



James "Jim" Webster Zajac

May 31, 1950 - July 19, 2014

James "Jim" Webster Zajac, 64, of Windham, Pennsylvania, went home to be with The Lord, Saturday, July 19, 2014 at his home after many years of battling kidney disease related to an injury suffered during the war in Vietnam.

Jim was born May 31, 1950 in Warren, Ohio to Paul and Dolores (Huffman) Zajac. He graduated from Lakeview High School in 1968. While he was in high school he enjoyed running track. He especially excelled in the mile-run having the best time in the area. In addition he also participated in football and was the school's first kicker. After graduation Jim enlisted in the Army and headed to Ft. Knox, Kentucky for basic training. Jim served one year in Vietnam as a combat engineer. He loved the military and was hoping to make it a career when he was injured, disabling him for life.

Jim didn't let his injury keep him down for long. He became very active in wheelchair basketball and track. In 1985 he was presented the Jack Gerhardt Athlete of the Year Award which was the most prestigious award in the country for a wheelchair athlete.

On May 4, 1985 he married the former Brenda Kay Moore in Rome, PA. As a special honeymoon, they spent six months traveling throughout Alaska living in a van specially modified by Jim. Upon returning from their honeymoon they resided in Tampa, Florida.

To fulfill a dream, they relocated to Kenai, Alaska in 1990 to become a resident of Alaska in order to hunt brown bear. He accomplished his dream of a trophy Kodiak brown bear which stands in his living room today. After moving back to Pennsylvania in 1994, Jim received the greatest blessing of his life, the birth of his son James. He enjoyed being a father more than anything. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking and watching his son grow up and participate in his many sporting activities, especially baseball.

Jim is survived by his wife Brenda of 29 years, and his son James Zajac of Windham, PA; his mother, Dolores Murphy of Cortland, OH, his father, Paul Zajac of Wickliffe, OH, his brother, David Zajac and his wife Konny of Timecula, CA, his sister Cherrie Moran and her

husband Brian of Austintown, OH, his brother Daniel Murphy of Cortland, OH and step-sister, Joan Moldovan and her husband Don of Westerville, OH and one niece, five nephews, four great-nieces and three great-nephews. Jim is also survived by Brenda's extended family. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Richard and Golda Mae Huffman, grandparents Joseph and Nellie Zajac, step-father David Murphy, his Uncle Johnny Zajac and Uncle Richard J. Huffman. He was also predeceased by a special Great-Uncle Edgar Huffman.

Family and friends are invited to attend a period of visitation on Thursday, July 24th from 4-6 pm at the Sutfin Funeral Chapel, 273 S. Main St., Nichols. Funeral services and a celebration of Jim's life will follow at 6 pm. Interment will be held at the convenience of the family at the Arlington National Cemetery. Memories, condolences and pictures may be shared by visiting our website at <http://www.sutfinfuneralchapel.com> In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Warren Center Baptist Church where Jim shared his belief in his Savior with so many of his friends. (Warren Center Baptist Church, 883 Coburn Hill Rd., Warren Center, PA 18851) or Guthrie Hospice, 421 Tomahawk Rd., Towanda, PA 18848 in loving memory of James "Jim" Webster Zajac.

Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA, 22204

Events

JUL 24 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM

Sutfin Funeral Chapel

273 S. Main Street PO Box 72, Nichols, NY, US,
13812

JUL 24 Service 06:00PM - 07:00PM

Sutfin Funeral Chapel

273 S. Main Street PO Box 72, Nichols, NY, US,
13812

Comments



“ Dear family of Jimmy....

My name is Diane (Di) Calevro. I am so very sorry, and sad, to hear of Jimmy's passing just this day. I dated him waaaaay back in the late 70's. I am from Perrysburg and I met him when he came to the salon I worked at for a haircut. He took me to his parents house once and I remember them as such lovely people who welcomed me. I have often thought of him and hoped he was doing well. Jimmy was one of the kindest men I have ever known. I remember him as always smiling. I am so happy to know he married, had a child and lived what sounded like an amazing life. He got a bear??? That is incredible!! My ex couldn't get one in 22 years and he could walk!! For whatever reason I Googled his name along with "wheelchair athlete" tonight and found his obituary. May he rest in peace with the Lord. God Bless all of you who must miss him deeply.

Warm regards,

Di

PS I have a few pictures of Jimmy. If you would like them let me know and I will send them to you. Several are polaroids from Viet Nam that his wife and son should have. 208-251-2566 dianecalevro@gmail.com

Diane Calevro - July 17, 2019 at 12:10 AM



“ After one of the National Wheelchair games held in San Jose, California, Jim rode back with my first husband Ron Halsey and I to Ohio. We had a brand new 1976 Olds Cutlass station wagon. It was loaded to the brim with extra wheelchairs, javelins, shotputs, archery equipment, etc. We stopped in Texas and both guys bought mounted Texas long horns. I had to carefully thread them through all of the equipment. Before that we stopped for the night in hopes to see the Grand Canyon. Jim woke us up very early the next day and was very excited to let us know we were right on the south rim of the canyon. One of his very often used words about Viet Nam was of the "gooks and fish heads and rice." He was fun to be around. all those years ago. He part of the Cleveland Comets Wheelchair basketball team. My husband Ziggy Klemens also was part of this group of wheelchair athletes who really enjoyed meeting and making new friends. I am sending prayers to you at this difficult time. Marcia Halsey Klemens

Marcia Klemens - July 29, 2014 at 07:35 PM



“ Hi Marcia, I just read your message and Jim had told us of the story about your trip back from California so it made me smile to read what you had written. He spoke many times of you and Ron and also of Ziggy. Thank you for thinking of us.

Brenda Zajac - September 30, 2014 at 04:52 PM



“ We were saddened to hear of Jim passing, I am sure he will be remembered fondly by many. Cherish your memories he will forever live in them.

MaryHelen MacDonald & family

MaryHelen MacDonald - July 24, 2014 at 05:02 PM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Webster Zajac.



July 23, 2014 at 09:03 AM



“ Don & Joanie Moldovan lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Webster Zajac



Don & Joanie Moldovan - July 23, 2014 at 08:42 AM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Webster Zajac.



July 22, 2014 at 12:21 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Webster Zajac.



July 22, 2014 at 11:50 AM



“ Norma Frazer Hardman lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Webster Zajac



Norma Frazer Hardman - July 21, 2014 at 05:29 PM



“ You will always be in our hearts.

Joanie,Don, and family - July 22, 2014 at 06:11 AM



“ I attended Sunday School with Jim when we were preteens. He had a great sense of humor and I was not surprised to learn of his sacrifice to serve our country or of the many accomplishments he did. I chose the green candle because it represents life and Jim is alive in Heaven with other believers in Jesus. My deepest sympathy to his loved ones. St John 14: 1-6. Norma Frazer Hardman

Norma Frazer Hardman - July 24, 2014 at 03:05 PM