



Jake O Rittlinger

January 20, 1980 - January 27, 2026

Lyman, SC – Jake O. Rittlinger, 46, passed away on January 26, 2026. He was the son of the late Lawrence Rittlinger and Vonne Hamilton.

Within the past year, Jake began working in special education with Spartanburg School District 5, a role that reflected his commitment to helping others and supporting students with diverse learning needs. Though new to the position, he approached his work with dedication, patience, and genuine care. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Clemson University and later completed a master's degree in Special Education from Western Governors University. Outside of work, Jake had a deep love for music, especially playing guitar, which brought him joy throughout his life.

He is survived by his children, Madison Rittlinger and Irish Rittlinger; sister, Beth Rhoers; step-siblings, Elsa Hamilton and Wes Hamilton; step-dad, Ken Hamilton; aunts, Susan Popiel and Judith Krohn; uncle, David Beegle; mother of his children who helped in raising their family, Melissa Rittlinger; his furbaby, Friday; and many other cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, February 3, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Living Waters Funeral Home & Crematory. Please note that this time may change due to forecasted inclement weather. Friends are encouraged to check with the funeral home or the obituary for updated service information.

Previous Events

Receive Friends

FEB 3. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Living Waters Funeral Home and Crematory
529 Spartanburg Hwy. S.
P.O. Box 758
Lyman, SC 29365
(864) 439-7141
info@livingwatersfh.com

Tribute Wall

KR

“ Jake was my baby cousin- I was the oldest- and he was the youngest- I was a teenager when we first met, and I just wanted to gobble him up- we bonded when he was just two- I'm so grateful he was in my life, and I'm so sad I didn't get to say goodbye- I love you JakeO forever and ever 😊



Kyra Rudhe - February 09 at 06:56 PM

SP

“ Susan Popiel lit a candle in memory of Jake
O Rittlinger



Susan Popiel - February 02 at 06:39 PM

SP

I will miss Jake terribly. He was the best nephew I have. We text alot lately about life in general and how we felt about things. Rest in peace Jake!

Susan Popiel - February 02 at 06:42 PM

SH

“ Well it's been a week. I'm still have a hard time . I will miss our visits, texting, and phone calls. I'm also so grateful our paths crossed. Just needed more time. In the 6+months we were together I enjoyed every minute. You were a kind , patient ,loving person . Miss you greatly.



Sara Haney - February 01 at 09:05 PM

KM

“ Karen Medlock lit a candle in memory of Jake O Rittlinger



Karen Medlock - January 30 at 10:52 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jake O Rittlinger.



January 30 at 11:12 AM

PB

“ Rest in peace Jake, you were a kind soul and a heck of a guitarist. Robert & Patti Berry



Patti Berry - January 30 at 07:14 AM

BA

Thank you for sharing this.

Belinda Aguirre - January 30 at 02:36 PM

SH

Thanks for sharing, wish I had more of him playing.

Sara Haney - February 01 at 09:06 PM

AN

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Andy - January 29 at 09:06 PM

BA

Thank you for sharing these pictures. I especially appreciate seeing my uncle Larry.

Belinda Aguirre - January 30 at 02:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Melissa Rittlinger - January 29 at 08:25 PM

KM

That's amazing

Karen Medlock - January 30 at 01:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Melissa Rittlinger - January 29 at 08:21 PM

BA

Thank you for sharing this gem. I ♥ Elvis.

Belinda Aguirre - January 30 at 02:40 PM

SH

Elvis 🤘

Sara Haney - February 01 at 09:10 PM

BA

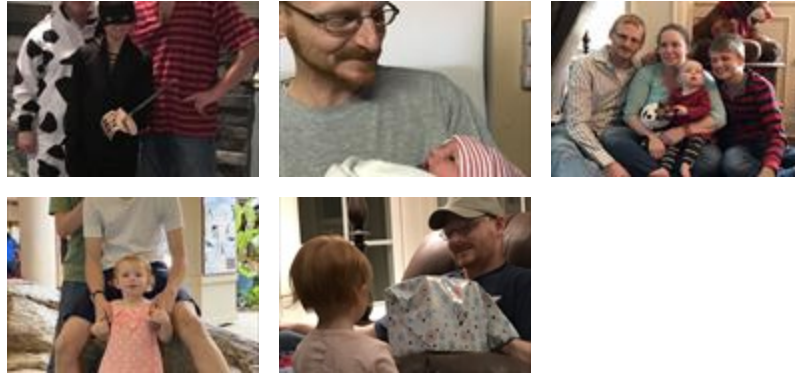
“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Belinda Aguirre - January 29 at 05:53 PM

ST

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Shirley Tucker - January 29 at 05:38 PM

ST

“ Shirley Tucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Jake O Rittlinger



Shirley Tucker - January 29 at 05:38 PM

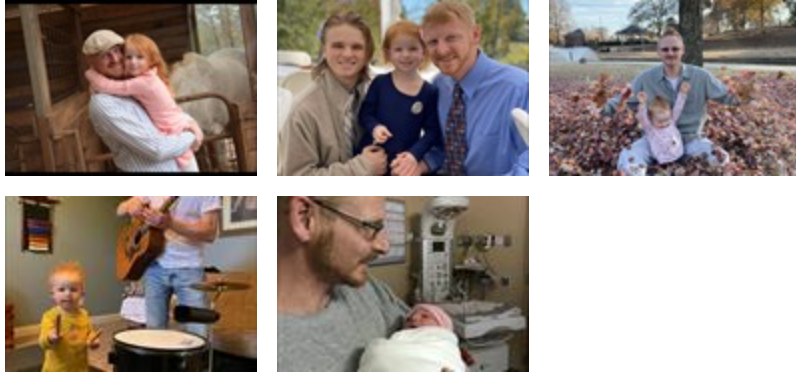
BA

“ I am one of Jake’s cousins. Years ago my dad/Jake’s uncle David Beegle, gave Jake the nickname of “Elvis” because of his musical talent. That’s all I’ve ever called him. Our other cousin, Alex Mangels and I have had a 3-way conversation going for many years now. My favorite was when the 3 of us were all on at the same time. Any subject was open for discussion and those 2 boys have had me crying in laughter so many times. We talked about everything and nothing. I feel such a deep loss in my heart. He was always so loving, kind and respectful when he talked to me. Like our cousin Alex said many times, our Elvis was a true Southern gentleman. I
♥ Elvis!

Belinda Aguirre - January 29 at 05:36 PM

ST

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Shirley Tucker - January 29 at 05:03 PM

EL

“ Jake had such a gentle, artistic spirit and a deep love for music. I'll always remember his kindness and the way he made people feel seen. Holding his children and loved ones close in my thoughts. 💙



Elsa - January 29 at 04:58 PM

ST

“ Shirley Tucker lit a candle in memory of Jake O Rittlinger



Shirley Tucker - January 29 at 04:53 PM