hear of his tragic passing and send prayers to his wife and family as you all mourn his death.*

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**Arlene and David Campbell** - March 26, 2021 at 04:37 PM

DY

*“ I am truly sorry to learn of your loss. My condolences to your family. I hope that wonderful memories bring you solace at this difficult time.*

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**David Yeider** - March 26, 2021 at 02:57 PM

LW

*“ This tragic event is heartbreaking. My sympathy and condolences to Dani,Paul, Undine, and the entire extended family. Condolences to Jason's Comstock and Concord families. Everyone will deeply miss having Jason in their lives.*



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**Leslie White** - March 26, 2021 at 02:14 PM

ER

“ Jason was like a big brother. Always there for me. Whether to listen and offer advice or just to give me a hard time. He loved my Alexia and was always taking her adventures to bookstores or the zoo, talking to her about music, or just being there for her. J was so much more than a cousin. The world truly lost a golden soul on Tuesday!

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**Erin** - March 26, 2021 at 02:10 PM