



Mr. James Edward "Jai" Richardson-Belcher II

July 10, 1992 - July 23, 2025

Born in Opelika, Alabama, on a hot summer day in 1992, James Edward Richardson-Belcher—known to many simply as “Jai”—was a constellation of curiosity, compassion, and quiet courage. He departed this world too soon, but not without leaving a profound mark on the hearts of those who knew him.

A proud graduate of Beulah High School, Jai pursued a working life that reflected what he valued most: connection. From retail aisles to factory floors, he found joy not in titles, but in the stories shared between shifts, the laughter over break room coffee, and the friendships forged in everyday moments.

Jai’s passions were as rich and varied as the inner world he carried. A devoted fan of anime, a student of Japanese culture, and a voracious reader, his mind was always exploring—even if his body was firmly planted on the couch, controller in hand. Gaming was his sanctuary, his arena, and often his way of staying close to those he loved.

But above all else, Jai was a family man. A loving husband to Mary Richardson, a father whose pride radiated through every mention of Jaelyn, Karmella, Natalie, and Brian. He gave them the kind of love that sticks to your ribs—a steady, grounding presence in a fast-spinning world.

He is survived by a tribe bound by blood and love alike: his father, James

Richardson, and wife, Tawny; his sister, Zandria Belcher; his brother, Wesley Belcher, and wife, Amy; his nephew Kobe (more like a brother than anything else); his nieces, Erin and Ellena; his ride-or-die brothers in life, Garrett and Ben; and a multitude of friends and extended family who now carry the torch of his memory.

He is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Sandra Belcher, and many cherished souls who are no doubt throwing open their arms to welcome him home.

Memorial services will be held at Pine Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Tuskegee, AL.

Per his wishes, Jai's remains will be laid to rest in a sacred spread: part at Pine Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, part on family land with his mother, some kept as precious mementos, and some destined for the soil of Japan—a journey he always dreamed of making, and one he now completes in spirit.

Jai will be remembered as a man of deep kindness and strong convictions—a gentle heart with the soul of a fighter. If you were lucky enough to know him, you probably knew both. He loved animals, people, and principles—with a compass grounded in faith, but a heart that burned bright with justice and loyalty.

Let us all take comfort in the thought that Jai was working his way back to us, piece by piece. And though the game may have paused, his story continues—in every laugh shared, every memory retold, and in every quiet moment when we feel the warmth of his love just out of view.

A light has gone out. But oh, what a light it was.

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove A.M.E. Zion Church

Tuskegee, AL 36083

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Pine Grove AME Zion
3217 Sweet Gum Ln
Tuskegee, AL 36083

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Love, Tai, Janee, Sean & Chris purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. James Edward "Jai" Richardson-Belcher II.



Love, Tai, Janee, Sean & Chris - July 31, 2025 at 06:01 PM

LC

“ Love, Tai, Janee, Sean & Chris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Edward "Jai" Richardson-Belcher II.

Love, Tai, Janee, Sean & Chris - July 31, 2025 at 06:01 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. James Edward "Jai" Richardson-Belcher II.



July 31, 2025 at 05:40 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James Edward "Jai" Richardson-Belcher II.



July 31, 2025 at 03:06 PM

TF

“ *THE BALLARD FAMILY. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. James Edward "Jai" Richardson-Belcher II.*



THE BALLARD FAMILY. - July 31, 2025 at 10:49 AM

CE

“ *Constance Echols lit a candle in memory of James Edward Richardson-Belcher*



Constance Echols - July 29, 2025 at 03:25 PM