



James Edward Bontemps

May 30, 1941 - October 27, 2014

James Edward Bontemps, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 27, at the age of 73. Jim was a loving father, grandfather, brother, partner and friend. He served in the Air Force as an Air Police for seven years. His career spanned over 45 years and included Executive level positions at Johnson & Johnson, Max Factor and the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising where he retired from in 2012. He was a very spiritual man who loved the Lord and always enjoyed sharing his testimony as a way to encourage others. He was a faithful member of Pastor Clint Brown's church, Judah Ministries (formerly Faith World) where he attended regularly for several years.

He is survived by his three children: Terry, Lisa and Michael; seven grandchildren: Tiffany, Tiera, Terry, Brianna, Liberty, Victor and Vanessa; three great grandchildren: Uriah, Ezekiel, and Avianna; the mother of his children, Oneida; his sister, Eleanor; his brother, Leon; his precious dog, Molly; and his partner of 34 years, Mark Doorn.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 1, at 1:00 p.m. at DeGusipe Funeral Home in Ocoee, FL.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory West Orange Chapel
1400 Matthew Paris Blvd.
Ocoee, FL 34761
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **1**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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1400 Matthew Paris Blvd.
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Tribute Wall

KA

“ My dearest Uncle Jim, your birthday just past and I can't stop thinking about how I couldn't tell you happy birthday this year. I wish I could call and hear you laugh about how crazy my mama is, what Molly did to surprise you for the day, and what made you "fed up" today. You always knew how to make people laugh, you cared for me and my mom like we were really your own, and I couldn't be more appreciative. I'll still remember when you told me and I cried on the phone. You told me that you were at peace with this, and no matter how hard it was to accept at the moment, I was at peace too. Selfishly, we didn't talk much after that, only through Mommy, because I wanted to remember you just like that: happy, funny, and truly at peace. I love you and I miss you so much!

Kaya - June 02, 2015 at 01:46 AM



“ Dearest Mark,

I know what I remember most about Jim - those gorgeous brown eyes - you could see his compassion for everyone, his love for you, his humor, everything in those eyes. I know everyone mentioned his smile, but that goes without saying - he just knew how to make everyone feel wonderful and relaxed, but his bright shining eyes stand out so beautifully to me.

I've been thinking about you all the time and am sending you many big hugs. You two were such an amazing inspiration to couples everywhere, I would always hold you up as an example when I'd hear negative things about gay couples - you two lasted much longer and were so dedicated to each other more than almost any couple I know and I so admire you both for that!

Rest in Peace, dear Jim - you are a big part of many of my favorite memories and my life is so much richer having known you.

I love you Mark and hope you are doing alright, please stay in touch - what a love story for the Ages!!

xoxoxo

Brenda

Brenda McCroskey - November 24, 2014 at 04:35 PM

AN

“ Dear Mark,

My condolences to you and all of Jim's friends and family. Whenever I saw both of you I always felt such warmth and positive energy coming from both of you. I know that losing a loved one is difficult as you know I lost my beautiful mother Betty Lee, however holding on to the the positive and beautiful memories will help you in these times. I know that my mother would uplift you and remind you of the good times if she was still here with us. Jim is the arms of the Lord now. He is spreading his warmth, smile and positive attitude with the Angels in Heaven where one day we will all be reunited with our loved ones. Until then, we know that we will see them again one day.

~Andrea and Family

Andrea - November 22, 2014 at 03:17 PM

BH

“ *"Love thy neighbor as thyself." -Mark 12:31 Jim embodied that in our neighborhood of Windermere Groves. It seems in the modern world that neighbors know one another as "the guy with the nice car", or "the lady with the pretty flowers", or "the family with all the kids". But, in Windermere Groves, which has 125 houses, I would hazard a guess that at least 100 of our neighbors knew Jim as "Jim". Perhaps all 125 houses did. Jim was a stranger to no one, and beloved by all in our neighborhood. He will be sorely missed.*

-Bennett Herring

Bennett Herring - November 16, 2014 at 10:41 AM

SS

“ *My dear Jim. My family. The first one I've lost in my 40 years of life. He was everything a brother is supposed to be. protective, loving, wise, straight forward and unconditionally supportive. He's been a part of my life since I was 6 years old. I miss his hugs and his smiles. I miss his laugh and his wonderful sense of style. I'm happy that he's not in pain anymore and I know he's dancing in Heaven. young and handsome as ever. He was so good to my brother, Mark, and loved him with all his heart. There will always be a void in our lives, but knowing we will meet on the other side makes it so much easier. I will always love Jim and miss him.*

Susan Silva - November 14, 2014 at 07:38 PM



“ *I only wish I had been able to spend more time with this lovely man. On my infrequent visits from England Jim would pick me up, drop me off, whatever I needed and always welcomed me so warmly in to his life and home that I felt like one of his family. Going to see Mark and Jim was always a special treat and I cherish those moments. Jim's smile was infectious and genuine, he was a proper gentleman. He will be greatly missed by me and all those who knew him.*

Much love always to Mark and Molly,

Marilyn Jo Bygrave xxx

Marilyn Bygrave - November 14, 2014 at 01:03 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album Memory Card



Barb Shaver - November 07, 2014 at 05:21 PM

PS

“ R.I.P. Jim. After over 32 years of friendship, you will be in my heart forever and a day. I will always love you.

Mark, I'm looking forward to spending time with you in the near future. We have so many memories to share. :xoxo:



Patti Schechter - November 04, 2014 at 08:37 AM

CM

“ Dear Mark,
We are thinking of you today and sending our love and sincere sympathy to you.

With Love, Camille, Chris, Sophia and Taleene

Camille Mugrdechian-Armen - November 03, 2014 at 11:54 AM

JR

“ *Still hard to believe. Found this photo today one of our favorite traditions Party for the Senses. Just won't be the same without Jim's smile.*

Love you Jim!

Miss you so much.



Jen Roberts - November 02, 2014 at 08:44 PM

JS

“ Dear Mark,

I never thought the day would come that I'd be writing this note, since Jim was one of the strongest men I knew, both emotionally and physically. You were so fortunate to have such a magnificent relationship with such a wonderful man. Few people are lucky enough to be able to share a beautiful life of love and devotion that the two of you shared for so many years. Though I know your heart is heavy with grief now, I pray that during the sad moments you will look back at all that you and Jim shared over the years and realize how many friends you have made in your years together and how many people are sharing your pain right now. Not to be trite, but Jim really is "in a better place" now. No one as contagiously happy as he always was, should have to endure pain and suffering. Even when he picked up the phone just a few short weeks ago, I could hear the "smile" in his voice when he said hello to me and passed the phone to you.

I know that Jim made a safe journey to heaven and is now sharing his beautiful smile and outgoing personality with the angels who will watch over him just as he watched over you. He loved you so much and has carried that love with him to his new resting place where the spirit of the man that you knew and loved for so many years will carry on.

*With all our love and deepest condolences,
Jackie & Steve*

Jackie Strull - November 02, 2014 at 11:00 AM

KW

“ Mark,

I don't think that I ever saw Jim without a smile on his face. I'm sure that you were the reason that he smiled so much. What a great guy! One of my fondest memories was your BIG BASH birthday party. Jim was beaming with his biggest smile ever, all night long; I remember thinking that way back when. (It was also probably the best party that I have ever been to.)

I have kept you both in my prayers since Jim had his original transplant and I will keep you there during these difficult times. Just know that you have your own special angel looking down on you now. Please pass my condolences on to the rest of his family.

Love Always, Karen Wallace

Karen C. Wallace - November 01, 2014 at 08:02 PM

DL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories of Jim*



Don Soforic and Charlee Liaromatis - November 01, 2014 at 04:02 PM

NP

“ Nancy Pierce lit a candle in memory of James Edward Bontemps



Nancy Pierce - November 01, 2014 at 09:16 AM

DL

“ 7 files added to the album *Memories of Jim*



Don Soforic and Charlee Liaromatis - November 01, 2014 at 08:43 AM

NP

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Nancy Pierce - October 31, 2014 at 09:25 PM

NP

“ Jim was the most caring and loving man. I am honored that I was one of his friends. We first met many years ago when he and my brother became friends. My brother loved him and always called him "Dad". Tommy would always tell me stories about the crazy, good times they had. He was kind to everyone he met. He took very good care of my brother when he was very ill. It was Jim that called me when he passed and he was at his bedside. When my mother and I went to California he and Mark did so much for us, physically and emotionally. I truly don't know how we would have made it through that terrible time without them. I loved his delightful laugh and of course the big bear hugs. He will be missed so much and of course then there is Mark. Jim and Mark had a wonderful relationship, one that many of us will never have. They always had good things to say and were always so much fun! Mark, you are a treasure and I am so happy that you are such a close friend to Bud and I. I admire you and look up to you so much. I can't imagine your life without wonderful Jim but we all know that he will want you to go on living your life with zest. You have that wonderful, fun and loving personality and God will march you right through this. Knowing that Jim is in heaven already making the rounds will comfort you as well as others. He is now embracing all of our loved ones that we miss so dearly. God bless you Mark and watch over you. Rest in peace dear Jim and know that we will all reunite someday. We love you and will miss you every day of our lives..xoxo



Nancy Pierce - October 31, 2014 at 08:58 PM

CH

“ Dear Mark, I just read this today I am so sorry. I will never forget all the times you both came into Perkins to see me. Or with your parents to. Jim was always smiling and always had something good to say about every one no matter what!!! All I can do is send my love to you and your family and Jim's family. Love You Cheryl Hall

cheryl hall - October 31, 2014 at 06:56 PM

JP

“ Jackie Pinder lit a candle in memory of James Edward Bontemps



jackie pinder - October 31, 2014 at 05:35 PM



“ Jim was a dear sweet man, and he and Mark were strong believers and prayer warriors who uplifted me during hard times. Rest in Paradise, Jim, and we look forward to seeing you again around God's throne!

Jennifer O'Connell - October 31, 2014 at 05:02 PM

RF

“ 3 files added to the album Our Commitment Ceremony on 1/1/96



Roddy and Frank - October 31, 2014 at 03:17 PM

BP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Bharat Patel - October 31, 2014 at 03:07 PM

ST

Jim was the most happy, fun loving, humble and kind person, we could have ever known. I can go on forever. Mark and Jim were best friends of my dad. Jim was there when my dad had passed away in 1994. Mark and Jim took care of my dad when he was sick , he loved them very much. Jim always made us laugh, back in 2003 Bart and I had visited Mark and Jim in LA. We all had went to eat at Gladstones in Malibu, a laughing moment that we still remember and talk about Jim and Bart. They had run up to the waitress to see who could pay first, and it was Bart. Jim had tapped Bart on the back of head, "why did you pay for that, don't ever do that"? We all laughed. Mark and Jim always made everyone feel comfortable, like a family. Jim was such a fun person to be around! We will miss him so much, such a great warm spirit. My mom and brother will miss him so very much. Our dad would be so happy to see all of us laughing, he definitely would cherish the moments like we did. We will keep our moments with Jim in our hearts, talking on the phone with him and laughing, and Mark we love you and we are very privileged to know you as a special friend. We send our love to you and your family. Jim will always and forever be with us,

Love, Stacey

Stacey - November 01, 2014 at 11:57 AM

JB

“ *Mark and Jim's family and friends:*

Jim was a special part of my life for 30 plus years and I cherish all our time together. I feel so privileged to have him as a part of my family and all of those memories will stay with me for the rest of my life, like going on a special weekend adventure of adding a special "little addition" to the family, named Mason. We shared a love of animals and of course Mark, who means so much to me. Every morning as I make myself a cup of coffee, I will look up to the heavens and smile knowing he is looking down and understanding that was our "special" connection.

I know how much he loved his friends and family and that will stay with them forever, like it will with me.

"I Will Always Love You, Jim"

Jeri Biddle

Jeri Biddle - October 31, 2014 at 02:55 PM

CC

“ Please forgive my rambling thoughts. Jim was such a thoughtful, kind and caring man. I don't think I ever heard him “dish” about anyone. He had an open mind and a heart as big as Texas. I keep hearing his laugh – slightly naughty, always infectious. Jim wasn't in our “birthday club” but he was always involved – telling us how beautiful we looked, driving us to the train station, serving us dessert on funny little plates, making sure we were comfortable and then leaving us to our after dinner celebration. I'm sure the “judge” shows took a dip in viewership since his passing as it seems he started his day watching endless episodes of these shows before he went to his home office and started work. He had such a deep love for Mark and only wanted his baby to be happy. Whenever I visited their home, Jim told me I was more family than guest and I will always treasure that thought. Their home was filled with laughter and love. For my son's 30th birthday, we went to Florida to spend time with Mark and Jim. My son was so happy to have someone to watch football with him because Jim really loved football! I will miss hearing his laughter and being embraced by his great hugs. My heart goes out to Jim's family and especially to Mark. Jim, I will miss you so very much.

Cathryn Cormier

Cathryn Cormier - October 31, 2014 at 02:17 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of James Edward Bontemps.



October 31, 2014 at 01:59 PM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of James Edward Bontemps.*



October 31, 2014 at 01:55 PM



“ *Dear Mark, I am privileged to have met your wonderful Jim. I know Jim had a great life with you and family and friends here, and with comfort we know that he is now forever embraced by our Lord.*
Love, Lu

Lu Petersen - October 31, 2014 at 01:50 PM



“ *Mark,*

"Words cannot express the sadness I felt upon hearing the news of Jim's passing. There is a heaviness of heart that is with me still. When I saw this picture of Jim my spirits were truly lifted and I began to remember all the good times that Jim, Mark and I had during our times together. Look at that smile, how could your spirits not be lifted. Mark, it takes time to heal and take as long as you need. Jim always wanted nothing but your happiness."

My condolences to Jim's family & friends.

*Always,
Pam*

Pamela Sims - October 31, 2014 at 01:49 PM

PS

“ My heart-felt condolences to the Bontemps family at this difficult time. Mark, please accept my sincerest condolences on Jim’s passing! I can only imagine what a void has been left in your heart, but pray that the memories and the times you shared will fill you in those moments when your loss seems insurmountable. Regrettably, I did not have the pleasure of meeting Jim, but I know through our shared communication and devotionals over the years that Jim was a believer and lived a full life confessing the Lord as Savior! So, we take comfort in the knowledge that Jim is now in transition to life eternal with his maker. Some of the things I have always admired about you is your integrity, the strength of your character and your coolness in the eye of the most tumultuous storm. As I got to know you better, I realized the connection between your confidence and the promise of Philippians 4:13 (KJV): “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Let your faith continue to be the glue that holds you together in the face of these trying times and know that even through this, the Lord will do a new thing in you (Isaiah 43:16-19). You are surrounded by a supporting circle of family, friends and colleagues who share a strong love and admiration for you, and who stand ready to support you in all the ways you need! Godspeed, my friend.

Love, hugs and best wishes,

Paulette Surjue & Family

Paulette Surjue - October 31, 2014 at 01:48 PM

BS

“ Mark, I know your heart is aching, yet I know you feel some peace knowing Jim is not in pain anymore. I am so thankful I finally got to meet Jim the last time I was in Florida. I remember his big bear hug and wonderful smile. From reading the other tributes, I know you will not be alone in your grieving. You two have wonderful friends. You know I thought about both of you over these past months and I am thinking about you and sending hugs and love to you. Barb Shaver

Barb Shaver - October 31, 2014 at 12:01 AM

DA

“ Mark,

We were SO sorry to hear about Jim's passing (we'd been praying fervently). We'd really hoped to have met him. We hope that you're up to fellowshiping with us when we're in the area in a few weeks (church & dinner).

If you're willing, perhaps you can bring pix and we can celebrate him (we'd already paid for our reservations, so unable to come now).

Just know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks for allowing us into your life, even if primarily online.

Our condolences to Jim's family & friends.

God bless you all.

Darrin

Isaiah 29:6 Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts...

Darrin - October 30, 2014 at 05:23 PM

KR

“ *My Uncle Jim, rest peacefully. So glad to have shared a piece of life with you. I celebrate all that you were!!!*

Kaya

Kaya R. - October 30, 2014 at 03:13 PM



“ *My condolences to the Bontemps family. I had the pleasure of meeting Jim last December while visiting with my parents in Ocoee.*

John Carnegie - October 30, 2014 at 12:30 PM

MR

“ *Roberto and I met Jim and Mark through Jen and Joe Roberts and our children Jorge Eduardo and Melissa Ruiz. We then had the joy of sharing with them a Disney Cruise last year... We want to celebrate Jim's life! An awesome man, intelligent, gentle, fun to be with, loving, wonderful, indeed! He will definitely be missed by many friends and family! Our deepest sympathy to Mark, Jen, Joe, Sammy, Jacob! We love you all! Many Blessings! Rest in Peace, dear Jim 🌸🙏🕯️*

Maria Cristina Rosales - October 30, 2014 at 10:56 AM

JR

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Jennifer Roberts - October 30, 2014 at 09:47 AM

ST

“ I have been blessed to have Jim in my life for the past thirty four years.

Our paths first crossed In West Hollywood and, click-it was instant friendship.

Very soon, Mark, Jim, and I became much more than friends-we were brothers, we were cousins, we were truly a family.....

What a lifetime of memories. So many vivid, precious moments pass through my mind.

So much laughter, so much talk, so much fun.

So many parties, so much dancing, so many dinners, so many holidays, so many shared blessings.

And of course some scattered tears and sadness.

We truly had decades of moments to remember.

If I had to single out the lasting impressions that Jim has left in my mind, four most important things come to mind:

----his infectious/contagious beautiful smile that filled the room with happiness

----his never ending devotion to Mark; how many times I heard echoed: "whatever my baby wants to be happy,"

---his always open ears and careful thought out words of wisdom that could always help guide others. He truly was a man of much experience and he used it to help many of his friends and family through troubled waters.

----his courage and strength during the latter part of his life in enduring the many health obstacles that he faced. He truly was a "walking miracle" from what he endured and an example to all, how the love and zest for life can carry one through many days of hardships.

He was a kind and gentle man.

He was a good mate, a devoted father and grandfather, a lover of his animal family, and a fantastic friend.

Like all of us, my heart now has a rift that only time will heal.

The pain from the rift does not hurt as much when I recall that smile, that devotion, that wisdom, and that courage.

Although he is gone from my life; his warm spirit will fill my mind and soul forever.

I will miss him so, so much and I know that one day our paths will cross again.

I love you Jim,

Steve Melli



Steve - October 29, 2014 at 11:25 PM

IE

“ *Buz and I are so saddened by the passing of our wonderful friend, Jim. We have been blessed by God to have Jim and Mark in our lives. We met Mark and Jim through our daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Joseph Roberts and from the beginning it was instant love for them. Mark and Jim were part of the Eizen-Roberts family from the beginning. We never had an occasion without them. We celebrated anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, . . . we found so many times just to celebrate our love and friendship. We will miss Jim terribly - he was always the life of the party, so giving and loving. God Bless you both, Mark and Jim. We adore you! xo*

irene eizen - October 29, 2014 at 07:09 PM

JR

“ Words can't express the love we have for Jim. Joe, Sammy, Jacob and I feel a hole in our hearts now but we also know with so much certainty that Jim is at peace. It is not often in life that you meet someone who instantly becomes part of your family like he was part of ours. Jim will always live in our memories and in our hearts. I promised many weeks ago to always take care of Mark and of course I will. Mark is like a brother to me Jim so know he will never be alone and we will help him grieve and help him through this hard time. We love you so much Jim and thank god that we were able to spend so much time with you the past few months. Rest in peace my dear sweet Jim. Love you always, Jen, Joe, Sammy and Jacob Roberts

jennifer roberts - October 29, 2014 at 02:19 PM

CA

Rest in Peace Jim. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting you, i know I love you because Mark does. You were both so Blessed to have one another, and that will never end. I believe you are still with Mark and your wonderful family. Condolences to all, and remember he is in a better place and you will meet again.

Carole Anderson

Carole Anderson - November 01, 2014 at 07:25 PM

BR

Some people go through life only having one family. I was lucky enough to have a few. Mark and Jim became part of my family over 30 years ago and I have been blessed ever since. While I do wish I had more pictures to share my memories, it's the ones in my mind that will last forever. For example, I remember Jim running me around Hollywood (at the last minute) to help me buy gifts for (my wife) Janet. I also remember the help that Gunnar received with his Flat Stanley project whereas Flat Stanley came back with THE BEST pictures from LA. Yet, there is still one memory that I remember more than any other. That is the memory of receiving a hug from Jim, While I didn't get a lot of chances to say good-bye, when I did, it was his hug that really let you know that he cared. Jim said " sometimes I make myself count 15 seconds before I let go". His hug always reminded me how much he cared and I must admit that I still do this to date. Dear Jim, may your physical body rest while you heart and sole live on into eternity. May you reunite with those that have passed before us and watch over us while we complete our journey on earth.

*All our love to you and Mark,
Brian, Janet, Gunnar and Jake Rodgers*

Brian Rodgers - November 02, 2014 at 08:57 PM