



James "Jay" S. Toro

May 8, 2025

James S. Toro, lovingly known as Jay, passed away on May 8, 2025, at the age of 77. Born on August 22, 1947, in Cranston, Rhode Island, Jay leaves behind a legacy of love, music, and unforgettable memories.

Jay was the beloved husband of Debra Raithel and a devoted brother to Stephen Toro and his wife, Laura Bennett. His family extended to his cherished stepchildren, Richard Raithel (Bethany Brown) and Mary Raithel (James MacKay). Jay's role as a grandfather brought him immense joy, with grandchildren Giuliana and Sofia Raithel, and James, Christian, and Paul MacKay holding a special place in his heart.

A man whose warmth and humor brightened any room, Jay treasured family gatherings and took every opportunity to create lasting memories with his loved ones. Beyond his deep family connections, Jay's life was defined by his passion for music. He was a gifted musician whose talents were recognized both in education and performance.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a Master's in Applied Music from the University of Rhode Island. He dedicated much of his career to teaching, inspiring students at Shea High School, Davisville Jr. High, Wickford Jr. High, and Bishop Hendricken High School, where he also directed the Jazz Ensemble.

His performance career was equally remarkable. As Assistant First Trumpet with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and a soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler, Jay's talent graced prestigious stages. He performed with legendary artists like Jerry Lewis, Barbra Streisand, Sammy Davis Jr., and Earth, Wind & Fire. His musical journey also included roles as a conductor, composer, and orchestral arranger.

In addition to his musical achievements, Jay was an entrepreneur. From 1985 to 1999, he owned and operated The Pier House Inn in Narragansett, Rhode Island, creating a welcoming haven for guests. Later, from 2007 to 2019, he managed a condominium complex with the same dedication and care that marked all his endeavors.

Jay's love for the sea was a defining aspect of his life. His cherished boat, Nepenthe, became his sanctuary, where he found peace and inspiration. Jay maintained Nepenthe with pride for 25 years, a testament to his meticulous nature and his love for the ocean.

James S. Toro will be remembered as a talented musician, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and a man whose laughter and kindness touched all who knew him. His memory will continue to inspire those he loved.

At Jay's request, services were held privately.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ It was a Privilege and Honor to work with "J" for a number of years and to experience his ability to work with numerous individuals as he had a "Special Gift" that transcended and brought out the "BEST" in All of the people with whom he encountered. Jay's talents were many and enjoyed by ALL that experienced the JOY that JAY brought to "Life". We will miss his Spirit as we share the love and understanding that Jay brought into Our Lives. It is a comfort to know that he is looking down and playing a Requiem for Our Souls. The world is a better place for Life of James Toro!

Tom Archer - May 19, 2025 at 11:11 PM