



Jacob "Jake" Rader

October 18, 1984 - June 5, 2026

Jacob "Jake" Rader, 41, of Waldron, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on June 5, 2026.

Born on October 18, 1984, in Connersville, Indiana, Jake was the son of Tammy (Earlywine)

Harsh and Elvis Rader. While he loved his family deeply, those who knew Jake knew the special bond he shared with his stepfather, Marty, who helped shape the man he became.

Jake graduated from Rushville Consolidated High School in 2003 and went on to earn his

Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from IUPUC before later earning his Master's

Degree in Educational Administration from Ball State University. He dedicated his life to serving

children and helping them discover their potential.

For ten years, Jake taught at Waldron Elementary School, where he taught Physical Education,

Kindergarten, Third Grade, and Fifth Grade. He later became Assistant Principal at South

Decatur Elementary School, a role he cherished because it allowed him to continue making a

difference in the lives of students, families, and fellow educators. To Jake,

education was never just a career—it was a calling. His students adored him, and years after leaving his classroom, many still sought him out to share their accomplishments, stories, and hugs. It was not uncommon for a trip to Walmart to be interrupted by excited former students calling out, "Mr. Rader!" as they ran over to greet him.

Jake was a lifelong member of Ben Davis Creek Christian Church and faithfully served as a deacon for several years. His faith was the foundation of his life. He lived out his beliefs through kindness, humility, and service to others. He was the person people called when they needed advice, encouragement, help with a project, or simply someone to listen. No matter how busy he was, Jake would stop what he was doing to help someone in need. He never sought recognition for his generosity—it was simply who he was.

On August 14, 2004, Jake married the love of his life, Amber Sparks. Together they built a beautiful life centered on faith, family, and unwavering devotion to one another. Their love story began during their senior year of high school while working together at Kroger, and over the next twenty-two years they created countless memories, weathered life's challenges side by side, and built a family that was Jake's greatest pride and joy.

Jake was a devoted father to Lexi Rader (fiancé Bryce McQueen) of Greensburg, Landyn Rader (wife Makayla) of Greensburg, and Azalia Rader of Waldron. He was a proud

grandfather to

Harper Rader, whose presence brought him tremendous happiness. He was a role model not

only to his own children, but to countless young people whose lives he touched through his

work, his faith, and his example.

Jake is also survived by his mother, Tammy Harsh; his father, Elvis Rader; his stepfather, Marty

Harsh; his siblings Josh Rader (Sara), Tiffany Frank, Kyle Harsh (Lynette), Autumn Rader, and

stepbrother Dustin Harsh; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, friends,

coworkers, church family, and former students who loved him dearly.

Jake never met a stranger. He was a true people person whose warmth, humor, and genuine

interest in others made everyone feel welcome. He loved to laugh and had a way of making

others laugh with him. He didn't take life too seriously and could find joy even in ordinary

moments. His smile was contagious, and his laugh was unforgettable.

Outside of work, Jake loved spending time outdoors. Whether he was riding his motorcycle,

fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, running, working out, building something with his hands, or

working on vehicles, he was happiest when he was creating, exploring, or spending time with

the people he loved. He was an excellent cook, a talented problem-solver, and the kind of

person who could fix just about anything. If he didn't know how, he would teach himself until he

figured it out.

More than anything, Jake loved his family. He showed up for the people he cared about. He

listened without judgment, encouraged without hesitation, and loved without condition. His

impact cannot be measured by titles, accomplishments, or years alone, but by the countless

lives he touched through his kindness, faith, generosity, and love.

Though his time here was far too short, the legacy Jake leaves behind is extraordinary. He

leaves a world better than he found it, and his influence will continue to live on through the

family he cherished, the students he inspired, the friends he supported, and the many people

whose lives are forever changed because they knew him.

Visitation will be held Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Cornerstone

Christian Fellowship in Waldron, Indiana. Funeral services will be held Friday, June 12, 2026, at

10:30 a.m. at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Waldron, Indiana, with Howard Bullard

officiating. Burial will follow at Ben Davis Creek Christian Church cemetery in Rushville, Indiana.

Jake's family finds comfort in knowing that while they grieve his absence, they celebrate the

incredible man he was and the eternal hope he held through his faith in Jesus Christ.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ben Davis Christian Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
7414 East Michigan Road
Waldron, IN 46182

Service

JUN 12. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
7414 East Michigan Road
Waldron, IN 46182

Tribute Wall



“ *Garden Accent - "Gone yet not forgotten..." - Heart was purchased for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



June 11 at 06:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jacob "Jake" Rader.

June 11 at 06:11 PM



“ *Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



June 11 at 04:22 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



June 11 at 01:16 PM



“ *Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



June 11 at 12:00 PM



“ *Crosspointe Friends and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



Crosspointe Friends and family - June 11 at 06:46 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



June 10 at 02:32 PM



“ *My heart and prayers are with all through this most difficult time.*

Heidi - June 08 at 11:14 AM

SH

“ Staff at North Decatur Jr/Sr HS purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.



Staff at North Decatur Jr/Sr HS - June 08 at 11:12 AM

SH

“ Staff at North Decatur Jr/Sr HS planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob "Jake" Rader.

Staff at North Decatur Jr/Sr HS - June 08 at 11:12 AM

KW

“ Mr. Rader was a great guy even tho most the time we talked one of my kids was in trouble but he always knew how to handle the situation and wanted to help! All my kids adored him. he will greatly be missed! From the Parish kids you are missed for sure! Thank you for all you did for them!! Please watch over every kid in the future as they go back to school!! Lots of prayers to the family!!



Krystal Walterman - June 08 at 10:43 AM

FS

“ Fred and Angie Stevens purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.



Fred and Angie Stevens - June 08 at 08:05 AM

FS

“ Fred and Angie Stevens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob "Jake" Rader.

Fred and Angie Stevens - June 08 at 08:05 AM

VM

“ Mr Rader was a huge influence on our disabled son Henry. He was his go to person. When Henry fought about wearing his brace all it took was Mr Rader telling him he would be in his office. No more arguments about the brace. He sincerely tried helping my son numerous times in dealing with the conflicts of being picked on for being different than other children. I admired Mr Rader deeply. He truly cared so deeply for the kiddos at South. His infectious smile and twinkle in his eyes will be deeply missed. I will continue to lift all of you in our prayers.

Vanessa May - June 07 at 09:03 PM

FG

“ From Jordan griffith. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob "Jake" Rader.

From Jordan griffith. - June 07 at 08:43 PM

FG

“ From Jordan griffith. purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.



From Jordan griffith. - June 07 at 08:43 PM

NC

“ *Nevaeh Cress purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



Nevaeh Cress - June 07 at 07:59 PM

JM

“ *Praying for the family. Love you Tammy Marty and kids. ❤️🙏 Love you all Joanie*



Joan Harsh Messer - June 07 at 07:44 PM

AB

“ *Aneta Bell purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



Aneta Bell - June 07 at 04:26 PM

AL

“ *Amy Lacey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



Amy Lacey - June 07 at 03:03 PM

AL

“ Amy Lacey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob "Jake" Rader.

Amy Lacey - June 07 at 03:03 PM

FP

“ From Lucy & Barry Pierce purchased the Stars in the Sky - Elements Angel for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.



From Lucy & Barry Pierce - June 07 at 02:39 PM

JR

“ Josh and Sara Rader purchased the Sweet Since rity for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.



Josh and Sara Rader - June 07 at 01:53 PM

JR

“ Josh and Sara Rader planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jacob "Jake" Rader.

Josh and Sara Rader - June 07 at 01:53 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jacob "Jake" Rader.*



June 07 at 01:51 PM