



Russell Parker Jones

September 15, 1981 - June 24, 2021

In his online profile, Russ defined himself: “I love my wife Morgan & daughters Claren, Aven & Ellis, I do SEO, I’m a twin, a Christian, a Democrat. Black Lives Matter. Romans 12:18”

Russ Jones, age 39, of Cary, North Carolina passed away Thursday, June 24, 2021, at his home. Russ was born in Mobile, Alabama on September 15, 1981. He grew up with his parents and two brothers in Greenville, NC, and he graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and African-American Studies.

Family - Family was everything to Russ. He married his high school sweetheart, Morgan Jones and after more than two decades together, he still managed to find new ways small and large to show her the depth of his love. He devoted his whole being to Morgan and their daughters, Claren, Aven, and Ellis. He spent countless hours authoring stories and illustrations with Claren, creating new cuisines and recipes with Aven, and dancing and playing the piano with Ellis. Russ knew how to create a special place for each of his girls. As a family they enjoyed swimming, tennis, music, and retreats to the beach. Simply put, he was the perfect husband and father.

These qualities were both innate to Russ’s character, but also due to the loving home in which he was raised. His mom, Barbara Jones, showed Russ how to see and appreciate the smaller things in life. Harold Jones engrained in the family a sense of commitment and living through Christ. Russ grew up with two brothers and loved each of them dearly. His older brother, Matt Jones, taught him about girls, politics, and pyrotechnics. Russ shared everything with his identical twin, Scott Jones. Activities that might have been competitive in other families led to shared sense of celebration: Little League, the Morehead Scholarship, or finding true love so young.

Identical twin - Russ loved being an identical twin, and had the sort of relationship with Scott that comes from knowing someone since before you can remember. Growing up they were often called Russ/Scott as a singular or plural and could sense each other’s

needs as reflex. When Scott had appendicitis, Russ knew, and when Russ had croup, Scott felt like he couldn't breathe. As the best man at his twin's wedding, Russ worked on his toast for months, perfecting every word and emotion. He wanted everything for Scott and more. When Scott became a father, Russ's own beam spread for miles.

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) - Russ was a self-taught data scientist who realized the potential of data science and search before courses were invented to teach others. Russ created a community where it was safe to ask, challenge, fail, and succeed while building today's SEO. His nurturing approach, coupled with his own brilliance, earned Russ admiration from an entire industry.

Christian, Democrat and Black Lives Matter - Russ was a man of God who valued his relationship with the Lord and led his family in worship and song. Russ embodied the word of God and saw the good in everyone and everything, often challenging others in debate to help them reach new heights that he knew they could conquer. He was an example of Christ to others, even those who lacked faith.

With a degree in Political Science and African American Studies, Russ championed equal rights. He used debate and discussion to raise awareness of inequities and was unyielding in his crusade to make the world better for marginalized groups. Especially as he became a father of three girls which inspired him in everything.

Romans 12:18 - Russ was a true friend to everyone he met. He was never happier than when he was building someone else up, doing someone a favor, lending a needed hand. He drew people to him and radiated love in all that he did. The warmth of his touch will be missed in this world by everyone he knew.

Russ is survived by:

- o Morgan Wickizer Jones (spouse) Claren Riley Jones (daughter age 10), Aven Reese Jones (daughter age 8), Ellis Riggs Jones (daughter age 6)
- o Harold Parker Jones (father), Barbara J. Jones (mother), Donna Jones (step-mother), Charles Wickizer (father-in-law), Gail C. Horne (mother-in-law)
- o Matt Jones (brother) & R. Taylor Jones (sister-in-law), Scott Jones (twin) & Erin Jones (sister-in-law), M. Jensen Horne (sister-in-law), Jeremy Bongo (step-brother), Brian Bongo (step-brother), Angela Bongo (step-sister)
- o Silas Jones (nephew), Asa Jones (nephew), Bronwyn Jones (niece), Henry Parker Jones (nephew)

A memorial service for family and close friends will be held at 11am on Thursday, July 1 at

Crosspointe Church in Cary. A virtual live stream will be available through <http://www.RememberingRussJones.com>

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Russ's deepest commitment and greatest treasure, his family. A trust has been established to support the long-term success and needs of his daughters. Immediate donations are being accepted through <http://www.RememberingRussJones.com> and via Paypal @rjonesx.

Cemetery

Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd
Cary, NC, 27519

Events

JUL **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

1

Crosspointe Church
6911 Carpenter Firestation Road, Cary, NC, US,
27519

Comments



“ Dear Morgan and family. We are devastated by your loss. Our memories of Russ are only wonderful. He was such a good, kind, talented friend to Erik , our son. We remember all the special competitions and theatre they did together. Such an amazing wonderful time. We hope all those wonderful memories continue to sustain you.

With deepest sympathy Ilene and Ulf Karlsson

ilene Karlsson - July 03 at 04:26 PM



“ Heart felt condolences to Morgan, her girls and entire family. May God comfort you all.

-Kenyatta

Kenyatta Elliott - July 01 at 12:18 PM



“ Sending prayers to Morgan and the entire family. I am so sorry for your loss and hope you find comfort in your memories and in the deep love that surrounds you.

Lisbeth

Lisbeth Gierman - July 01 at 09:06 AM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Rand Fishkin - June 28 at 03:14 PM



“ My prayers are with the family and may God comfort you all.

Mr. & Mrs. Mary Campbell

Mr. & Mrs. Campbell - June 28 at 07:54 PM



“ May your family find peace and comfort with God during these trying times. Our prayers are with your family.

Oscar Chui - June 30 at 07:57 PM



“ Morgan,
I am so sorry for your loss, your daughters' loss, and the loss of everyone who loved Russ. My heartfelt condolences,
Pam Barth

Pam Barth - June 28 at 12:28 PM



“ Two kids walk by the pool at the beach--both look the same. One stops. Smiles. "Hey, you're from school, wanna play?" That's how our friendship started. They had just moved to town. We happened to both be out of town at the beach. Come to find out, we lived in the same neighborhood. I could share plenty of memories of pyrotechnics (we set a lot of stuff on fire... including a brush field), or baseball cards, or baseball/whiffleball, or hide-n-go seek, or pingpong, or video games, or mac-n-chesse, or random chats and debates--the list goes on. But they would never personify our friendship or relationship. Computers would. I had a piece of sh*t Tandy and then an HP that was less of a POS. I remember you guys getting a Gateway one summer. It literally became out gateway to the world. We figured it out, got hooked on games, and eventually started to code websites. We sucked early on, but we never stopped learning. You pushed me as much as I pushed you. We pushed each other with technology for I don't know how many summers and years from those early points forward. Every time I had an idea, you'd figure out how to do it. We fueled each other, driving each others strengths. We created stuff that was far ahead of its time. Your passion for the computer--my passion for the computer--it came from those years together. Both of our eventual careers came from all those hours brainstorming and creating. Countless lines of code. Countless hours of research. Countless websites. I'm still not sure how I landed LeAnn Rimes as a client on a whim. Nor how we landed senate or presidential candidates. Hell, I'm not sure how my introverted self landed anyone as a client, but together, we did. We had some good runs. Some good times. We had some frustrating times, too. Me always anxious and depressed. You often napping or high an adrenaline or MIA for days when we were in college. MIA always mean't Morgan. Every chance you got. Sometimes literally. I don't know how much gas I funded some summers so you could get back to her, or money for dinners with her, or tech so you could work on the go. She was your world. I know that was mutual. And nothing held you guys a part. Your girls became an extension of that love. I know they will miss you terribly. We all will. Until we meet again. Hold down the fort.

Bill Bunting - June 28 at 10:37 AM



“ You were always a nice guy in school but I always admired your professional work from afar. We reconnected shortly over crypto and you introduced me to a couple of projects when you had no real reason to, other than you were a genuinely nice guy. You will be missed, the Harrell family with hold yours in our prayers.

Ben Harrell - June 28 at 11:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bill Bunting - June 28 at 09:28 AM



“ Russ has loved Morgan for most of her life now. When she graduated from college she and I went to France for a short celebration. I'll never forget Russ' emotions as we left to board the plane. My Dad said to me later, " That fellow really loves Morgan." Russ was such a kind, gentle person, always welcoming and gracious. He loved chocolate and it was always a pleasure to make a chocolate dessert and see him enjoy it. He was completely devoted to his family without exception. My heart goes out to Morgan, Claren, Aven, Ellis, his parents and all extended family. Russ, your light will forever shine brightly on this earth through your family. Heaven's light is bit brighter with your arrival. We will all love you always.
Kathy (Wickizer) Thaman

Kathy Thaman - June 28 at 09:27 AM