



Joseph G. Whitson, Jr.

August 18, 1961 - May 7, 2012

Joseph G Whitson, JR passed away of natural causes at Camp Dwyer in Afganistan on Monday May 7, 2012. Joe, to the rest of the world, Jody to his mom, was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on August 18, 1961. Along with his ability to read by the age of 3, he was naturally curious and interested in things way beyond his years. He often broke down his toys to see what made them work, all to the dismay of his nannie and to the delight of his grandfather, Jack. As his dad read the newspaper, Joe would stand on the other side and continually ask, 'What is that word?' His love for books was further nurtured by his grandmother and his constant request of, 'Please, nannie, just one more book.' Joe attended Miss Chisholm's Preschool. Again, correcting his parents one evening during dinner, that it is much nicer 'if we ate with our left hand in our lap'. Joe attended George R Stuart Elementary and North Lee Elementary and graduated from Bradley High School in 1979.he then received his Associates Degree from Cleveland State College and went on to the University of Tennessee/Chattanooga graduating in 1984 with degrees in math and computer science. He immediately went to work with Digital Equipment in Atlanta, Georgia. Oh, how he and his dad loved SEC Football and especially , the Tennessee VOLS, and, if you look in the dictionary under 'Star Trek' it says, 'See Joe Whitson, Jr.' and you must include Joe's love of poetry often quoting R. Kipling's 'IF' his favorite hymn was, 'There is a God, He is alive', we suspect that Joe truly found his 'Niche' in the fall of 2007 with his first contract assignment in IRAQ. The admiration he developed for these

brave men and women serving their country in constant harms way, was apparent to all who knew him. He would visit home and developed a love for the beach in Pensacola, Florida. Perhaps, his love for the music of Jimmy Buffet had an early influence. Joe and 2 of his buddies in Cleveland, TN actually built a 'cabin' and fittingly named it 'Margaritaville' population #3. During this period Joe discovered his love for cruising and loved traveling to Rome and to Santorini and especially, Dubai. Joe was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Albert and Bonnie Whitson and Jack and Ruth Krise, Harriman, Tn and his younger brother, John David Whitson.

He is survived by his father, Joseph G. Whitson (Roseanne) of Cleveland, Tn and his mother, Jane Krise Nicholas (Tom) Pensacola, Fl and his most special group of friends. One such friend found Joe to be a friend like no other.

Amazingly intelligent, witty, funny and astute. He was very supportive when necessary and pragmatic, when the occasion called for it.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 PM Friday at Kyker Funeral Home in Harriman, Tn. Funeral service 10 AM Saturday at Kyker Funeral Home Chapel in Harriman. Interment to follow in Willard Park Cemetery. Rest in Peace Jody.

Tribute Wall

DF

“ I met Joe when I arrived at CMN at Camp Victory in early 2008 and worked with him there until he left in 2010. Joe was always a great guy to work with. He will be missed.

Donald R Poindexter Jr. - Orlando, FL - Friend - October 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Fondly remembering English class at Bradley Central High School with Joe and more recently conversing with him, via Facebook. Joe and his smile will be sadly missed. Offering my prayers for those family and friends left behind who are in need of comfort during this time of loss. Rest in peace, my friend.

Susan Thompson-Barnette - Cleveland, TN - Friend - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ JOE WAS MY OLDEST FRIEND. WE WENT TO KINDERGARTEN TOGETHER AT MRS.CHISOLMS AND ALL THE WAY THROUGH CLEVELAND STATE.HE WAS THE SMARTEST PERSON THAT I HAVE KNOWN.I REGRET I DID NOT STAY IN TOUCH WITH HIM THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.JOE, I AM GLAD YOUR ARE AT PEACE.

jeff hamilton - SODDY DAISY, TN - FRIEND - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Although we didn't know you personally, we have known your Dad all our lives. From reading all the memories of others, you were surely a terrific young man. GOD has called you home for a reason, and that will be revealed in God's time. Our Prayers are with your family and ALL who loved you. In GOD's Love, Johnny and Darla

Johnny and Darla Smith Cole - South Harriman, TN - School friends of Dad Joe - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I met Joe at North Lee and have known him most of my life. I always liked Joe because he was always the same every time you saw him. Never too good to talk to anyone and always had a smile and a dry wit joke. I lost touch with him after high school, but had reunited with him in 2009 on Facebook. I really enjoyed chatting with him and he always made me laugh. He was a good hearted soul and I will miss him.

Melodie Moses - Cleveland, TN - Friend - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I worked with Joe in Iraq from 2008-2010. Even during tough times, he made us laugh. He will always be in our memories.

Luis Delerme - Kabul - Friend - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I attended Bradley High with Joe. We weren't close friends then, but he was always kind, friendly, funny and very intelligent. We reconnected in 2008 as the Class of 79 reunion was being planned and I convinced him to take a leap and join Facebook. Trading emails with him then, and later communicating via Facebook, I always looked forward to talking with Joe, finding him still as witty and kind; and sometimes, frankly, over my head intellectually. When my mother died he wrote such a kind email to me it made me cry. I was inspired by his zest for life and will greatly miss communicating with him. My prayers are with his family, whom he often spoke of with great love and affection.

Kathy Kile - Chattanooga, TN - Classmate/friend - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ I met Joe in High School. But really began talking to him in 2008 during our 30 year reunion. I will miss talking to him on facebook and seeing his many adventures as he posts them. I will miss his great humor and kind soul. God Bless you Joe and your many friends and family.

Beverly Allen - Cleveland, TN - Friend - May 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Janie and Joe,

Words cannot express my sorrow over Jody's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of the family.

Love, Judy Bailey

Judy Bailey - Kingston, TN - High School Friend of Parents - May 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I have a lifetime of memories of Joe. From Sunday school to elementary school to high school, he was a major part of my life. We recently reconnected on Facebook and rekindled that friendship. He lifted my spirits when I was down and brought laughter with every email or message he sent. I am deeply saddened by his passing; I will miss him. He was loved by many and he will never be forgotten.

Teri Dykes Thompson - Wetumpka, AL - Lifelong friend - May 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I met Joe when we were in high school. He was one of the coolest people there but was NEVER too cool for anyone. We became friends and made lots of good memories both at and away from school.

We lost touch a couple of years after graduation but reconnected in 2008. We had many late night(for me anyway) conversations both about the past and the present as we caught each other up on our lives.

Joe's friendship was a Godsend to me both as a teen and as an adult. His warmth and caring that he exhibited to a friend he hadn't seen in years and who was thousands of miles away shows what a wonderful person he was. I will miss him terribly as I know all his friends and family will. I am proud to call him my friend and I am proud he accepted me as his. Miss you, Buddy!!!! God Bless you.

Marty Casada - Chattanooga, TN - Friend - May 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ I met Joe through my brother Kevin. They were good friends through college and after. I have some memories of Joe and his smile, his witty way, his sense of humor.

I send my deepest condolences to the family, and offer love and good thoughts to you through this time of loss.

Greta Artman - Anchorage, AK - Friend - May 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM