



## Benjamin "B.J." Sparks

July 19, 1995 - July 21, 2023

Services for Benjamin "B.J." Doyle-Carradine Sparks, 28, of Tyler, TX will be held on Friday, July 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler with Rev. C.J. Dickenson and Rev. Ron Ivey officiating. Burial will follow at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

B.J. passed away Friday, July 21, 2023 in Fort Worth, TX after a series of medical mishaps due to an illness. He was born July 19, 1995, in Shreveport, LA to Benjamin Doyle Sparks and Robin Ann Edwards Sparks.

B.J. accepted Christ at a young age and lived his life in a way that honored his decision. He was a member of Gospel Church in Tyler, where he served in Media. BJ graduated from Parkway High School, Bossier City, LA and held the position of Internet Marketing with Beck Business Services, LLC.

Benjamin served as MDA Goodwill Ambassador for ten years as Ark-La-Tex and Louisiana State Goodwill Ambassador.

BJ loved all aspects of the game of football. He assisted Evangel Middle School as a student coach and later was an intern and avid fan of the Bossier Battlewings. BJ cherished these roles and formed very special relationships with the players and coaches. He also enjoyed college and NFL football. BJ

was also very active with Christian Crew gaming group where he formed many friendships. BJ set an example of serving God, others, and living his life to the fullest, despite having Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

BJ was witty and wise beyond his years. He touched many lives, changing those who knew him for the better. For BJ, the battle was won. Our worst day was his best as he is now in the presence of Jesus, his savior. While we cannot change some things in life, we can change how we live our lives. BJ's work is finished here, but ours is not - Make it count! From here until we reach the end of our days, we can LIVE LIKE BJ SPARKS.

BJ was preceded in death by his father, Benjamin D. Sparks; grandfather, Robert Edwards; uncle, Robert (Bobby) Edwards; his paternal grandmother and grandfather, Evelyn and Doyle Sparks.

Left to cherish his memory are his mother, Robin Beck and husband Mark; grandmother, Doris Dunn Edwards; sisters, Shawna Brown and husband Jonathan, Shannon Stillwell and husband Ryan; stepsisters, Kaela Deslatte and husband Daniel, Krista Rhodes and husband Jordan; and one brother, Taylor Guyton; nieces, nephews and extended family.

Pallbearers will be Taylor Guyton, Jonathan Brown, Daniel Deslatte, Ryan Stillwell, Robbie Britton, and Charles Tucker.

Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler.

If desired, Memorial contributions may be made to <https://cureduchenne.org>, or <https://www.payitforwardnetworking.com>

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Lawn Cemetery

2003 Blue Mountain Blvd.  
Tyler, TX 75703

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

## Service

JUL 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

# Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks



Stewart Family Funeral Home - July 27, 2023 at 09:52 AM

SB

Thank you for a lovely tribute to my wonderful baby brother.

shawna brown - August 09, 2023 at 06:24 AM

J(

“ All the contagious laughing on Rocket League, I'll never forget it ❤️

Josh (Hunter) - July 28, 2023 at 07:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.



July 27, 2023 at 06:00 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*



July 27, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*



July 27, 2023 at 10:38 AM

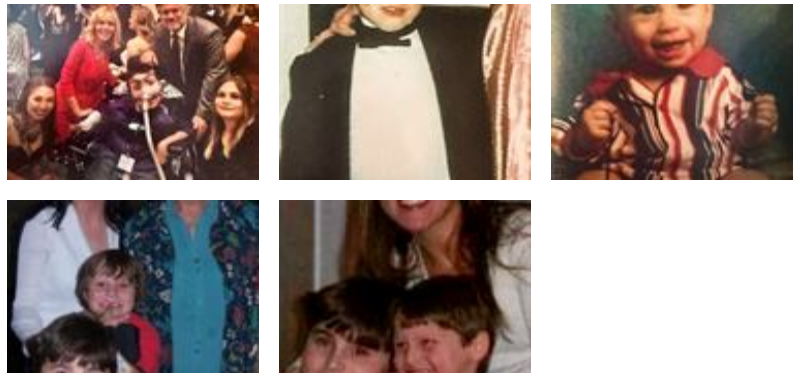


“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*

July 27, 2023 at 10:38 AM



“ *207 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - July 27, 2023 at 09:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*



---

July 26, 2023 at 06:58 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*



---

July 26, 2023 at 06:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*

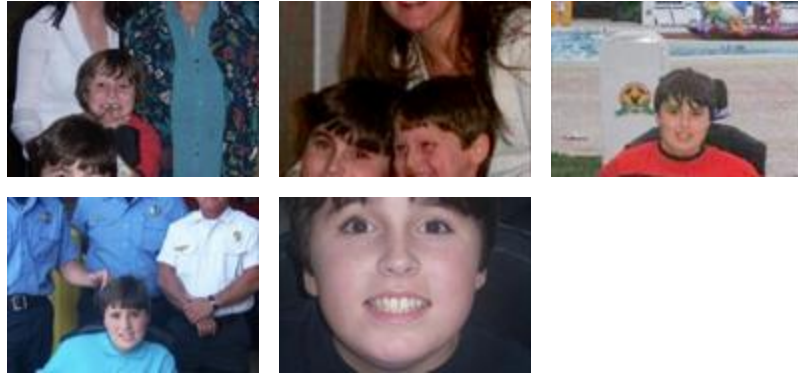


---

July 26, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ 204 files added to the album BJ MORE



Robin Beck - July 26, 2023 at 01:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.

July 25, 2023 at 04:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.



July 25, 2023 at 04:14 PM

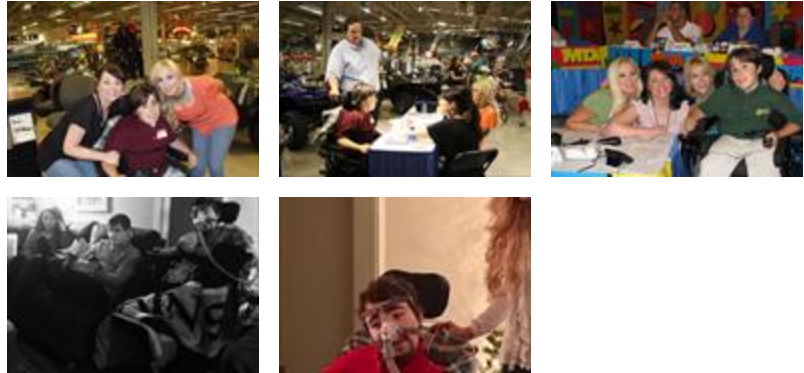


“ Jonathan A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.

Jonathan A. - July 25, 2023 at 10:22 AM

SB

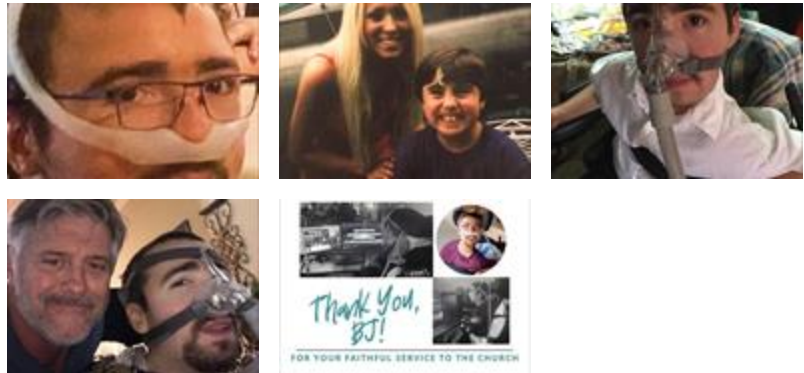
“ 15 files added to the album BJ



shawna brown - July 25, 2023 at 07:50 AM



“ 35 files added to the album BJ



Robin Beck - July 24, 2023 at 05:04 PM

FB

“ *"A Friend is a Friend Forever When the Friend is in the Lord."*  
*BJ was first and foremost a Christian. He made me a better Christian. Iron sharpens iron. He was not overly pious or stodgy in any way. There was a large age gap between us but that was the only gap between us. He could have been someone from my graduation class. He was witty and had razor sharp timing and could be dry or sarcastic at times as well. We would exchange insults on a daily basis and no one could make me laugh at myself like BJ. "You're dismissed." I'm what?. "You're dismissed. You may go now." He never let me forget taking cupcakes from the dentist's office. He would give me brake pedal reminders when we would go out somewhere and we agreed that he could have three and no more and he would usually burn the first one before we got out of the driveway. Because of his condition, he needed to keep his room rather warm so of course I am terribly hot natured so that led to an almost daily exchange of myself walking into his room and immediately kicking over his small space here so it would turn off and BJ telling me, " get saved. " We talked about the Bible and we talked about Jesus and we talked about the horrible state of our country and we talked about our weaknesses. We walked around the block together and sometimes I would jog for a little ways and sometimes he would speed by me and then do a 180 and come zooming back by me grinning from ear to ear. We misbehaved at restaurants together and he made me laugh until I choked or cried many times.*

*BJ was never a bum and always wanted to do more and work more. We did doordash together and I could spend the next half hour talking about our exploits doing that. He reminded me frequently to be nice to others and to watch my words carefully.*

*I miss him terribly and I get choked several times a day but I have also laughed in the midst of my tears picturing him running all over the place in heaven with that irrepressible smile. We shared a song together, "Jesus Loves Me More Than You." ... You got there first BJ so I guess we know the truth now. ❤️🙌*

---

Ferlin Blood - July 24, 2023 at 04:55 PM

SB

*Beautiful dedication.*

Shawna Brown - July 25, 2023 at 10:20 AM

MH

*The most infectious smile and laugh - H\_\_T @ CC.*

Matti Hirvonen - July 27, 2023 at 07:04 AM

ML

“ *BJ has been such a light in our neighborhood! I'm so sorry for all of us that he is gone. But I'm comforted that he is free! He has legs, He can breathe and is full of joy. He probably can't wait to show us all around. But I will miss him here.*

Michelle Lee - July 24, 2023 at 04:46 PM

FS

“ *From Aunt Bernice and Scott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*

From Aunt Bernice and Scott - July 24, 2023 at 04:35 PM

FS

“ *From Aunt Bernice and Scott purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*



From Aunt Bernice and Scott - July 24, 2023 at 04:35 PM

MH

“ *Melissa Holloway lit a candle in memory of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks*



---

**Melissa Holloway** - July 24, 2023 at 04:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.

---

July 24, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.*



---

July 24, 2023 at 04:22 PM

CS

“ *Chris Stanley lit a candle in memory of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks*



---

**Chris Stanley** - July 24, 2023 at 03:56 PM

SB

“Pow” “bapp” “bapp”, that is all I heard coming from you as a little child. You were always using your imagination to destroy things-I now imagine you were taking out the bad in the world with your invisible lasers. I also remember “Oglethorpe”, your imaginary friend who lived in the bedroom at grandma’s. I had such fun with you as a child: Mario Kart, The Aquarium, and so many Disney movies. It is truly hard to believe you are gone. Even though I know you are truly with our Lord, I ache to see your big brown eyes again. I had so much hope for your future; that you would get to live as long as Bobby did. God had other plans. Labor Day will always bring back fond memories of the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, where you would volunteer endlessly and present donation checks for substantial amounts. You will forever be in our hearts and memories. I will listen out for a new tune from the birds... fly high, sweet brother.

---

**Shawna Brown** - July 24, 2023 at 01:54 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Benjamin "B.J." Sparks.



---

July 24, 2023 at 10:59 AM

SB

“Hey B.J., what's cooler than being cool?" "ice cold" B.J. replies with a straight face of annoyance. That was the last question Ruthie asked you the last time we saw you at home between hospital stays. It is from a song I used to play when I would babysit you and Taylor, I was the epitome of an annoying sister, but you took in all in stride. I couldn't wait to get off of work each Friday as a young person so I could go by the Disney store and buy you something. The light you brought into a room with those big brown "bappy" eyes can never be replaced. You were one in a trillion-endlessly volunteering as a child and adult. You made the most of life, even with very limited mobility. You were an expert on technology and all things intricate. You were wise beyond your years and sadly missed by many. Fly high with Uncle Bobby, "bapp". You are free to run the streets of gold now...

---

**Shawna Brown** - July 24, 2023 at 10:56 AM

AN

“ I've known BJ for several years through our shared online Christian community, "Christian Crew". Here's how I summed things up with some of our members there:

*There are certain key people that make CC more than all that it is at first glance, people who give of themselves to everyone, freely and without guile. People who symbolize exactly what we want our community to be about. I can think of no one more emblematic of what CC has always tried to represent than Ffootballl.*

*He was known as Ffootballl in our community due to his love of the game, and presumably the New Orleans Saints.*

---

**Andrew** - July 23, 2023 at 01:20 PM

MH

*Love you, brother Ffootball. - H\_\_T @ CC.*

---

**Matti Hirvonen** - July 27, 2023 at 07:07 AM

SS

*BJ was the heart of CC. He was easy to love, and was gifted in the art of laughter. He made it feel effortless to have a good time. From the countless times he had me laughing to his consistent faithfulness in recording the community meetings and Bible studies, he was a cherished friend and brother. Until we meet again, BJ. Go Saints.*

---

**Shawn Sanburn** - July 27, 2023 at 02:10 PM