



## Jason Van Sleet

July 15, 1980 - August 20, 2020

Jason Charles Van Sleet, 40, of Miami Beach, Florida, passed away on August 20, 2020.

He was born in Albany, New York to Alfred and Rita Van Sleet on July 15, 1980. He was a graduate of Scotia-Glenville High School (1998) and The University of New Haven (2002) with a bachelor's degree in audio engineering. He worked for numerous companies during his career, including as a studio engineer at ESPN, but most recently was a freelance audio engineer, allowing him to travel throughout the country and around the world.

Jason loved the outdoors, often paddling in his kayak in the various waters of Florida, or biking on trails near his home. He was also an accomplished musician, proficient in piano, guitar, base, and cello and an avid photographer. Jason was a lover of animals big and small and could often be found walking dogs for family and friends. He had a unique sense of humor, often leaving his brothers in stitches and was a treasured and much beloved uncle to his nieces Laura, Molly, Charlotte, Emma and Sofia and his nephews Daniel and William.

Jason is survived by his wife, Araceli Van Sleet (née Alvarez), his parents, Alfred and Rita Van Sleet of Scotia, NY, his brothers and sisters-in-law Matthew and Kate Van Sleet, Michael and Sarah Van Sleet, and Jonathan and Ana VanSleet as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ([aspca.org](http://aspca.org)) or a charity of your choosing.

# Cemetery

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## **Ferdinand Crematory**

2546 SW 8th Street

Miami, FL, 33135

# Comments

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“ We miss you so much. My nephews keep asking when his uncle Jasón is coming back we loved you for ever.



**Araceli Vansleet** - September 28, 2020 at 08:16 PM

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“ We miss you so much it's going to be 1 month on Sunday since you left us. Me and jack miss you for ever. My guerito palmas



**Ara vansleet** - September 17, 2020 at 12:33 PM

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“ I had the great pleasure of working with Jason for the last seven-odd years. Even though our work schedules were erratic and I would only get to see him every few months, it was always a bright spot in the calendar when a job with Jason was coming up. Hanging out and laughing was always the high point of seeing him. He easily became a real friend, and not just a work friend. But looking back when we were at work, I'm realizing that he had a unique ability to do his job well, quickly, with fun, and also grace towards others with a lesser skill set. A unique combination, especially in our industry.

A few years ago we were on a job together, and true to form, he finished at a reasonable time, while I had to stay later. During the day we had been collaborating on some vapid playlist for a business meeting. When I finally caught up to him at the bar, he was giggling into his beer about something but wouldn't tell me what. So the next day I start the playlist and it's fine for the first 10 minutes or so before it takes a turn for the worse, and I realize he had spent the night before editing our inane Imagine Dragons playlist into the single worst list of music that has ever been created. It actually showed his immense depth of musical knowledge. It started off harmless enough with Air Supply and Kenny Rogers songs before it took a more aggressive turn with some choice Slayer and Cannibal Corpse tracks. In any case, not exactly what the regional sales team wanted to hear at 7 in the morning. The story is a lot funnier to me than in any retelling, but it still gives me a smile when I think about it and when I think about Jay. It reminds me of all of our good times and laughs. It also gives me a concrete way to remember him when I think about him and miss him so badly now.

Rest in peace, brother. You were loved. I love you.

And for everyone else, enjoy his masterpiece:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0HzkbuHqjTBt9iH0bOyvtD?si=IGOLK7paTuGAvvIXLwbSAA>

Thomas Dameron - September 07, 2020 at 04:00 PM

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Araceli vansleet Alvarez - August 30, 2020 at 05:31 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 29, 2020 at 07:55 PM

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“ I have no words to describe how amazing you are My heart is broken I will love you for ever



Araceli vansleet Alvarez - August 29, 2020 at 06:15 PM

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“ The best day of my life Thank you my guerito for this amazing wedding. We enjoyed soo much. I love you for ever. te amo



Araceli vansleet Alvarez - August 29, 2020 at 06:00 PM

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“ My guerito I miss you so much



Araceli vansleet Alvarez - August 29, 2020 at 04:56 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sofia C** - August 28, 2020 at 11:16 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jon Bobo** - August 28, 2020 at 10:53 AM

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“ Jason and I met nearly 20 years ago at the stage door of the Stuart Street Playhouse. This small encounter changed my life. I met someone who would become my best friend, my confidant, and in no uncertain terms, my brother.

Over the next couple of years our friendship was forged through long days of work, followed by long nights of socialization. With an endless energy that only 20-somethings possess, we burned the candle at both ends, talking about music, history, sports, politics, social issues, dogs, cars, books, history, anything you can imagine we covered. We stayed up too late and probably made a few bad decisions along the way, but we also grew closer, and fast... Jason, you made space in your world for me, and for that I am forever grateful.

Both being freelancers, our schedules didn't always line up. Months would pass between our hangs, but it never mattered, we just pick right back up where we left off. You make it so easy to fall back into a rhythm, your knack for comfortable conversation is something I've always admired. I love you, buddy.

As fate would have it, our professional relationship eventually caught up with our friendship. We started traveling together extensively, working, talking, hanging, building on our already intense bond. 2020 was slated to be a banner year for us- we had something like 12 projects on the books - we started off strong, with three shows in the beginning of the year, but then the pandemic hit and the cancellations rolled in. We got on the phone and lamented the loss of work, but mostly the loss of time spent together. It's not every day you get to work with your best friend; we didn't have to communicate every little detail, we just did it, picking up where the other left off. It never felt like work on those days, it was a privilege.

One night last summer in Seattle, Jason and I were unwinding after work at a local dive bar. He looks down toward the end of the bar and notices a fellow patron struggling to breath. With zero hesitation he jumps up, runs to the end of the bar, wraps his arms around the strangers midsection and performs the Heimlich. He literally saved this gentleman's life. With complete confidence and certainty he acted selflessly for another. This is really what you're all about, you're a giving soul, a caring soul, one who puts others first. A true human. This is how I remember you, brother.

My heart aches for this loss. I truly feel the world has lost something in you, Jason. A person who truly cared and gave so much. A person I'm proud to say I love.

Jon Bobo - August 28, 2020 at 10:51 AM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Jon Bobo** - August 28, 2020 at 10:50 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jon Bobo** - August 28, 2020 at 10:42 AM

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Jon Bobo - August 28, 2020 at 10:38 AM

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“ We knew of Jason quite possibly right around the time of his conception. I remember my excited announcement that I was expecting our first child in May and Rita turning to Al saying something to the effect of, “shes having my spring baby!” So, we knew to be expecting a third addition to the Van Sleet family. Jason was almost exactly 2 months younger than Patrick. I don't think I can precisely pinpoint one event in his lifetime but many, many joy-filled family events (and a few sad ones), visits and excursions. Wintertime sledding down hills in Averill Park, Hague, and Saranac with all the Van Sleet- Via cousins then coming in to enjoy hot chocolate by a fireside. Jason always stood out as the sweet, quiet tow-head with the sly little smile. As he grew older we all naturally drifted in our separate directions but on the occasions when we did manage to get together he stood out as a kind and gentle soul with a keen sense of humor. A bright light in the family. Jason will live on in our hearts forever in memory. My spirit tells me he's in a good place sailing and visiting with those who've gone before him. Love you forever Jason, aunt Paula and Uncle Tom.

**Paula Via** - August 28, 2020 at 10:30 AM

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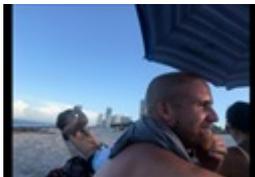
“ In high school Jason worked with me at the Schenectady Library. He would come in after school, I would ask him “what's new at SGHS”. He would would reply with some fun and interesting happenings. Jason was a great guy to be around. Matt and family Jason's passing truly saddens me.

**Mary VanPatten** - August 28, 2020 at 10:09 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sofia C** - August 28, 2020 at 09:17 AM

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“ I did not know Jason for that long, but for the time I did, I absolutely adored him. He was that quiet funny in my ear making me laugh. He never brought any drama, always fun to hang out with, non judgmental and just all around great guy. I will forgive him for his love of Whiteclaw and I ragged on him all the time about. I'm so grateful to have had in in my life even for a short time and I thank you so much for bringing this amazing human being into this world. Words cannot express how sorry I am that your baby boy is no longer with us. He will forever be in my heart and memories. I know it seems ridiculous that I posted a picture of sneakers but he loved these shoes and would always try to take them from me. My deepest condolences goes out to you all. It was such a pleasure and honor to meet you all today. I wish it could have been under better circumstances.



Sofia C - August 28, 2020 at 01:19 AM

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“ I met Jason years ago when I returned to start hanging out at the original Sandbar again . We hit it off from the beginning, he was funny, approachable and most of all sincere. In this world that we live in it is extremely difficult to find individuals with those characteristics and a genuine spirit which he always had and exhibited. I will always cherish every moment and time we spent together because he made me a better person for it. My most sincere condolences go out to his lovely wife Araceli, his fur son Jack, and last but not least, his parents, siblings, and friends. There is one thing I will try to take away from this devastating loss. I will try to live up to his memory and honor him by trying to emulate his positivity, forgiveness, and all around great attitude and view of the world and everyone in it. Rest in peace my brother and until we meet again. May God Bless you and keep you in his loving arms.

Your brother always,

Lazaro De Jesus Urrutia



Lazaro Urrutia - August 27, 2020 at 11:11 PM

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“ Word can't fill the Void we fill in your absence, but your light an Spirit will always live in our Hearts. Well be With us forever dear Jason God greets you in heaven.  
No hay palabras que puedan llenar el vacio de tu ausencia, Tu luz y tu esencia Viviran por siempre en nuestros corazones te Recordaremos por siempre Querido Jason Dios Te Recibe  
A su Familia , Padres Rita, Alfredo y hermanos nuestras condolencias de Corazon Estamos Con ustedes.  
Hermanita te adoramos y estamos contigo siempre tu familia  
Victor, Claudia, Alan, Diego, Sebastián



Claudia Alvarez - August 27, 2020 at 05:36 PM

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“ As a person who is known to be talkative, suddenly words fail me. it's exceedingly difficult to express my grief without including some personal history of my favourite times with Jason. Knowing Al and Rita for over 50 years, to say we go "way back" is an understatement. I lived very close to the Scotia residence and spent lots of time there. There came a time when the awesome D-Day schedule concocted by Al and Rita left a opening where Jason was unsupervised after his half day in school, so I was drafted into willing "day care/baby sitting" service with a key to the house and all privileges therein.  
I would meet Jay at the bus and together we would walk home, have lunch, play Legos and games together...whatever (nothing was planned in advance)... until the older boys came home. These were special times! I nick-named Jay "my little surfer dude" because of his mop of very blond hair, a name he allowed me to call him way too far into his future. When his interest in music became an undeniable talent, we became guitar buddies, often jamming on classic tunes he was way too young to have heard in his youth but loved anyway (inherited no doubt from his music loving parents). This was many years ago but still a vibrant memory now heart-breaking in it's intensity.  
To his incredibly loving, dedicated and close knit family, Judy, Joelle and I extend our deepest sympathy and condolences.  
Joe Matarazzo

joe matarazzo - August 27, 2020 at 10:10 AM

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“ It is with a heavy heart that we send our deepest condolences to the entire Van Sleet family and my beautiful cousin Cheli. Cheli we send you the warmest embrace and pray that God bless you with the peace and comfort that you need during this unbelievable time.

We love you.

Yoly Ramirez Luna and Family

Yoly Ramirez Luna - August 27, 2020 at 09:59 AM

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“ Jason, en el momento en que nos dejaste, nuestros corazones se partieron en dos, un lado estaba lleno de recuerdos, el otro lado murió contigo. Recordarte es fácil, pero extrañarte es una angustia que nunca desaparecerá. Nuestras sinceras condolencias a nuestra querida Araceli y a cada miembro de la familia Vanslett: Por cada momento que pierdan un poco de esperanza, su ser querido estará susurrando... Estoy contigo! Que sus corazones y almas encuentren paz y consuelo. Nos entristece mucho saber de su pérdida. Sinceramente Jorge, Alicia y Alejandro Alvarez.

Alejandro Alvarez - August 27, 2020 at 04:53 AM

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“ Jason, the moment that you left us, our hearts were split in two, one side was full of filled with memories, the other side died with you. Remembering you, is easy but missing you is a heartache that never goes away. Our most sincere condolences to our beloved Araceli and every single member of the Vanslett's Family: For every moment you lose a little hope, your loved one will be whispering... I am with you. May your hearts and souls find peace and comfort. We are very saddened to hear of your loss. Sincerely Jorge, Alicia and Alejandro Alvarez

Alejandro Alvarez - August 27, 2020 at 04:39 AM

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“ Un abrazo a toda la familia de Jason.  
Shely te mandamos un gran abrazo , estamos de todo corazón y Alma en estos momentos contigo.  
Jason un abrazo hasta el cielo!

Sabemos que desde allá arriba, serás un Angel que cuidara a Shely.

Los queremos mucho.

Tus primos Pablo R y Alida Ramirez.

Alida Ramirez - August 27, 2020 at 01:33 AM

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“ There are no words adequate enough to express the sorrow and loss we all feel. To lose such a caring, intelligent and thoughtful man, is a loss that can never be forgotten. Our first memories of Jason were from Averill Park. You were in your high chair with that very blonde hair and that big smile, just brightening the room while you ate your cereal. Pictures were being snapped so Rita and Al could enter you in a “Cutest Baby Contest”, which a company was sponsoring. We still cannot believe you didn’t win. Then, on to Scotia, the Thanksgiving skits, beer pong, the Boy Scouts and your rise to Eagle Scout, (along with your three brothers) and all your accomplishments in school and in the field of music, both performing and engineering.

You were always there for anyone that needed help, much like Uncle Jerry. There is no doubt that the two of you are jamming already and preparing an audition tape for St. Peter’s Musical Ensemble. We remember your sense of humor and that wry smile. We remember your beautiful wedding in Mexico to Aracelli and your wisdom in informing the bartenders at the reception, that between your brothers, cousins and uncles, that keg of beer would certainly be finished.

You handled any crisis in a calm and calculating manner. No task was too difficult for you. Reason and perseverance would prevail. We miss you terribly. You’ll be in our memories and hearts forever. Until we meet again. All our love, Aunt Sue & Uncle Chet

Chet & Sue Chorzempa - August 26, 2020 at 11:27 PM

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“ A toda la familia les enviamos un fuerte abrazo, esperamos que Dios pronto les reconforte en estos momentos. Tendremos siempre bonitos recuerdos de Jason, Shely estamos contigo de corazón y pensamiento. Con cariño familia Ramirez Careaga

Adry Ramirez - August 26, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ We love you. You loved to travel and you loved the beach We are going to miss you. I'm happy that you had the best birthday ever. You had your favorite cake and your favorite meal. My heart is broken



**Araceli vansleet Alvarez** - August 26, 2020 at 04:47 PM

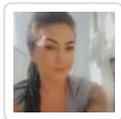
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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sofia C** - August 26, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ This was such a great day, I'll never forget you Jason, you will be missed

**Natascia** - August 27, 2020 at 10:44 PM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



**Sofia C** - August 26, 2020 at 11:16 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Jason's passing. We have many memories of he and Chris at Boy Scout functions and other events at Scotia Glenville High. We remember him as a friend and will pray for Al and Rita to find peace in their hearts and wonderful memories of their son.

With a heavy heart,  
Dave, Cindy and Chris Jennings

**Dave Jennings** - August 26, 2020 at 10:55 AM

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“ Although I only worked with Jason a few times a year. I consider him a good friend who I was always so happy to see when we worked together. Jason helped make our often tedious work very fun. So many times backstage during a long terrible day full of awful people a lucky few of us all would be in near tears laughing. Not only very funny, professional, and smart, but just a downright very good hearted person who I consider myself very lucky to have been able to spend time with.

I always felt Jason and I would have been very close friends if we lived near each other, but that did not seem to be in the cards for this life. My heart grieves and goes out to his loved ones and family. The world just became a less fun place without Jason in it. I love you Jason.

-Adam Rusch

**Adam Rusch** - August 26, 2020 at 04:06 AM

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“ We will love you for ever



**Araceli vansleet Alvarez** - August 25, 2020 at 12:06 PM

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“ Words cannot express my disbelief and shock at this great loss. Jason was by far one of the most exceptional human beings I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He was genuine, hard working, and a true friend to have by your side. I had the honor of working with him for many years, and each occasion we had together led to great moments, laughter and friendship. Jason was always the first to jump in, and one of the last to leave. He was an exceptional engineer, and a true professional. I will deeply miss him and his smile, his funny sayings, and his goofy sound checks. But above all of those stellar traits, he was a funny, warm, and caring man.



**Todd Murphy** - August 24, 2020 at 03:27 PM

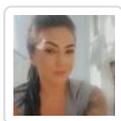
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“ Jason was a lot of things to a lot of people, but to these kids he was the coolest of uncles. He was always eager to play with his nieces and nephews - puzzles, legos, bike riding, races, reading, or simply rolling on the floor laughing with this rambunctious crew. For these kids, the sun rose and set on their Uncle Jason.



**Kate Van Sleet** - August 24, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ He will be deeply missed. God bless you all

**Natascia** - August 26, 2020 at 08:14 PM

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“ In loving memory. Best Birthday ever!!



**Jaclyn Rayner** - August 24, 2020 at 01:44 PM

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“ RIP Jason, the memories will stay!



John Imbastari - August 24, 2020 at 12:33 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 10:27 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 09:39 AM

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“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 09:39 AM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 09:31 AM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 09:29 AM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 08:44 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sofia C - August 24, 2020 at 08:41 AM

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“ Words could never give justice to the feelings in my heart right now, but I’ll give it my best. Jason- technically, you were my cousin. Officially, you were my brother. From the very beginning: spending every trip to Averill Park and Scotia treating you as my own doll, carrying you around, and hearing you from your crib talking about the dogs barking outside. (“Farkle barking, Farkle barking”). Growing up with you and having you as such an integral part of my life has influenced my outlook on the world for the better. You taught me how to let go of the little things, how to appreciate the opportunities that are presented to us, how to put family first in spite of the insanity, and that dogs really are the greatest gift. I will miss your laugh when I ask your parents about their time with that van, your hilarious audio clips, your beautiful photographs, and your special bond with Elvis.

Even just in these last few days, there are so many things that remind me of you. In my heart of hearts, you are with Jerry and Jacky, Charlie and Peg, watching over all of us.

We will keep your memory alive for the rest of our days. You will always be loved, always remembered, and always in our hearts.

**Amy Chorzempa** - August 23, 2020 at 09:58 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



**Amy** - August 23, 2020 at 06:20 PM

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“ I’m having a really hard time writing this in past tense.

Jason was an amazing human, selfless, compassionate and always there for anyone who needed him. He was a true friend and a grounding presence. Whether at our house for dinner or grabbing drinks in a distant city after a show (Andy worked with him for years) he always brought joy and laughter. His quiet, quick one liners or hilarious music selection on TouchTunes (think switching to Christmas carols at a dive bar) were constant. His penchant for both oldies music and metal was fantastic. I loved hearing him play music with Andy from the other room (you never knew who had picked up which instrument) and treasure the random playlists they compiled together.

He’s the least suspecting social butterfly that I’ve ever met too. Everyone in the neighborhood knows and loves him. He had the ability to bridge social circles effortlessly. I remember learning he was in multiple neighborhood fantasy football leagues as we waited in line to see Wu-Tang perform at the Deauville (he was rapidly trying to update some trade before going in). Years later, he was one of the first to help clean the beach out front of this same hotel after Hurricane Irma trashed it.

He always loved the beach, a passion Covid-19 oddly gave him/us the ability to appreciate and experience even more. Last year we had the amazing opportunity to catch a sea turtle nest hatching during a full moon drum circle (he always enjoyed photographing the drummers and fire dancers) it was a magical experience to see them all emerge and make their way to the water.

Jason was always a part of our holiday celebrations - St. Patrick’s Day corned beef-a-thons, dying easter eggs, eating his weight in 4th of July tuna noodle casserole, New Years Eve beach celebrations and so much more. I can’t stress enough how much he’ll be missed.

We love you Jason.

Emily Pulis - August 23, 2020 at 06:00 PM

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“ Jason was a lot of things to a lot of people, but to these kids he was the coolest of uncles. He was ready to play the minute he arrived at any destination - doing puzzles, riding bikes, reading or simply rolling on the floor with this rambunctious crew. To these kids, the sun rose and set with their Uncle Jason. He'll forever be with them.



**Kate Van Sleet** - August 23, 2020 at 05:36 PM

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“ We knew Jason as neighbors in Scotia/Glenville but mostly through Boy Scouts. Many activities and good experiences. We are so sorry for the loss. -- Lou and Kathy Tomaino

**Lou Tomaino** - August 23, 2020 at 03:37 PM

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“ Jason was an exceptional audio engineer, and an even more exceptional guy and friend. If you were on a gig with him, it never felt like work. We shared a lot of laughs, and I am heartbroken at the thought of not seeing him on the road. He will truly be missed. Sending love to his wife, family, friends, and work family across the world.



**Joey Toppan** - August 23, 2020 at 02:49 PM

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“ I worked with Jason on many events across the country. It was always a pleasure to work with him. He seemed to always be happy and content. He was one of the best! I'll miss you Jason.

**Rich Miller** - August 23, 2020 at 01:03 PM

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“ I am in such shock. I remember the day Jason was born. All of the Van Sleet boys were so special to my sister and me. You were our first friends, our constant childhood companions. Words cannot express how sorry I am for this horrible loss.

Suzanne Breselor Lowell - August 23, 2020 at 11:52 AM

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“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



amy - August 23, 2020 at 10:22 AM