



## James Gilbert Reynolds

August 31, 1939 - December 13, 2017

TRAVERSE CITY—James G. Reynolds, "JR", aged 78, of Traverse City, passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at French Manor Assisted Living of Traverse City with his wife of 28 years by his side.

Jim was born and raised in Freesoil, Michigan, a small rural community in northwestern Michigan, where the abundance of wildlife and natural beauty gave Jim the inspiration to become a wildlife artist. His exceptional attention to detail won Jim worldwide recognition and multiple awards. Today his work is in collections throughout the United States.

An avid outdoorsman, Jim traveled around the world to hunt and fish—returning each time so excited to share the stories and photos of his adventures.

He was a dedicated gardener, gathering a reputation with restaurants and foodies throughout northwest Michigan. His specialty, peppers of every variety, earned him the nickname, "Pepper Jim."

An amateur chef, Jim was known for tasty creations of every type, and willingly shared his recipes for Baked Chili Rellenos and Jalapeno Poppers. His family will fondly remember him for these and many more, including the annual prime rib "roast beast" cooked on the grill for holiday dinners.

Jim happily served his community as a volunteer with many organizations including the National Wild Turkey Federation, and Michigan Conservation Association. He was also a 30-year volunteer with the National Cherry Festival.

Jim never met a stranger and was happiest when spending time in the garden or fishing and hunting on his family property. He especially enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others, teaching children to hunt and fish, firearm safety, and decoy carving to name just a few.

He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1963 with a B.S. degree in education and taught science and physical education for more than a decade.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Patti J. Schaap of Traverse City; children, Michelle (Scott) McMahan of Inman, South Carolina and Michael (Stephanie Gentry) Reynolds of Palmyra, Virginia; step-children, Jyl Brentana of Waukesha, Wisconsin and Kelli (Robert) Send of Sussex, Wisconsin; brothers Warren (Carol) and Ralph (Sharon) all of Freesoil, Michigan; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City, Michigan where family and friends may leave tributes and remembrances on Jim's tribute page.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Schaap-Reynolds home in Traverse City on June 23, 2018 from 3 pm to 6 pm. Please RSVP to 414-520-1770.

# Comments

---



“ Patti and kids, I Just heard of Jim’s passing through Lisa Kent. How interesting that my Howard had a reverse shoulder replacement at Munson Hospital that very day. He ended up staying 5 days so I got to reside at Munson Manor. We repeated the stay last week when they operated again on his shoulder to help relieve some of the pain. Anyway, I think of you every time we drive in to Traverse. My phone is 19892401655. Keep in touch. So sorry about Jim...

**Karlene Falker** - February 26, 2018 at 09:12 PM

---



“ Patti - I was so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. I feel so fortunate that our paths crossed back in the '80's and that we maintained a friendship over the years. Jim was my mentor, helping me refine my interest in carving duck decoys, birds, Santa's, and many more things. Without his teaching and guidance, I doubt I would still be pursuing carving as a hobby.

When we came back to town in 2006, Jim was one of the first folks I reconnected with. His enthusiasm for so many things outdoors was so contagious! That grin and chuckle when telling a story always kept me riveted. He continued to share his carving expertise, providing little tid-bits here and there that were so valuable.

While he is greatly missed, I will carry so many great memories of Jim. Please know that you and all of Jim's family are in my thoughts and prayers.

John Paul

**John Paul** - December 29, 2017 at 10:57 AM

---



“ Jim was a dear friend over many years. He got me started Steelhead fishing. We were fishing buddies for 50 years. I could always count on him to be ready to go fishing. I will miss him. Scott Dean

**Scott Dean** - December 23, 2017 at 12:41 PM