

"Juleigh had a way of pushing you to be better – not by making it easy, but by believing you were capable of more. We battled through some really tough projects together, and she was always the most resolute person in the room. She taught me so much, and I'm a better professional because of her. Being around her was a privilege I won't forget. She'll be deeply missed."

– Nathan Corr

"I worked with Juleigh almost three years. I will miss her sense of humor and technical know how. She was always ready with advice and expertise."

– Shawn Doty

"I always appreciated Juleigh's spirit, humor, candor, technical knowledge, and technical discipline. She was a key figure in shaping the direction of pulsed power technology at Zap, and I will greatly miss her both personally and professionally."

– Matthew C. Thompson



Remembering Juleigh

"I've known Juleigh for many years, starting with her work as a respected engineer working on the Navy railgun program in Minneapolis. I persuaded her to move to San Diego during a spectacular pub crawl through Monterey, California in 2017 that I only fully reconstructed later with help from my credit card statement. She thought she would work for me, but in fact it was the other way around. After getting over her initial surprise, Juleigh proved herself an excellent manager who truly cared for her team.

One example I will always remember is a project which required her to send engineers to Dugway Proving Ground in Utah in rotating shifts of 1-2 weeks over about a year. DPG is the worst environment in the United States. High desert, scorching in summer, bitterly cold in winter, with high winds and fine dust that really settles in the lungs. NASA uses DPG to test Mars rovers because of this dust. The hours were long, civilization was at least one hour drive away, with no running water and only generators for power at the site.

Members of the team who were sent to the test site for the longest stints noticed that they were getting upgraded to first class on the flight home with surprising frequency. What appeared to be good luck was in fact Juleigh. She would get the flight numbers from the admin assistant who booked the travel, then use her own bonus miles or pay out of her own pocket for the seat upgrades. A small touch of luxury after a long session at DPG was very much appreciated by the those who experienced it.

She didn't do it as some management stratagem to instill loyalty, because she didn't tell anyone about it. She did it because she cared and she thought it was right. It was a challenging project, she did what she had to do to get it done, as always, but with conscience and heart. Juleigh was kind and did good simply because she believed in it for its own sake, not for gratitude or compliments or in expectation of some later quid pro quo.

You'll be missed, Jules. Your quiet, stoic courage through your final weeks should inspire all who knew you. Rest in peace."

– Geoff Staines

"Juleigh and I were constant companions, always dreaming up new schemes and shenanigans. My little sister was generous and optimistic and creative. We shared everything and embarked on many adventures together. Some days when we were really having a good time, we'd say it was a Sister-Sister Day, which was just a special day where we celebrated being sisters. I have so many memories of the fun and zany things we did. Can't wait to pick up where we left off when we meet again in Heaven -- love you, Sissyfer!"

— Kristen Harris

"Juleigh has been an incredible mentor, manager, and friend to me over the past three years. When I found out I had cancer six months ago, she made sure I had whatever I needed, whenever I needed it, so I could keep going at Zap Energy. In one of the hardest moments of my life, she showed me a level of kindness and support I will never forget. She was one of the smartest and most genuinely caring people I have ever met and worked with. Even while facing her own health challenges, she always took the time to check in on me, to listen, and to make sure I was okay. That's just who she was—someone who put others first without ever asking for anything in return. She helped shape not just my career, but who I am as a person. I know I'm not alone in that—she had that same impact on so many of us. It was truly a privilege to know her, and I will carry her kindness and example with me for the rest of my life. I wouldn't be where I am today without her."

— Haris Zuhilmi

"Juleigh hired me into my first career job at General Atomic out of school. I owe my entire career trajectory to her; both from the skills she imparted, helping to launch me as a young pulsed power engineer, as well as the advice and wisdom she passed along as a mentor and friend.

I had the pleasure of working with her and a good chunk of her original GA team again at Zap Energy where she shone in prioritizing the personal wellbeing of those around her. I know she was adored by everyone under her care and will be sorely missed.

In addition to all those things I'll fondly remember her every time I enjoy a nice glass of Riesling, get rowdy at a dive bar trivia night, or watch a lively hockey game!"

— Ben Watson

"Juleigh was a great mentor to me. She was always a calm and reasonable guide. She is one of the reasons why I chose to come to Washington, to be under her leadership. She will be missed."

— Dawson Wright

"Juleigh made me feel like I belonged at Zap despite not having the education or experience everyone else had. Once when she complimented me on my work I brushed it off with a quick thanks. Later in private she told me she was serious about her comment and elaborated in more detail before finishing off with a joke about beating me in fantasy football that week. Which she did. She will be missed, not just from her vast knowledge of pulsed power, but her quick dark jokes, and no bullshit responses to plans or ideas on if she thought something would work."

— Kevin Cariveau

"Juleigh was an incredibly kind, humble, and caring human being and mentor for us at Zap. When I joined, she accepted me not as the young inexperienced engineer I was, but rather for the potential I could grow into. She saw the best in each of us and mentored us with passion in an industry where experts were few and far between. Juleigh was one of those experts, and we and all of our peers feel the loss of her presence already. She could lift our spirits anytime with her dry witty humor, a fun story from back in the day, or just the reassurance that we were doing something right. Rest in peace Juleigh, you were, and always will be loved by your team here at Zap."

— Noah Carrier

"Juleigh had an impact on many of our lives here at Zap Energy. She was a strong contributor in our meetings, sharing her knowledge of pulsed power and consistently adding value. She mentored many and made friends with everyone. She was easy to get along with, witty, and quick. Juleigh stood out for her strength and personality, and we all knew she was a fighter, no doubt. She leaves behind a lasting impression on all of us."

— Lisa Sampson