



## James DeLong Haldaman

June 25, 1935 - November 23, 2018

James DeLong Haldaman: born June 25, 1935 in Grand Rapids, MI and died November 23, 2018 in Traverse City with his wife by his side. He answered the call to serve his country from the age of 17, retiring from over 33 years of both active duty and reserve service with the US Navy as a machinist's mate and later photographer on the USS Watts and the USS Intrepid during the Korean Conflict, completing his many years of military service as a combat photographer with the 172nd Tactical Air Support Group and the 110th Fighter Wing after having served in over 20 foreign countries and 30 U.S. states. He was also an expert marksman on the base's pistol team with both branches of the service, earning a number of awards.

Upon leaving active military service, he moved his young family to Nashville, TN to be nearer his wife's hometown of Manchester, working as a professional photographer creating beautiful portraits for many of country music's best-known artists before returning to Michigan. Later, he served the citizens of Wyoming, MI for 22-years as an Evidence Technician / Crime Scene Investigator for the Wyoming Police Dept., using his professional photographic and analytical forensic skills to solve a number of complex cases. He enjoyed many collaborative and rewarding relationships with members of the FBI, Secret Service, the MI State Police Crime Lab, and law enforcement professionals throughout the state and country. His photographic skills even attracted the attention of President Ford, who enlisted his expertise to record the dedication of the Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, serving as the White House's official photographer for this international event.

Serving as a radio pastor for his former church in Grand Rapids, he was also on numerous boards, including the MI Heart Association, Kent Metro Identification Association, the Michigan Ontario Identification Association, Michigan Professional Photographers Association, and Opera Grand Rapids, among others. He also taught forensics and evidence preservation techniques at Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Community College. Retiring to Traverse City in 1998 with his wife, he volunteered his time as the Asst. Dir. of Photography for the National Cherry Festival,

served with the Traverse City Camera Club, and was the communications officer for the Traverse City chapter of the Civil Air Patrol, achieving the rank of Captain.

With an endless appetite for knowledge, he attended Michigan State University, Indiana State University, Grand Valley State University, and Macomb and Grand Rapids Community Colleges, graduating from their schools of Criminal Justice, as well as from the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. His life goal was not so much to absorb knowledge for its own sake, but to use what he recognized as God-given skills and abilities to make a positive difference in the lives of others. In so doing, he wrote his epitaph on their hearts where it would last forever. He simply lived to be the hands and feet of Jesus, projecting kindness and compassion to others. He was an excellent leather-smith in his spare time, and loved to cook, freely sharing his talents with his family, especially with his and Monica's twin sons in their youth.

James is sadly missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Monica June Haldaman of Traverse City; twin sons Steven (Michelle Lauer) of Grand Rapids with a grand-daughter Christine, and Phillip (Shannon) of Elk Rapids, MI with grand-sons Ethan and Hunter; and sister Bonnie Sue Mapes of Byron Center, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Violet Haldaman of Grand Rapids, and a brother, Covell (Ursula) Haldaman of Keiserslautern, Germany.

The family wishes to acknowledge with humble gratitude the compassion, care, and professionalism of North Flight EMS paramedics, Munson Medical Center's ER and A-Wing staff, and Traverse Manor care-givers.

A visitation will take place Wednesday November 28, 2018 at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home from 5pm-7pm. A funeral service will take place Thursday November 29, 2018 also at the funeral home at 11:00am with visitation one hour prior. James' final resting place will be at the Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens with proper military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Webber Heart Center at Munson Medical Center of Traverse City. The family is being served by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home of Traverse City.

# Cemetery

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## Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI, 49684

# Events

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**NOV 28** **Vistation for Family and Friends** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**NOV 29** **Visitation for Family and Friends** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**NOV 29** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**NOV 29** **Graveside Service** 01:15PM

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Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens  
3575 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI, US,  
49684

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I have thought of Jim often. I was thinking just recently about all that he has done for the Civil Air Patrol and so many others. He was very giving of himself and his many skills. He will be greatly missed.

Ruth Ring  
former Traverse City Civil Air Patrol member

Ruth Ring - December 01 at 11:38 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ruth Ring - December 01 at 11:29 AM

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“ Dearest June and family,  
Our hearts are so saddened with Jim"s passing. We have such fond memories of our visits together, and even though distance separates us, I feel that our family ties are strong. Jim was such a kind and thoughtful individual who added so much to any gathering. He was an extremely talented man and had a vocabulary like no other person I've known. I know your hearts are filled with sadness today, but I'm thankful that God leaves with us the gift of memories in exchange. I pray you can find strength in the sweet memories you have of Jim.

With much love,  
Jerry and Mary Jane Crites and family

Mary Jane Crites - November 30 at 09:03 PM

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“ Dear Monica and family,  
I was thinking about Jim yesterday and wondered how he was doing. I have not seen you folks in over a year. I am saddened to hear of his passing because he was an incredible man. He was essential to our CAP unit and it has not been the same without him. He helped achieve so much with interagency communications and the like has not been done since he left our Traverse City Squadron of CAP. He will be so missed for so many reasons by his friends and family.  
in appreciation for all that he was,

My best,  
Major Jo Hendrix  
Northern Michigan Group Commander  
CAP-USAF Auxiliary

Josephine Hendrix - November 27 at 08:48 PM

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“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 27 at 08:23 PM