



James Duncan "Woody" Woods

December 1, 2023

“James Duncan Woods (known to many as “Woody”), 59, of Fort Collins, CO passed away of Young Onset Alzheimer’s (YOA) on Friday, December 1st, 2023 while at home, surrounded by loved ones.

James was born in MN and was raised in Laramie, WY. James moved to Fort Collins, CO where he served 29 years with the Larimer County Sheriff’s Department in multiple positions including the Detention Center, Patrol, the Dive Rescue Team, Inter-Agency Drug Task Force, 20 years on SWAT and retired as an Investigator and Corporal.

James is survived by his wife Joy Woods of CO., his mother Martha Bourdon Woods of CO., his brothers Barrie (Nancy) Woods of FL and Rand (Kerrie) Woods of MO and his nephews; Michael Woods of FL., Layne Woods of MO., and Blake Woods of AR as well as his “bonus” family; Ron, Janet and Margaret Johanson of CO. James is predeceased by his father, John Barrie Woods, and by his nephew, David Woods.

James enjoyed fishing, hunting, metal working and spent as much time as possible every summer at his family’s Cabin in Canada. Prior to the advancement of his YOA, he was also a great neighbor to many in the winter months when he would use his snowblower to clear several drives and sidewalks of folks he didn’t even know. James will be remembered for many

things including his deep, rumbling laughter.

A Celebration of Life service is scheduled on January 19th, 2024 at 1pm at Timberline Church, 2908 S. Timberline Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80525.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to DementiaTogether.org.”

Tribute Wall

JT

“ I used to work as an automotive tech at Larimer County Fleet. I had the pleasure of keeping Big Woody’s Sheriff patrol cars in service when I worked at Fleet. I knew James for about 17 years. He is the first man I ever knew that had to duck when he came through the door. I enjoyed many conversations about guns cars fishing tools and just about anything we felt like talking about. I considered James a very good friend and I am lucky to have been able to spend the time with him that I did. He always had the best stories and he made me laugh a lot. He would come into the Fleet shop with that intimidating look on his face and then suddenly say “what’s up” with that big sheepish grin! Unfortunately I was just notified of his passing today. Rest in peace Woody you will be missed but I know we will all see you again!

Jeff Titus - February 22, 2024 at 02:13 PM

MT

“ I met James when he was still at the DC. I remember thinking "that is one big dude." We worked together on SWAT and later in Patrol. We ended up at the same places at the same time a lot. I have countless memories on and off duty with him. A great many of those times on Patrol or SWAT, we kind of filled in where the other left off; without a word. There was no explanation for it, we just worked that well together. One particular time I jumped a call in James' district at the Sundance to investigate a guy who was violating a restraining order by stalking his ex. I contacted the guy and ascertained he was the guy. As I'm telling him he needed to leave the premise, he grabbed my hand and became violent. Being raised on *The Three Stooges*, I dotted his eyes with my right hand and was about to take him down, when he disappeared...James had arrived and grabbed the guy, leaving his cowboy hat suspended in mid-air. There was a pony wall between the bar and the dance floor, I got caught up with James and (by this time) the arrestee, and down the pony wall we went, leaving glasses and pitchers of beer flying in our wake. Trying to handcuff anyone who does not wish to be handcuffed is not an easy feat, so I yell (the band is still playing and people are still dancing around the dance floor) to Woods to sweep this guy's legs. As James swept the guy's legs, I decided to apply some simple physics to the situation and jumped on the guy's back, thereby causing him to go to the floor with a little more authority... By this time, a young Deputy Disner (who was relatively fresh out of his FTO program) had joined the mix. for his trouble, he ended up on the bottom of the pile of humanity consisting of the guy going to jail, Woods, and me. My bright idea to jump on the guy's back as James swept his legs resulted in a fairly significant increase in our downward velocity, this in turn caused James' legs to spread apart somewhat rapidly resulting in his pants splitting from the crotch to his duty belt in the back. We get the guy cuffed and hog tied, pull him off of Disner, and start carrying him out to the car by his belt. About that time Tom Emmerling shows up and sees James (with split pants) and I carrying this guy out, leaving a wake of beer, pitchers, glasses, cowboy hats, and an amazed Deputy - laughing all the way!

Likewise, he was a great personal friend. As others have said here, the same goes for me, my kids loved him. He was a gentle giant.

Some say life is a series of seasons. The season of my life in the late 80s and 90s was far richer for having had James in it. The world is a lesser place without him. He was a great cop, a great SWAT operator, and a great friend.

Vaya con Dios brother.

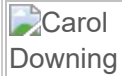
Joy - Thank you for loving him and caring for him. You are truly a saint. God bless you and keep you.

Mitch Thomas - January 20, 2024 at 01:45 PM



Mitch! Thank you for sharing these awesome memories. You had me laughing out loud several times! I have to figure out how to print these. I remember your name and Disney's and of course, Emmerling who came over with Scott Phebus a few times to visit with Woody. The split pants? I remember those as well. Woody rarely talked about his work in much detail to me so reading these "back stories" of what really happened are awesome and healing. Thank you for taking the time to write this memory!

Joy Woods - January 24, 2024 at 02:28 PM



Carol
Downing

“ *James always gave a very intimidating first impression, but it didn't take more than a minute to see a humble and gentle personality inside that oversized package. He was quiet, which made it fun to get to know him bit by bit, and our "working relationship" wasn't awfully long, as he moved from Patrol to Investigations and we didn't see as much of him. I don't think I ever heard a cross word or a critical comment out of him. He was as good and kind a man as there ever was.*

Carol Downing

Carol Downing - January 15, 2024 at 12:00 PM



Thank you, Carol. He certainly was a humble and gentle personality inside his oversized package!

Joy Woods - January 24, 2024 at 02:31 PM

LU

“ My wife Flora and I stayed with Joy and James the last 3 weeks of his life. At the time James would intermittently become aggressive towards others which is a common symptom of Alzheimer's disease and heart breaking for loved ones. The last week of November, James was much calmer. In the mornings James and Joy would sing songs and joke around talking in accents and being silly. We watched some sermons online that week and James would be nodding his head in agreement and seemed to be relating well to the message. We didn't know it was his last week of life, we thought he had at least another 6 months. He had just started on hospice on Monday and we were getting things set up as James was getting weaker. Joy called friends and family to come see James that week and several good friends and family came. On Friday James did not wake up all the way and he passed away that evening, it happened so fast but we were so thankful that his last week that James, the James everyone knew made several appearances and Joy had some good memories that last week. James was surrounded by loved ones the last few hours of his life, with prayers, reading of scripture and the sharing of great stories from his life. The best way to go as he passed from this life to the next. We miss him! Larry and Flora Underwood

Larry Underwood - January 13, 2024 at 11:03 AM



Thanks Bro! I know you are tired because you were here almost 7 weeks. I don't know how you and Flora did all you did but I absolutely know I could not have made it without you. Thank you for all the gentle, helpful hints and your sense of humor when it was most needed. Most of all, thank you and Flora for taking care of EVERYTHING and then staying downstairs so James could be with me alone as he was most content. God really blessed me with a brother like you and a sister-in-law who has the same strong faith!

Joy Woods - January 18, 2024 at 03:03 AM

JO

“ To me James was always larger than life. His size, his easy-going attitude and his laugh epitomized, to me, how that being a cop didn't have to make you hard and unfeeling. Not long after I started with LCSO on patrol I was volun-told that I would be assigned as the DUI car. Of course, most of the activity was in District 1, which Woody worked. As the DUI car I was able to float anywhere in the County and would often be the closest backup. We became close and had a lot of shared experiences; however, my favorite happened one night when I had stopped a particularly inebriated driver on E Mulberry. James, as usual was quick to back me up as I conducted the roadside maneuvers. As the driver proceeded to (very, very poorly) complete each maneuver I looked over to see Woody mimicking his every move... being the early 90's it was easy for James to forget that my car was the only one in the county equipped with an in-car camera. We had a good laugh about it afterwards and a few months later the jury actually did too (and found the driver guilty to boot)! Still makes me smile to this day.

Thank you friend.

Jon - January 09, 2024 at 05:06 PM

JW

Thanks Jon. I actually laughed at the "volun-told"... I remember those days. I can't even imagine my husband as being goofy on a call. I bet he was so embarrassed that the court saw it too!

Joy Woods - January 10, 2024 at 07:00 PM

MS

“ Mom Dad Schroeder lit a candle in memory of James Woods



Mom & Dad Schroeder - January 07, 2024 at 02:46 PM

MS

“ I was at Woody's house while Becky was at a party get together with the girls. And while visiting with him I told him I was invited out for the three day AR training with Larimer County Sheriff Office guys. Woody said he highly advised me to take it and I did . It was advise well taken. I really enjoyed and learned alot for that training. And had a wonderful time visiting with Woody, he was a great guy and friend. Rest in Peace Woody you will be missed and always remembered. We will help take care of that awesome wife Joy. She is an amazing person and so loving and caring as you well knew. Take care Joy hugs and love you always. M&D S.

Mom & Dad Schroeder - January 07, 2024 at 02:45 PM

JW

Thank you so very much M&D Schroeder!

Joy Woods - January 10, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ James (I never called him Woody) and I met about 30 yrs ago, when he was hired to work at the Sheriffs Dept. In fact, I believe I was his one and only sergeant while working in the detention center.

During that short time we became very good friends, and he became friends with my family. He did a lot with my family, from running the Bolder Boulder, to riding our bikes to work, or just coming over to hang out and visit, and mess with the kids. To this day my 3 kids still remember James, but not because of the obvious, his size, but for his laugh. They remember his laugh.

One of the last thing that we did together outside of work was go on a road trip to his family's little paradise in Canada. What a time, that was. Lots of laughing.

James was so young when he started and as I did with everyone I supervised, I tried to impress upon him “office safety”, and to always have your partners back, as it was taught to me so many years before. He proved that over and over in the detention center. I could always count on James being there, I never doubted him. Not once.

Years went by and James moved on to patrol at the Sheriffs Dept, and I went to work for the Ft. Collins Police Dept. We kept in touch, however it was difficult to make time to get together. Though there were many midnight shifts we would meet somewhere, 4, 5, 6 in the morning and sit in our cars and catch up. The friendship was still there.

As I say farewell to my friend, I will share one last special moment in time we had together. A moment I have only shared with a handful of close friends and family. I will make it short.

While working patrol one night in Ft. Collins, I was involved in a shooting. While in my car I pursued an individual into a field. After numerous shots were exchanged, myself and one other officer took

cover behind a patrol car. As I was kneeling there in the misty rain, I heard something behind me, I turned and watched as someone (very tall) in a uniform, with a long gun come running right at me. He actually left himself exposed to get where we were at.

As he got closer, I could see it was James. I was taken back, as I had no clue how he knew where we were at.

With a shocked look on my face I said, "What are you doing here". And without missing a beat, and with that grin of his, he said, "I got you". Nothing else needed to be said. James had my back, and it was all good.

Did we talk about that, yes, but not often, there was no need.

I will always remember James as a friend first, and as a fellow officer, that had my back on one of the worst days of my life. He was there without hesitation.

Now, when I think of James, I will remember what my kids said to me when I let them know about his passing. The words that stood out, "Dad, he had the best laugh". And he did.

*Farwell my friend, you will always hold a special place in my heart.
Scott Phebus*

Scott Phebus - January 06, 2024 at 06:47 PM



JW

Thanks Scott. I really needed to read this.

Joy Woods - January 10, 2024 at 06:56 PM



You know my mind and emotions are all over the place right now and I failed to acknowledge that I know that particularly memory is hard to think about. I so appreciate everything you wrote because I know it wasn't easy. Big hug my brother from another mother!

Joy Woods - January 18, 2024 at 03:14 AM

DA

“ While visiting James was excited to show me pictures of the cabin and wildlife. He enjoyed the family cabin and the time he got to spend there.

James also loved showing pictures taken from his moms home outside cameras where there was wildlife that came right up on the porch. It was amazing hearing him tell about them he'd be so excited. I enjoyed his stories he'd share!

Darlene - January 05, 2024 at 12:28 PM

JW

Thank you, Darlene.

joy woods - January 07, 2024 at 12:04 AM

JW

“ Joy Woods lit a candle in memory of James Woods



Joy Woods - January 03, 2024 at 11:43 PM

MU

“ James was one of the sweetest and kindest men I know. He loved telling stories about their cabin. He had a great eye for photography. The pictures he took really captured the beauty of that place. On my first visit to Colorado, James got me some fresh ground coffee, since he knew I liked a good cup of coffee in the morning. Once I told him that the coffee was wonderful, he went and got some more for me to take home. That was so thoughtful. I thank God for putting James and Joy together and their amazing love story. We will miss James, but we will see him again someday.



Manu Underwood - January 03, 2024 at 08:47 PM

JW

Thank you, Manu!

Joy Woods - January 10, 2024 at 06:54 PM

PA

“ I didn't get to hang out with James as much as I would have liked, but when I did spend time with him, he was gentle and kind and he loved animals (my dog, Pete, specifically). He and Joy were a great couple and I am so glad they were blessed with each other.

Paula Anderson - January 03, 2024 at 02:26 PM

JW

Thank you, Paula!

Joy Woods - January 10, 2024 at 06:53 PM

MU

“ James was one of the sweetest, kindest men I know. He loved telling stories about the cabin. He had a great eye for photography. His pictures really captured the beauty of this place.

On my first visit to Colorado, James got me some coffee, since he knew I liked the good cup of coffee in the morning. He made an excellent choice and I told him that I loved the coffee. So he went and got the same coffee again and gave it to me to take home. That was so kind and thoughtful.

I am thankful that God put James and Joy together and their amazing love story. We will miss James, but we will see him again one day.



Manu Underwood - January 03, 2024 at 01:09 PM

MU

“ James was one of the kindest, sweetest men I know. He loved sharing stories about the cabin. He had a wonderful eye for photography. The pictures he took really captured the beauty of that place. On my first visit to Colorado he picked out a coffee for me, because he knew I love a good cup of coffee in the morning. And indeed the coffee was great I really liked it. James went and bought the same coffee again for me to take home. How sweet and thoughtful.

I am thankful that God brought James and Joy together in this amazing love story. We will miss James, but will see him again one day.



Manu Underwood - January 03, 2024 at 12:28 PM

JU

“ He had a big heart and was always willing to help others. Thank you for the love you showed Joy and always helping out the neighbors. We had some good Conversations about fishing, hunting and muscle cars. I wish I was able to take him out salmon and pike fishing, but His memories and love of fishing will continue as I am able to take others out fishing with the gear he so generously gave me. Already had the chance to take a couple Kids out fishing and catch some fish on his lures! Hope you are having fun fishing in Heaven!

Joshua Underwood - January 03, 2024 at 10:56 AM

CW

“ James had such a a servants heart. He will be deeply missed! We were so blessed to have gotten to spend time with you guys Joy. We love you friend and we're keeping you in our prayers.



Courtney Walsh - December 13, 2023 at 05:12 PM

HQ

James was a amazing man. I was blessed to have known him for 7 months. I loved listening to his stories and his wonderful laugh. We had a fun bond especially when we were singing "our songs". Joy you and your family are in my prayers

Heather Quass - January 02, 2024 at 06:37 PM



Thank you, Heather. For nearly the entire time you were one of his care helpers, you and James had an amazing bond. I remember when he said a curse word and then looked at you as if he was thinking "oops" and then you said the same thing in a phrase right back to him and he cracked up laughing. I walked in and he looked at me as if I caught you both doing something secretive and he joking said (as he often did in a different dialect "you go home now!" I knew I could leave him and he was in capable and caring hands. When I was in my office for my Wednesday caregiver support Zooms, you both were in James office and it was constant laughter! You are very gifted at your job and we were so blessed to have you be a part of our lives for 7 months. Thank you.

Joy Woods - January 18, 2024 at 03:24 AM