



Joshua Gerard Cardiello

March 24, 1995 - January 5, 2026

Joshua Gerard Cardiello, age 30, of Buford, GA, passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jacob Allen Cardiello; grandmothers, Karen Cardiello and Linda Ries. Joshua is survived by his wife of 2-1/2 years, Allison Frazier Cardiello; daughter, Amelia Cardiello; father, Jay Cardiello of New Port Richey, FL; mother, Kerri (Bryan) O'Kelley of Suwanee, GA; grandfather, Larry Ries of Dunedin, FL, mother-in-law, Rhonda Frazier of Buford, GA; brother-in-law, Alan (Morgan) Frazier of Buford, GA; step-siblings, Ashley (Matt) Cash of Gillsville, GA, Hunter (Brea) O'Kelley of Augusta, GA, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Joshua was born March 24, 1995 in Houston, TX. He was a 2013 graduate of Buford High School and graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He was employed with Amgen Pharmaceuticals Company.

Joshua was a big giant Teddy Bear with a heart of gold. He was a 3-time Champion Football player with Buford High School and a 2013 Georgia Football signee with a full scholarship. He finished his football career as a 3rd-year starter at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Joshua participated in Rookie Camp with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was a life-long fan, having attended the 2002 Buccaneers Super Bowl. Joshua was also a die-hard UGA football fan and was a season ticket holder. He had a passionate relationship with his friends which he referred to as his "Tribe". He enjoyed golfing, playing tennis with his friends, and playing with his beautiful daughter, Amelia. He

loved sports, trips to Vegas, and boating.

Joshua attended Gwinnett Church. He grew up going to the North Point Church in Alpharetta.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Buford, GA, with Pastor Stephen Fountain officiating.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 9, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 pm. at First Baptist Church, Buford, GA, and again on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. until time of service at 2:00 p.m. at the Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Who We Play For, <https://www.who-we-play-for.org>.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Buford First Baptist Church
4550 Hamilton Mill Road
Buford, GA 30518

Visitation

JAN 10. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Buford First Baptist Church
4550 Hamilton Mill Road
Buford, GA 30518

Funeral Service

JAN 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Buford First Baptist Church
4550 Hamilton Mill Road
Buford, GA 30518

Tribute Wall

“ Sweet Amelia,

You are still very young as this is being written, but I hope one day you come across these words and the photos beside them. I want you to know something about your daddy—something true and lasting.

I knew your dad when he was a middle-school boy in 2007, and even then, he stood out. I was a 34-year-old volunteer leading a small group at North Point Church, nervous and unsure of myself, trying to connect with a room full of boys who seemed much cooler than I felt. Over time, those boys opened their hearts to me, and we became incredibly close. They changed my life far more than I ever changed theirs.

Your dad was a natural leader among them, but not because he demanded attention. He was tall for his age, athletic, and good at every game we played—but what truly set him apart was his heart. He was kind. He was thoughtful. He was confident without ever being boastful. Even when he clearly had the upper hand, he never showed off. He didn't need to.

Other boys gravitated toward him. They laughed easily around him and trusted him. He had a quiet presence—not because he had nothing to say, but because he was the kind of person who listened, who observed, who took things in. When he spoke, it mattered.

I admired him deeply, even then. He was the kind of young man who made leadership look effortless, kindness look natural, and strength look gentle. He showed compassion without being asked and maturity well beyond his years. Long before he became your dad, it was clear he was someone others would look up to.

I joined that small group hoping to teach boys that you could love God and still be yourself—that you could be strong, confident, and kind all at the same time. But in truth, your dad and those boys

taught me far more about faith, humility, and character than I ever taught them.

Amelia, your daddy was truly special. He mattered. He made people better simply by being himself. And though his time here was far too short, the impact he made—on me, on so many others, and most especially on you—will last forever.

I hope when you look at these photos, you see more than a smiling young boy. I hope you see the goodness, the warmth, and the quiet strength that lived inside him—and that you know those same beautiful qualities live on in you.

*With love and admiration,
Brandon Orr*



Brandon Orr - January 07 at 09:59 PM