

Benjamin Cato Burton

March 15, 1980 - December 16, 2020

Benjamin Cato Burton, 40, died of a sudden heart attack on December 16, 2020 at his home in Orlando, FL. He's survived by his parents, Keith and Linda Burton; girlfriend Eva House; sister Tiffany Burton-Peltier; and sister Tracy Weldon. He was an uncle to Tabitha, Theodore, and Tiya Burton-Peltier, and brother-in-law to Dan Weldon and Jean Peltier.

Benjamin was born in Kokomo, Indiana on March 15, 1980. He grew up in Novi, MI and graduated from Novi High School in 1998. Benjamin attended Eastern Michigan University, started working in manufacturing, then later finished his degree and obtained his MBA. He worked at manufacturing companies across the country that produced everything from cabinets to automotive parts before moving to Orlando in 2018 to take a job as a Lean/Quality Director for the Florida-based aerotech company JBT.

It's Benjamin's recent success in life and his development into a responsible man that made Keith and Linda most proud. Ben had a bright professional and personal future. He and Eva had found a perfect partner in one another and were at the beginning of a long life together — they had in August purchased a beautiful home in Orlando. Benjamin had a big heart and was always there when his family needed him. He loved watching Tiffany be a mother and was a dedicated, proud uncle who adored his nieces and nephew. He never missed a birthday party and said he felt lucky to have in his niece a

second, little Tiffany. Benjamin was also an animal whisperer and cat dad who referred to himself as a “cat couch” because Kitty, Gato, and Bonkers would spend hours laying on him.

Ben’s friends remember him as someone whose enthusiasm for life inspired those around him. He could find humor in any situation and was a rare breed with a distinct view of the world. Who else among his friends found joy in Nordic metal bands like Therion, was a David Hasselhoff aficionado, can discuss the subtleties of the world’s finest bourbons and was a math whiz? But above all, Ben was regarded as a kind, humble and genuine guy — a true and reliable friend who honestly cared about how others were doing. Though he lived in different cities around the country throughout his adult life, one could sit down with Ben after not seeing him for a few years and pick up right where they last left off. People like this are lifelong friends, the best kind that there are. They’re extremely rare and Ben will be impossible to replace.

At JBT, coworkers described Benjamin as a talented manager and Relentless Continuous Improvement (RCI) expert. He was also a gentleman who was smart, articulate and always willing to help — a friend. He designed many of JBT’s SQDC boards around the shop and provided Lean training. Benjamin made the company Leaner and better, and coworkers say he broke down complex problems into easy concepts — the mark of a true teacher. He believed that even during a pandemic “if the people were here, we should be here too.” Benjamin took the lead on important projects and prepared JBT’s ISO response for weeks. When the company received a simple acceptance, they were elated. It is tough to find that good energy when preparing for an audit. Benjamin had that good energy.

A service for Benjamin will be held on Dec. 28 at 1 pm at the Community Funeral Home at 910 W. Michigan St. Orlando, FL. It’s a small, closed family gathering due to the pandemic.

Tribute Wall



“ *I miss you sweet Ben.. you taught me so much.. the smartest man I've ever known.. adding my fav pick of us at Gatorland right After we bought the house on Derby Glen... I hope some how you can hear me. Miss you so.*



Eva House - April 15, 2023 at 03:28 AM



“ *2/20 I miss you Ben*



Eva House - April 15, 2023 at 02:01 AM

AS

“ My buddy Ben... I've said that so many times. We had so many good times together in Lynchburg. He was the friend I could always count on. He drove 7 hours to attend my wedding in South Carolina, we drove to Philadelphia to go to a Lions, Eagles game. Countless hours at Stoney and video bowling in your apartment. Just so many memories hanging out watching football or getting into trouble. Ill miss you my friend.



Alex Stuart - January 16, 2021 at 03:35 PM

SJ

“ Samantha Jones lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Cato Burton



Samantha Jones - December 28, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.



December 28, 2020 at 08:14 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.



December 28, 2020 at 01:27 AM

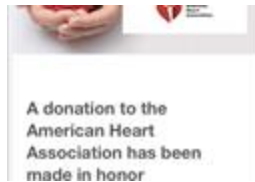


“ RIP Ben Burton

Scott Belcher - December 27, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Emma - December 27, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ Rodney Stewart lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Cato Burton



Rodney Stewart - December 27, 2020 at 09:55 PM

RS

“ Ben, you were a great friend. All the memories we had together. From you flooding your apartment, to cutting your way out of your tent because you couldn't find the zipper. You were a blast to be around, and there was never a dull moment. So glad I was able to meet you.



Rodney Stewart - December 27, 2020 at 09:54 PM

GE

“ I hadn't gotten to see Ben in a couple of years, but I had been kept up to speed by Tiffany on what he had been up to. Over the years, I had some great time with him and Tiffany. Both in Kentucky, and way back in the Ypsilanti days

There's no way to make anyone feel less heartache than they are currently feeling with words written on a page. However, I know that Ben had been in a good place recently after meeting Eva, and becoming an uncle to Tiffany and Jean's kids.

Myself as well as I'm sure everyone who knew him, will miss him and his genuine kindness very much



Geoff Ernst - December 27, 2020 at 07:03 PM

GA

“ Geoff Ernst and Shorty Arble purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.



Geoff Ernst and Shorty Arble - December 27, 2020 at 06:32 PM



“ *Mrs. Fields Nibblers® Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 27, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 27, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 27, 2020 at 05:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 27, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 27, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 27, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ *I was fortunate to work under Ben at JBT for some time. During that time, he was a good mentor and I was able to learn so much from him. Ben always led by example, had a great sense of humor, and very smart. You're going to be missed Ben, I appreciate you.*

Dominic G. - December 26, 2020 at 06:30 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 26, 2020 at 01:48 PM

LR

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family for a staggering loss. I had the immensely good fortune to spend a great deal of time with Ben working for Norcraft. We led many Kaizens together in various facilities over the course of several years. It's impossible to say just how much I learned from him. He was a genuinely kind and caring person and approached his work from the perspective that he should be making other people's lives better and did not feel successful unless he did so. He was perhaps the most effortlessly intelligent person I have ever known, but he never put it on display or condescended to anyone... (unless they really deserved it lol). As brilliant as he was, the art of having a good time was equally alive in Ben. I have so many stories that I never get tired of telling about good times we shared. Many of our greatest ideas were scratched on bar napkins and coasters. He seemed to relish a bit in taking the archetype of a successful engineer and standing it on its head... I loved that about him. I have Ben to thank for much of what my own career has become... He blessed me with his unique view to carry as my own, always had fresh ideas to break me from a rut, and even helped me negotiate for a new job once. It's truly difficult to find the right words to express my sadness and my heart breaks for his family. He spoke so fondly of all of you and you no doubt meant the world to him. As I retrace his footsteps in my memory, I lament the opportunity to reconnect with him and share what our lives have become. I have lost a kindred spirit, of which I have so few and the world has lost a truly beautiful soul.*

Lucas Rolo - December 26, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 24, 2020 at 08:13 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 24, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 24, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 23, 2020 at 10:45 AM

SL

“ I worked with Ben when he was a teeneager at Novi Bowl. I lived with Ben and some friends for a bit in Ypsilanti when he was a younger man. I have so many stories with Ben. Not as many as some. But Ben was never mean and was a pleasant person growing up. I lost touch with him. I kept up a little bit but finally lost touch when he was in Virginia. I am glad he knew of love and found a person worthy of his kindness and his admiration. I don't know the Ben of recent. I do know he didn't like to smoke pot like I did. So I will toast to my friend by shotgunning a beer and then of course do my thing by smoking a joint and thinking of a good friend who I will miss. Peace

Stuart Levy - December 21, 2020 at 11:02 PM

SL

“ Stuart Levy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.



Stuart Levy - December 21, 2020 at 10:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Eva House - December 21, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 21, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 21, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ *Dear Linda, Keith, Eva and family,
Please accept my deepest sympathy on the loss of Ben. I cannot tell you how awesome he was to work with. He was so very smart but never made you feel small. He lifted spirits and shared his love of LEAN and RCI with everyone. He truly cared about the employees we served. All through the pandemic, when the offices were quiet, he always made a point to check on me. We had a cool game in passing through the halls by sharing a hello in all different languages and ways. I could never beat him! I cannot tell you what a loss this is for all of us that worked with him each day.
I promise that we will carry on his legacy. Our hearts are broken along with yours.*



Julie Phillips JBT

Julie Phillips - December 20, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 20, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ *Dear Linda and Keith, Rich and I are broken hearted for you as you morn the loss of your beloved son. From all the remarks I have read, it sounds as if he got all the best traits of his mom and Dad. Our condolences go out to Benjamin’s sisters as well. I’ll bet he was one great uncle. May God comfort you these coming days and always. We love you. Jan and Rich Evans*

jan and rich - December 19, 2020 at 07:34 PM



“ *Sending my condolences and love to the family of Ben Burton and all that love cherish his memory. I met Ben at EMU and spent many days with him amongst other friends telling stories and just enjoying each other’s company. Ben was a great man and I’ll never forget his kindness, good heart, story telling and his ability to make folks laugh and feel so welcomed. Rest in sweet peace Ben. My deepest sympathy to the family.*

Tangie Young-Hooks - December 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM

MC

“ *Magan Crutcher purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



Magan Crutcher - December 18, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ *Ben, I'm better for having known you. You've been both a mentor and a friend, and I'll miss your cheerful energy at work every day. Your jokes and stories always brightened my day, and your kindness was respected by everyone around you. Rest in peace, Ben.*

Logan Rossi - December 18, 2020 at 07:02 PM

SB

“ *RIP gentle Ben. Thanks for the epic bar crawl(my first)in Orlando, and Keeping me company at the foot of the stairs. Such a great time. Such a good guy.*

S. Bielski - December 18, 2020 at 05:42 PM

WV

“ *Wendolynn Velez sent a virtual gift in memory of Benjamin Cato Burton*



Wendolynn Velez - December 18, 2020 at 05:27 PM

WV

“ *My greatest condolences to all the loved ones.*



Wendolynn Velez - December 18, 2020 at 05:26 PM

AG

My heart aches for you all. One if most wonderful soul I have ever known.

Anita Gonzalez - December 18, 2020 at 06:56 PM

JV

“ *Jeff and Val purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



Jeff and Val - December 18, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cato Burton.*



December 18, 2020 at 04:20 PM