



Matthew Aaron Underwood

May 15, 1974 - January 22, 2026

Matthew Aaron Underwood, age 51, of Jackson, went to be with the Lord on January 22, 2026, after a courageous 11-month battle with glioblastoma multiforme.

He was born on May 15, 1974. A strong believer in Christ, Matt's unfaltering faith remained a source of strength and comfort throughout his illness.

Matt was passionate about helping individuals with disabilities regain their mobility. Throughout his career, he worked with several mobility companies and helped expand mobility services in Southeast Missouri. He served as an Assistive Technology Professional where his dedication to his clients made a lasting impact.

With his infectious smile and big heart, Matt never met a stranger. Known for his fun-loving and outgoing nature, he had a gift for making others laugh and feel welcome and was deeply touched by the love and support shown to him during a benefit held in his honor.

Matt adored his wife, Jilana, and cherished time spent with his family. He was especially proud of his four sons, Gabriel, Benjamin, Gavin, and Evan, and his two granddaughters, Cecelia and Genevieve. He loved all animals, especially his pug, Oliver.

He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Jilana Underwood; his children and grandchildren; his mother, Jane James; his father, Rick Underwood; his siblings, Tracie Underwood and Stephanye McAllister; and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Buddy James; and his grandparents, George and Delma Thompson.

Matt's legacy of love, kindness, and faith lives on through his family and the many lives he touched.

Matt would be deeply touched by the love and support surrounding his family. With his warm smile, he would encourage us to live life to the fullest, cherish our loved ones, and never take a single moment for granted. He would want us to take care of one another, share memories of him often, and live with kindness.

Visitation will be held Friday, January 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow at 1:00 pm Friday at the funeral home with Pastor Brett Cheek officiating.

Burial will take place at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Glioblastoma Research Organization (<https://www.gbmresearch.org/donate>)

Online condolences and contributions may be shared at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

AG

“ Alison G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.

Alison G. - April 20 at 08:55 PM

AG

“ Alison G. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.



Alison G. - April 20 at 08:55 PM

MM

“ Mindy M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.

Mindy M. - January 30 at 07:39 AM

ST

“ SFMC Inpatient rehab therapists planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.

SFMC Inpatient rehab therapists - January 29 at 05:44 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.*



January 29 at 05:44 PM



“ *John and Becky Brothers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.*

John and Becky Brothers - January 29 at 03:30 PM



“ *John and Becky Brothers purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.*



John and Becky Brothers - January 29 at 03:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.*



January 29 at 12:34 PM

TB

“ TriLakes KLife board purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.



TriLakes KLife board - January 28 at 02:22 PM

TB

“ TriLakes KLife board planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.

TriLakes KLife board - January 28 at 02:22 PM

SJ

“ Steve and Janice Jones purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.



Steve and Janice Jones - January 28 at 10:43 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.



January 28 at 10:03 AM

JS

“ Jo Norman & Layne Stephens. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.

Jo Norman & Layne Stephens. - January 28 at 10:03 AM

PR

“ Pride Mobility / Quantum Rehab planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Aaron Underwood.

Pride Mobility / Quantum Rehab - January 27 at 09:45 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.



January 27 at 09:45 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Matthew Aaron Underwood.



January 27 at 10:10 AM

VD

“ There is not enough space to share all our thoughts and love for Matt. He was my Korinne’s one and only wheelchair (and everything else) man. She loved him so. On the rare occasion someone else had to come, she would not cooperate at all. (She was our foster/adopted girl (1 1/2 when we got her) she had been born normal and beautiful, parental neglect allowed a high fever to stroke and make her total medical care.) she couldn’t talk but with her eyes and boy could she use those on Matt!!! He told her if he ever had a little girl she would look like K!! Of course all she ever wanted to see was the baby pics of those twins. Baby pics only!! She was in love. My heart breaks wide open again, to know the most wonderful man is gone from this earth, but bet my last dollar he has her running and they are up to no good!!! I’m sure she jumped in his arms the minute she heard his name called.



I pray for many blessings on his beloved and the family (including those girls he wouldn’t have been able to mention to you know who!!!) even after he couldn’t service her anymore, he continued to make sure she got the best. And after she passed I talked him into taking her very expensive (thanks to him) equipment and pass it on. We cried together and he found needed places for everything allowed. Best being he had made she her prone table would last a lifetime. And it has, he placed it with a teenager down south at can use it forever!!! This was our Matt❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️. Love and prayers always💙🙏🙏

Vicky Dannenmueller - January 27 at 12:23 AM