



James Patrick "Pat" Phillips

February 9, 2025

James Patrick "Pat" Phillips, 55, died suddenly but peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at his home at Landis Place in Lancaster, PA.

James was born on Mother's Day weekend, May 10, 1969, in Atlanta, GA. He graduated from Sequoyah High School in 1988. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he graduated from Devry Institute of Technology with an Associate in Electronics and Communications Engineering in 1993. James worked in IT Support for companies like McKesson, Allscripts, and Conarc by IRIS. He moved to Lancaster, PA in 2020 after living most of his life in GA. He traveled much of the United States between his work and his time in the Navy, but he most fondly remembered his 2016 trip to New Orleans with his child Kaylen.

James enjoyed fishing, hiking, and making people laugh. He was privately spiritual and ascribed to a mix of earth-based religions, such as Paganism, Buddhism, and Shamanism. He had an eclectic range of knowledge of American history, musicians, philosophy, and the generally obscure. He loved to research and strategize, as evidenced by the sticky notes around his desk where he spent time playing video games, writing, and planning workout routines.

James was a prolific writer under pen name R. Kane, with over 6 books ranging from sci-fi/fantasy to steampunk to horror. He had a small but

dedicated fanbase who would describe his writing as a “page-turner” akin to watching a movie with “great characters, punch-ups, shoot-outs, double-crossing, lots of humor, and a bit of romance.” He was also active in Elf Quest forums, where he published fanfiction of all kinds.

James is survived by his only child Kaylen Phillips of Philadelphia, PA, Kaylen’s partner J. van Kuilenburg of Philadelphia, PA, and the family cat Etta; brother Allan Phillips of West Virginia; sister-in-law Katherine Roberts of Sarasota, FL; nieces and nephews Eric Roberts, Kimberly Roberts, and Kevin Roberts of Sarasota, FL; sister-in-law Tammi Phillips of Winder, GA; nephew Stephen Phillips of Rutledge, GA and niece Jennifer Phillips Greyson of Athens, GA; and other friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his father Lewis A. Phillips of Commerce, GA; mother Gaynor M. Roberts Phillips of Norcross, GA; brothers Gary N. Roberts of Sarasota, GA, and Stephen “Chris” Phillips of Auburn, GA; and sister Lucretia A. Roberts of Buford, GA.

A Celebration of Life will be held at First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, 2125 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m

A virtual link is available for those who cannot join in person. <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92585499588>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to Invisible Histories, a community-based archive that focuses on preserving, researching, and creating educational, community-centered content about the rich and diverse history of LGBTQ people, places, and events in the US South.

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Roberts Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Patrick "Pat" Phillips.*

The Roberts Family - March 15, 2025 at 10:31 AM

TF

“ *The Roberts Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James Patrick "Pat" Phillips.*



The Roberts Family - March 15, 2025 at 10:31 AM

BU

“ *In Memory of James*

James was a remarkable individual who led a life of meaning and purpose. Many knew him as a dedicated colleague at Conarc/iChannel by IRIS, but I found learning about other facets of his life lovely.

Under the pen name R. Kane, James authored numerous books spanning genres from sci-fi/fantasy to steampunk and horror. Beyond his literary achievements, James possessed an extensive knowledge of American history, musicians, and philosophy. His intellectual curiosity was genuinely inspiring. He is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich and diverse history of the LGTBO people, places, and events in the US South.

During the six years I worked with James, I witnessed his meticulous attention to detail and unwavering willingness to assist clients and colleagues. His witty personality often brought a smile to our faces, making the workplace a more enjoyable environment.

As we remember James, we send our heartfelt wishes to his daughter, his family members, and all his friends who knew him.

James's life was truly well-lived and purposeful, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Bobby Underwood - iChannel by IRIS

Bobby Underwood - March 07, 2025 at 02:18 PM

JG

“ I had the privilege of working with James for several years. He was incredibly knowledgeable, always eager to share his insights and help others. Beyond his expertise, James had a wonderful sense of humor. His jokes and light-hearted nature made our workplace a brighter and more enjoyable environment.

James will be deeply missed not just for his professional skills, but for the warmth and joy he brought into our lives. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends.

Rest in peace, James.

Jinath Gamage - March 07, 2025 at 02:15 PM

JM

“ I had the pleasure of working with James for many years with multiple different companies. The last company, I was his manager and could always depend on James. He was always up for a challenge and I was always amazed at his positive attitude and quick wit. He made our team laugh daily and I so appreciated his humor especially during some tough work days. As I let customers know of James passing, each and every customer expressed sadness and gratitude for knowing James. He was always very helpful and pleasant to be around. The iChannel team misses him greatly. He was such a bright light in our group. My thoughts go out to his daughter and his family at this time.

Jessica McCord - March 04, 2025 at 11:36 AM

BG

“ I worked with James for nearly six years and spoke with him every day. His humor was his greatest asset, and he used it masterfully to diffuse any situation. We miss him.

Brian Gage - March 03, 2025 at 09:10 AM

BU

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Bobby Underwood - iChannel by IRIS

Bobby Underwood - March 03, 2025 at 09:40 AM