



Jim Papazian

October 9, 1946 - April 4, 2020

Williamsburg - Jim Papazian, 73, of Williamsburg and formerly of East Lansing died April 4, 2020 at the Munson Hospice House in Traverse City after a short battle with glioblastoma. Jim was born on October 9, 1946 in Highland Park, Michigan to the late Arthur and Bernadette (Kosch) Papazian. Growing up in the Motor City rooted a love for the city of Detroit and Motown music that would last throughout Jim's lifetime. Jim graduated from Berkley High School in 1964, followed by the University of Michigan in 1968. Some of his fondest memories were made at Michigan where he forged lifelong friendships. Jim was a proud Michigan alumnus and served on various boards including the University of Michigan Alumni Association National Board and the Club Council for the University of Michigan. He also received an MBA from the University of Notre Dame in 1970. On June 21, 1975 Jim married Barbara Lynn Bjork in Traverse City. Jim started his career in Lansing with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and later became the Vice President for Mourer Foster Insurance. He served as President for Financial Technology, Inc. in East Lansing until founding his own business, Markat Benefit Administration, which later became Markat Consulting, in 2009. As a professional, Jim worked hard on behalf his clients and took pride in ensuring their needs were taken care of and looked after. He was active in his community. He served as president of the Greater Lansing Estate Planning Council, Central Michigan Charter Life Underwriters and was a member of the East Lansing Educational Foundation, where as president he helped the foundation's endowment cross the million-dollar mark. In 2015, Jim and Barb relocated to Traverse City after over 40 years in East Lansing's Glencairn neighborhood. Above all else, Jim cherished his family. Jim, Barb and their children Mark and Katie shared many family adventures, spending football Saturdays together watching the Wolverines play, boating on Michigan's lakes, and taking family trips around the U.S. and abroad. Over the last ten years, Jim loved his role as "Poppa" more than anything else, looking forward to many FaceTime conversations and visits with his grandchildren, Jake and Julia. Jim loved to travel, boat and jet ski, enjoy time in the Florida sun, and vacation at the family cottage on Burt Lake. He loved to laugh and could find humor in nearly any situation. Jim is survived by his wife Barbara, son Mark (Angela) of Elmhurst, IL, daughter Katie of New York City; grandchildren Jacob and Julia Papazian of Elmhurst, IL; sister Clare (Jim)

Okraszewski of Land'O'Lakes, WI, sister Diane (Peter Golio) Papazian of Los Angeles, CA; sisters-in-law Karen (Peter) Strom of Traverse City and Jean Boquist of Elk Rapids, brother-in-law Bill (Elizabeth) Bjork of Grand Rapids; and many nieces, nephews, family members and friends. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, beloved uncle Harry Papazian, niece Catherine Strom Schmidt, and brother-in-law John Boquist.

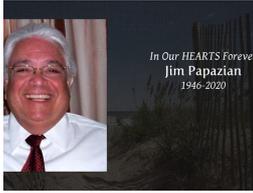
A private family service will be held at 11am on August 7, 2020 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Friends are invited to watch by way of Webcast at WWW.RJFH.TV at that time. Please share memories and sign Jim's online guestbook at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Memorial contributions in Jim's honor may be directed to the ChadTough Foundation, PO Box 907, Saline, MI 48176 www.ChadTough.org, or to the Father Fred Foundation, 826 Hastings, St. Traverse City, MI 49684 www.fatherfred.org/donate.

Comments



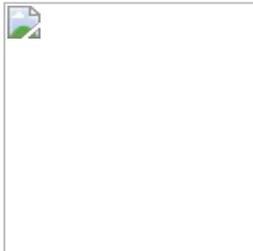
“ Video Tribute



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 07, 2020 at 07:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Service



Reynolds Jonkhoff - August 07, 2020 at 12:16 PM



“ When I was growing up, Jim was someone who was a friend of my Dad. I thought he was a good guy because my Dad spoke very highly of him. When my Dad died, taking his own life October 1983 during my second semester of law school at U of M, I kind of felt like Jim took me "under his wing" to navigate what I needed to do to deal with my Mom's finances and the emotions of dealing with a painful situation. Over time, he became a trusted mentor and friend. I can't even recall how many Saturday breakfasts we had at the Flap Jack Shack at Frandor. He, giving me financial advice, and me giving him gossip on the political scene in Michigan (I think I got the better end of that deal, though I often thought he felt he got the better part). When he retired I lost touch with him, which I greatly regret. Barb, Mark and Katie, I know you lost a husband and father. I lost a man who helped my through some of the toughest times I have ever had in my life. And I will be forever grateful for his friendship. Rest in peace Jim Papazian.

James Lancaster - July 13, 2020 at 10:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Thomas J Szedlak - July 13, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Barb, Mark & Katie,
Enjoyed working with Jim at Financial Technology, Inc. Also enjoyed going to UM football games as well as many golf outings.
Thinking of you during this tough time.
Tom Szedlak

Thomas J Szedlak - July 13, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ Barb and Mark and Katie, Jerry, Jordan and I are so very sorry. We send our special thoughts to you and your whole family....Linda Sutton

Linda Sutton - July 13, 2020 at 01:04 PM



“ Dear Family,

I just found out today and was shocked. Jim was a gently giant. I worked with Jim over many years and he helped to support me in business over those years. Great sense of humor, knew a ton of people, and made work a lot of fun! Whether I was meeting him at Coral Gables in his shorts after one of his workouts or lunch at Subway, we shared a lot about life and family as well as business. Family first with Jim, and he was a very proud father and grandfather! I am so sorry for your loss and thoughts and prayers are with you.

John Dietrich

John Dietrich - June 17, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Katie Papazian - April 19, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Katie Papazian - April 19, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ Dearest Barb,
I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing; the loss of your amazing partner in life. He lived an active, exuberant life and will be missed by all those lives he touched on his journey. You have my sincere condolences as you and your extended family go through this devastating loss. I am so sorry.
Love,
Mary Bursian Dame

mary dame - April 14, 2020 at 11:41 PM



“ I have fond memories of Jim and his family when they stayed with us at our resort, Wanderers Rest, on Little Glen Lake so many years ago. They were an incredible family and delightful and thoroughly enjoyed guests. Please accept my condolences on the passing of a wonderful person. His life was amazing and the legacies he leaves behind are many. Best wishes to his family and friends as they remember him fondly. Sincerely, Mary Frixen (Still on Glen Lake)

Mary Frixen - April 12, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ Fond memories of being together with you and enjoying your gracious hospitality in Florida. Your friendship will be truly missed! - Kevin and Noreen Harty



Noreen Harty - April 10, 2020 at 09:31 AM



“ I am sorry about Jim's passing. He was such a nice person. Prayers are being sent to Barb and the family.

Jane Crowner-Friedman - April 09, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ What a sad loss of a great Michigan Man. Jim was so committed to his University of Michigan, not just in spirit, but also with his generous commitment of time to help the University and its Alumni Association achieve their goals. Even more important, Jim was a good friend. We will miss him terribly. --Steve Grafton, President, Alumni Association of the University of Michigan.

Steve Grafton - April 09, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ I worked with Jim when he was at Met Life. What a joy to know. Rest in peace, Jim.
Sharon Moss

Sharon Moss - April 08, 2020 at 10:37 PM



“ Remembering the good time with you in Fort Lauderdale, and South Beach. Anytime we got together we would always have a good laugh. We will miss you Jim. Tish and Joe Springer

tish springer - April 08, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ I worked with Jim at Mourer Foster and then again with the David Chapman Agency. He always asked about my family and shared updates on his. He was so proud of his family.

I remember he was very happy when I told him my son would be attending the University of Michigan. Go Blue !!

Jim had the best laugh and smile.

RIP Jim. You will be missed.

Marcia Miller

Marcia Miller - April 08, 2020 at 03:42 PM



“ Many memories of Jim. Inviting the Tuck Family to view 4th of July fireworks in downtown Lansing. Family boat adventure through the Inland Waterway in Northern Michigan. Celebrating the Wolverines on Football Saturdays. Wonderful smile. Thank you

Tuck Family - April 08, 2020 at 01:07 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Katie Papazian - April 06, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ Thanks for sharing the fun pictures, Katie! What a great smile and laugh your dad always had and that is the memory we will treasure.

Joann Green - April 06, 2020 at 07:59 PM



“ What a great guy I had Mr. P in school he always had a smile on his face. Rest In Peace Mr.P

Bobby Nix - April 07, 2020 at 06:57 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Katie Papazian - April 06, 2020 at 03:29 PM