



Joseph "Jody" Marshall Chrisman

October 20, 1960 - September 5, 2025

Joseph "Jody" Marshall Chrisman passed away in Ozark on September 5, 2025. Passionate, stubborn, and enigmatically charismatic, he was never shy about sharing his in-depth technical know-how. Born in Hartman, Arkansas, to the late Marshall Chrisman Jr. and Lavern Tipton Kerr, his early life conditioned him into a knack for resourcefulness and fierce independence. He dove headfirst into a deep understanding of engines and circuitry, believing that if you didn't know how to do something, you simply figured it out. His expertise in technology became his way of connecting with the world, a calling that drove him to spearhead what would become the automation technology program at Arkansas Tech University, Ozark. For 36 years, he instructed and inspired, and his legacy is cemented in the generations of students he trained in the art and science of robotics.

His love for mechanics was matched only by his love for adventure. The remaining ripples of his energy can be found in the waters he loved, whether scuba diving in the turquoise bays of Cancun, boating with family, or ripping through the waves on a slalom ski. These adventures were always with his wife and partner of 29 years, Shannon, who understood him like no one else.

His generosity of self and passionate nature were passed down to his two daughters, Elizabeth "Liz" Chrisman (Nikkila) and Madeleine (Morgan) Wiley. He is also survived by his brothers, Mark Chrisman and Allen Kerr, and his

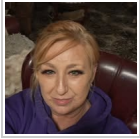
sisters, Linda (Jay) Hardin and Tresia (Johnny) Crawford. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Steve Chrisman, and his sister Pam Hanuska.

Jody leaves behind a trove of memories, repaired engines, and the echo of his favorite toast, delivered whenever he felt compelled: "Here's to the frog on the mantle piece who dipped his tail in a pan of grease. Step aside brother and let him pass, the frog with the french fried ass."

A family held memorial will be set for a later date. Cremation arrangements were made under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home in Ozark.

To leave an online memorial visit www.shafferfuneralhomeweb.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Melissa Pannell lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Jody" Chrisman*



Melissa Pannell - December 04, 2025 at 03:32 PM



“ *I have so many memories with the Chrisman family and my parent's always visiting with each other and baby Marsha . Love them all like family. The ones that have gone before you were as special as you and my still living best friend* ☐ *Mark Chrisman I love you all forever in my heart* ❤️💙



Charlotte Bugg - November 29, 2025 at 08:54 PM

BH

“ *I went to grade school with Jody He was a lifetime friend.but never forgot when I accidentally knocked out tooth with a ball bat.later on about 92 at votech he handed me something and ask me to hold it.lit me up hard he started laughing and said now we're even lol.a good person if he liked u.rip my friend and prayer for the family*

Billy Harris - October 24, 2025 at 10:56 PM

JR

“ Jody was a great guy and an even better teacher. He taught with a passion unmatched by any other instructor/teacher I encountered. He took each and every students ability to learn very personal. His technical ability and experience in industry shaped hundreds of lives, mine included. His passing deeply saddens my heart as he will be deeply missed by every person whom he taught or had the honor to know him.

Joseph Rofkahr - September 12, 2025 at 03:23 PM

RH

“ I was very sad to hear the news about Jody. I worked with Jody his entire career at ATU Ozark. He is the most knowledgeable person of electronics and mechanical things I have ever met. He loved to troubleshoot problems and share his knowledge with others. We got to know each other very well as we talked about life in general every day for his entire career. He never missed work. He loved his family and the work he was involved in, he was faithful to both. He will be greatly missed.
Ron Hutain

Ron Hutain - September 12, 2025 at 10:16 AM

BS

“ Jody was one of the kindest people I worked with at ATU. He will be missed

Bonnie Sher - September 10, 2025 at 03:37 PM

SF

“ RIP my friend have so many memories of all us as kids you will be so missed praying for you and the girls Shannon

Sharon Rice Farnam - September 09, 2025 at 07:21 PM

BS

“*My sincerest condolences to the family. Jody was a significant member of the ATU Ozark family. As an instructor he held his students to high expectations. Industry throughout the river valley recognized and valued his ability as a knowledgeable and respected instructor. His gifts of solving mechanical and electrical problems created opportunities as others would seek his advisement. To be one of Jody Chrisman’s students meant you were readied for entry into the professional field of automation. It is my hope the family finds peace and comfort. He was one of our best.*

Bruce Sikes

bruce sikes - September 09, 2025 at 07:18 PM

JG

“*To family and friends, may your happy memories give you peace and comfort during this challenging time.*”




Jim Gilbert - September 09, 2025 at 06:42 PM

CT

“*So sorry for this loss. May you rest in peace with no more suffering. You will be missed. Loved you from the day you were born. You were so talented in so many ways. May God bless your family in this time of need. Aunt Carolyn.*

Carolyn Tipton - September 09, 2025 at 04:18 PM

DB

 *condolences and prayers sent for the family and friends.*

Doyle Bowman. - September 10, 2025 at 12:21 AM

MW

“ *More Adventure Awaits! Your in the CACHE now, Brother! Tell STEVE, I REMEMBER!!!! Monroe Mclroy Winborn aka MACKEY*

Monroe Winborn - September 09, 2025 at 02:57 PM

GM

I have known Jody since he was a small child; then. His the opportunity to teach him junior high English. Jody had a vibrant personality and was loved by all. Rest in peace

Glenda Morris - September 13, 2025 at 08:49 PM