



Jennifer D. Hostetler

March 12, 1980 - June 15, 2020

Due to the current pandemic and CDC guidelines the memorial service for Jennifer will be private. Friends are encouraged to attend via webcasting on Saturday, June 20th at 2:00 pm (EST). It can be found under the Photo and Video tab and it will be listed under External Webcast File.

Jennifer (Jen, JenBug) Diane Russell Hostetler, 40, of Saint Petersburg, FL passed away on June 15, 2020 of complications from cardiac arrest.

Born on March 12, 1980 in El Paso, TX to Sherry White and David Russell, Jen grew up primarily in Rockville, MD. She received her BS from Texas A&M University and her MS from the University of Florida. Her nickname, "JenBug," came from her lifelong passion for entomology, which she shared generously throughout her life and incorporated into her spectacular and striking tattoos. Although she had a particular interest in social insects (especially bees and ants), she loved all six-legged creatures. Jen followed her passion for the natural world and worked as an entomologist and research scientist. At the time of her death, she was a long-time study director, compliance officer, and chief of quality assurance at i2L Research USA, Inc. in Baltimore, MD.

Jen's interests were wide ranging: in addition to her scientific work, she was passionate about music, especially the live metal and punk scene in Saint Petersburg. She owned an extensive collection of little-known Saint Petersburg band t-shirts, and she travelled widely to attend music festivals featuring the many groups she followed. Jen's musical taste was diverse: while some of her favorite artists included Janelle Monae, The Coup, James Blake, Death Grips, Converge, Reality Asylum, Melvins, and Gogol Bordello, Jen also loved having impromptu YouTube parties featuring Macklemore music videos and Beyoncé's "Homecoming." Jen wrote and read short stories focusing on the macabre, and rabidly sought out obscure horror films - which she shared with unwitting friends at every opportunity. She loved craft beverages: whether sour beer, wine, or G&Ts made with homemade tonic, because "the store-bought stuff does not cut it," her tastes were for small and local artisanal efforts. Jen and her husband Jeff adored gaming together, particularly obscure indie, strategy, and epic fantasy board games that took hours, or days, to finish, she invested time and effort into personalizing her games, with an

unrivaled hand-painted Warhammer collection and customized storage boxes. She also loved trying out new vegan recipes with Jeff, proudly producing more successes than failures.

Jen survived three kidney transplants and was no stranger to enduring long days in a hospital ward, and her bravery was a pillar of strength to her friends and family. She never stopped smiling or cracking jokes. The glue who held together loyal friends and family, her heart was far bigger than her body, and she never hesitated to share her love, patience, guidance, generosity, and humor with people in her life. She was a truly authentic person, and perhaps in part, that came from living close to death all of her life.

Jen was a fierce ally and confidant who never judged a person by their appearance: she met new people with an open heart and mind, and once she made a friend, that person had her loyalty for life. Wherever she went, Jen made new friends. She valued integrity, contentment, empathy, adaptability, generosity, and presence; Jen embodied these qualities in her daily life, and her effort to live her values contributed to her special magic and luminescence. She enormous spirit was a huge presence in the lives of everyone lucky enough to know and love her.

Jen is survived by her beloved husband Jeffrey Hostetler and their adorable cat, Kitty (aka Ariel), of Saint Petersburg, FL. She also leaves behind her mother, Sherry White of Richmond, VA, sister Michaela Hyams (Bryan) of New York City, and brother Travis Hyams (Samantha) of Washington, DC; her father, David Russell (Helen) of Satellite Beach, FL, and brothers Steven Russell (Angel Renee) of Jacksonville, FL and Michael Russell (Abby) of Charlotte, NC; Aunts Karen (Don) Ruthig, Kirsten Russell, and Rebecca Russell, and Ricky White; several cousins; in-laws David and Cathy Hostetler, Janet (Anil) Hostetler, and many, many other loved ones including Alfred Thomson, Dave Crane, Mattie Segorski, Sarah Beck, Valerie Johnson, and Carolyn Schwedler.

To best remember Jen, crack open a beer with friends; play a board game; get sucked into watching endless YouTube videos; pop on a horror movie; or simply love those around you. Jen will be there.

As naturalist E.O. Wilson observed, "You are capable of more than you know. Choose a goal that seems right for you and strive to be the best, however hard the path. Aim high. Behave honorably. Prepare to be alone at times, and to endure failure. Persist! The world needs all you can give."

We thank Jen for giving her all. For those that wish to, Jen's family requests donations in Jen's name to the National Kidney Foundation, <https://team.kidney.org/campaign/Jennifer-Hostetler-Memorial> or another charity that supports the advancement of science, medicine, or social justice, in lieu of flowers.

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Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ We are so shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Jen's passing. Through our son- we got to meet and fall in love with this young woman. I always enjoyed having her over for dinner, taking care of Shaggy when she would go on a cruise, just becoming part of our family. Have often thought about her in the last few years! Our thoughts are with the family and especially you Sherry. Your love for Jen was always showing! Prayers to you all- Pam and Bobby Moulis

Pam and Bobby Moulis - June 24, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Hello Jeff, and Jen's family.

I worked with Jen years ago in Baltimore, and although I lost touch with her I have pleasant and respectful memories of her.

I know that in time as you think of her, the smiles of the memories of life with her will precede the tears that come from missing her.

Sincerely,
Ellen Quinn

Ellen Quinn - June 21, 2020 at 07:59 AM



“ I was shocked and saddened to her about Jen. She was a calm, competent member of the ICR (later i2L) team. Jen was an invaluable part of our repellent field testing squad. Amongst the many things she did for us was to prepare the facility for MD government inspections (a thankless task), write reports and conduct high quality tests. Jen had a good, 'though subtle, sense of humor. Her passing is a real loss.

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd PhD, BCE Emeritus

Robin G Todd - June 20, 2020 at 10:31 PM



“ I thought I should share my letter to Jen here for everyone to enjoy any time anyone needs a bit of company and thoughts through my love for Jen:

“Dear Jen,

I'm not sure what to say Jen. These kinds of things... these... words we offer up to each other are not necessarily for you are they Jen. Rather, they are for each other. Maybe. For those of us missing you and the unique magic you brought with you into our lives. How do we do this? How do we share you with others through our special lens? What do I tell them? They know... they know how much you loved your music. Maybe I can share a moment?

How you would bob your head to the down beats and drums with your hair swinging and illuminating in the stage lights. How your red dress swished around you as your shyness melted away and we would dance while touching fingers and laughing loudly. Your Gin and Tonics floated through your hands and lit you up like a firefly.

Then there is that memory of your giddy New Years kiss. I took such pride in being part of this adventure of yours. This adventure of who you are and learning what this meant. What you and I meant. What We meant ...for you. You shared something with me so new, precious and sometimes scary for you. I hope I held your hand tight enough. I hope I made you feel treasured and safe to be your whole self. I think I will always have these worries if I did this all right by you. But.... how can I share that with them? What is the best way Jen?

In one of your letters you sent to me... before this. You had written me a poem... and I'll share it with them okay?

“Jen thinks I'm her hero.
I can go to 100 from 0
In just 10 seconds.”

Well Jen, in case I never told you myself, You are my hero. I hope... somehow and someway I was yours too. I don't want our letters to stop... but... I think this will be our last one. I'm sharing it with them here. I hope that's okay.

Love, your Mattie.

P.S. I'll make sure to say hi to every moth I see. “



“ My heartfelt condolences to Jeff and Jen's family. I am so sorry that she left so early. I did not get to know Jen very well, but met her on several occasions as a member of the extended Hostetler family. She was unique and irreplaceable. Michael Freedberg.



Michael Freedberg - June 20, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ Kristine Styer lit a candle in memory of Jennifer D. Hostetler



Kristine Styer - June 20, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ Jen was a great friend of mine so I was very upset to hear of her passing. We shared an enthusiasm for things such as science, horror, good food, and Halloween. It's because of Jen that I really got to know urban St. Pete and grow fond of it, and she also introduced me to Ethiopian food and a lot of interesting indie music. She was loved by many and will be sorely missed.

Jeffrey Morgan - June 20, 2020 at 01:27 PM



“ Jen was an incredible colleague, mentor, and friend. I know her spirit will live on through those whose lives she touched, mine included. I will remember everything she taught me, and I will miss her terribly. My most deepest condolences go out to Jen's family, friends and Jeff. May you find peace in knowing just how much light and love Jen shared in this world though it was far too brief. She was truly one of a kind. I love you, Jen. -Leah, i2Lresearch USA.

Leah Hoskins - June 20, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



June 20, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



June 19, 2020 at 06:35 PM



“ Madan, Monika, Muna and Maya Oli purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



Madan, Monika, Muna and Maya Oli - June 19, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



June 19, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ Sherry White lit a candle in memory of Jennifer D. Hostetler



Sherry White - June 18, 2020 at 10:06 PM



“ Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



June 18, 2020 at 06:06 PM



“ I remember Jennifer as a killer Scrabble player with a keen wit, who made the best mac and cheese I ever ate. Her life, though short, was a gift to the world.

Chip Fleming - June 18, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ Kind, compassionate, unique, interesting, smart, funny, multifaceted, and generous are just a few words that describe Jen.

Jen's family and friends experienced a wondrous gift in knowing her, and having her grace our lives.

Andrew DeLoach - June 18, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



June 18, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Nancy Rotzel McInerney - June 18, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Memorial Park Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ Cynthia Hill sent a virtual gift in memory of Jennifer D. Hostetler



Cynthia Hill - June 18, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ Flying free with the angels

Cynthia - June 18, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ Ricky White lit a candle in memory of Jennifer D. Hostetler



ricky white - June 18, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ My beautiful free spirited Niece. I will forever hold in my heart all the memories we have shared as family. I think maybe our camping ideas have changed over the years though. My camping memory takes me back to time spent in Cooks Forest. My idea of camping was chocolates on my pillow for sure!! I was shocked to find out that most people enjoy this so called roughing it way, making it almost look like fun. Jen was full of life, love, and kindness. She gushed with charm. She was compassionate and loved hard. Fly high baby girl you will forever be in our hearts. Gone to soon but will never be forgotten..Love you so very much, Aunt Ricky

ricky white - June 18, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ I am so devastated to hear this! Jen was truly a special soul and she will be missed by those who loved her and were blessed by her friendship. I will pray for Jeff and all of Jen's family. May the Lord comfort you.

Deepest Sympathies,
Denise Fields
(MOSCON)



Denise T. Fields - June 18, 2020 at 09:39 AM



“ We didn't get to spend a lot of time together all living in different states with busy life's. But we all got together in CA and I have that memory forever. Jennifer's beautiful smile and laugh you can never forget so full life. We will miss you love always. White Family

Ron Chris Crystal White - June 17, 2020 at 10:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



June 17, 2020 at 10:31 PM



“ Aunt Rebecca purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jennifer D. Hostetler.



Aunt Rebecca - June 17, 2020 at 10:24 PM



“ Ron Chris Crystal White lit a candle in memory of Jennifer D. Hostetler



Ron Chris Crystal White - June 17, 2020 at 10:16 PM



“ Ricky White lit a candle in memory of Jennifer D. Hostetler



Ricky white - June 17, 2020 at 08:04 PM