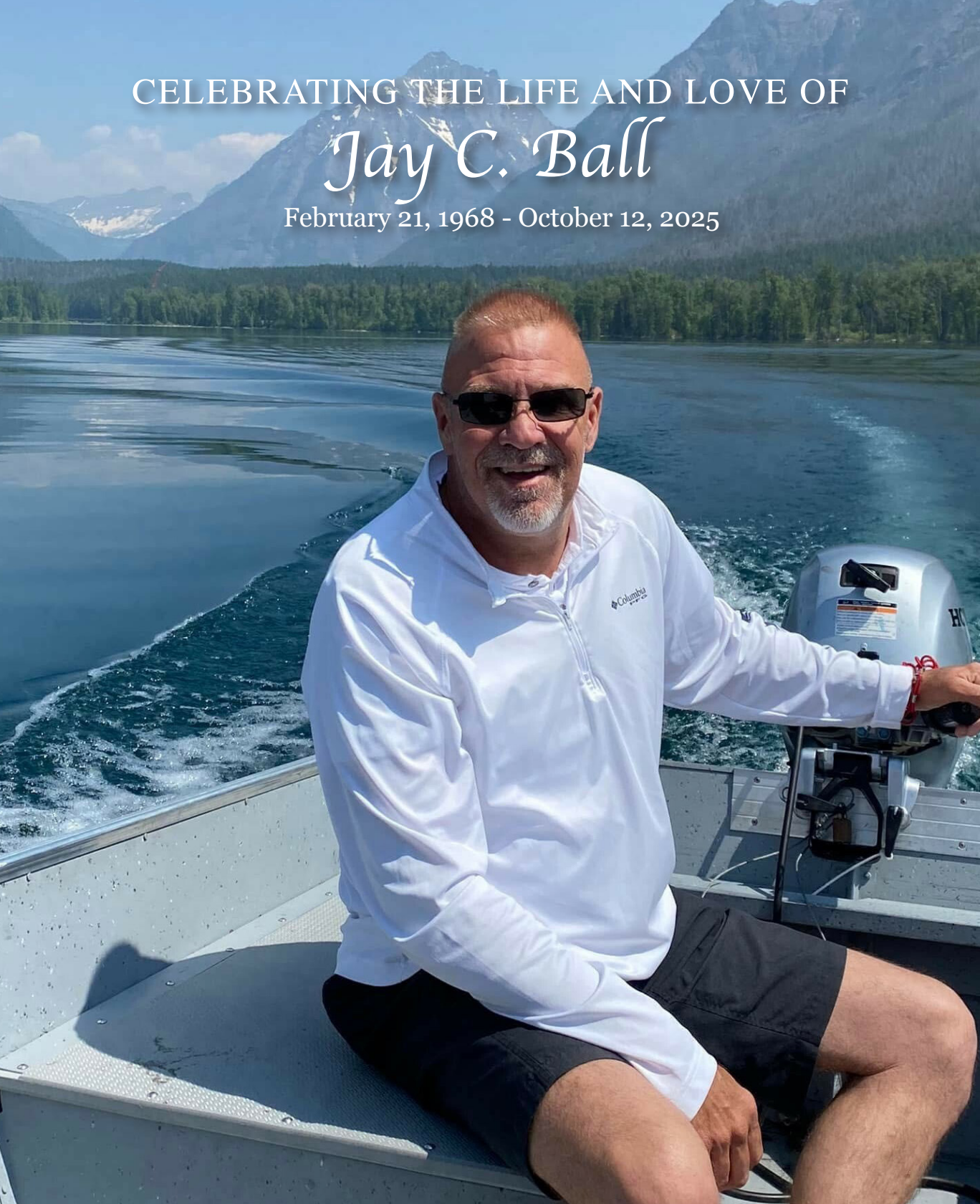


CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF

*Jay C. Ball*

February 21, 1968 - October 12, 2025





Jay Ball, a beacon of kindness, humor, and adventure, came into the world in the sunny shores of Ventura, California on February 21, 1968. Growing up, he was the middle child among three siblings, with Troy leading the pack as the eldest, and Dana, the baby of the family, bringing up the rear. From an early age, family dinners were a treasured tradition, a cherished time when stories were shared and laughter echoed through the home Jay was raised in.



Jay's early years were a mix of city life and small-town charm. His father, a dedicated serviceman, relocated the family from California to Chicago, where Jay spent his elementary and middle school years. Yet, it was in Carrollton, Kentucky, where he truly blossomed during his high school years. An active participant in sports—football, baseball, tennis, swimming, and track—he thrived in the camaraderie of teamwork and competition. Yet, it was not just the thrill of sports that animated his youthful spirit; Jay's laughter became the soundtrack of his adolescent life, the sweet music of a boy who loved to tease and play.



When he entered adulthood, Jay found stability and purpose in his work. He became an accomplished maintenance mechanic, dedicating over three decades of service to Kellogg's and later Ferrero. For Jay, work was not just a job—it was a means to provide for his family and, most importantly, a platform to enjoy life to the fullest, just as he'd often encourage others to do. He believed in the beauty of simple moments and filled his days with laughter, adventure, and time spent with loved ones.



In January of 1996, Jay encountered a spark that would ignite the rest of his life. He met the love of his life at work—a fellow night-shift worker at Kellogg's Florence Bakery, Dawn. They discovered an instant connection, a blend of personalities and work ethics that resonated deeply, though Jay often joked "their butts" were the true attraction to one another. Their first date on March 2, 1996, marked the beginning of a beautiful journey. Together, they ventured on a camping trip, exploring the woodlands of Red River Gorge, cherishing the crackling sound of campfires against the backdrop of a starry sky.

On April 29, 2000, in the picturesque setting of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, they pledged their love to one another, embarking on a lifelong adventure of partnership. Their love only blossomed as they created their own traditions, exploring new wineries, hiking stunning trails, and spending summers camping under the stars. As their family expanded to include four children—Brooke, Callie, Nathan, and Christopher—each moment was filled with joy and laughter.





As a father, Jay was nothing short of extraordinary. He invested his heart in each of his children, eager to share his skills and impart lessons that would guide them throughout their lives. With a spirit that was always alive, he was not just a dad; he was a true friend and mentor. He took pride in coaching them through sports and participated wholeheartedly in their life's endeavors—always ready to fix a broken bike or lend an ear when they needed one. They were the pride of his life.



In the Ball family, laughter was a common language. Sitting together at the Thursday night dinner table or taking family trips to the beach, their bond deepened with each shared joke and playful banter. Jay had a knack for humor, often turning everyday moments into cherished memories. One insider joke involved the fondly named “crooked middle finger,” which he would playfully flash to friends and family to elicit laughter. He also had a penchant for mischievous antics, often leaving restaurant waitstaff in stitches when he playfully requested to split the bill among everyone, leaving the rest of the table clueless.

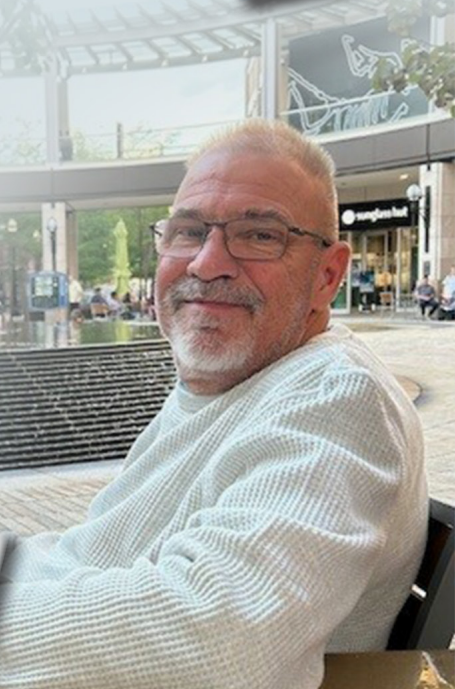


Jay adored his life as a grandfather, affectionately known as Papaw. With the arrival of five grandchildren—Isaiah, Carsyn, Ashton, Wren, and Cooper, —the joy in his heart expanded exponentially. Every squeal of delight from them became music, every fishing trip transformed into a treasure hunt. He shared tales of adventure with his grandkids, eagerly anticipating the arrival of another granddaughter due in 2026.



Throughout his life, Jay believed in embracing each day fully. He would often remind those around him to appreciate what they had and who they had in their lives. This philosophy extended beyond the nuclear family; it seeped into the broader close knit community he built over years—friends, co-workers, and neighbors who admired his kind heart and adventurous spirit.

As he moved through life, whether biking along scenic trails, kayaking in tranquil waters, or just enjoying a lazy Sunday fishing, his laughter echoed in every corner, leaving a delightful imprint on everyone's heart.





With a passion for adventure, Jay reveled in exploring new places and experiences, particularly hiking to stunning waterfalls and tasting adventures at new wineries.

Old-school rock and roll filled his home, with the radio station WEBN often playing in the background as he worked on yet another DIY project, known for fixing anything and everything. To those who knew him best, he was a master problem-solver—always ready with a kind word or a helping hand.

His legacy, steeped in love and laughter, tells a story of a man whose life was woven with simple joys and unmovable love. Family time was paramount for Jay, and he exemplified this every day. Even in his light-hearted mischief, it was clear that Jay Ball lived a life deeply rooted in love, encapsulating what it truly meant to enjoy life to the fullest.

Every day, he would remind his beloved wife Dawn how beautiful she was and express his love with the heartfelt, “I love you always and forever more.” Jay was not just a husband, father, grandfather, and friend; he was the heartbeat of his family, the laughter in their joy, and the silent strength in their challenges. In every tale and every memory shared, he left an undeniable mark that would echo in the lives of those who dared to love him.

Although the curtain of his life closed on October 12, 2025, the spirit of Jay Ball continues to shine brightly in the hearts of all who knew him, a timeless reminder to cherish every moment, laugh often, and love deeply.

