



James Reynolds Clarkin Jr.

April 7, 1955 - September 30, 2023

James Clarkin, affectionately known as “Jimmy” by his family and friends was an avid enthusiast of anything related to the water. He loved surfing, fishing, water skiing, boating, and scuba diving. James Reynolds Clarkin Jr., age 68, departed this earthly life unexpectedly from complications due to cardiac arrest on September 30, 2023.

Jimmy was born in Charleston, South Carolina on April 7, 1955, to his loving parents, James R. Clarkin Sr. and Jean Rike Clarkin. Jimmy was forever grateful to have been adopted by such devoted parents. As a family, Jimmy loved growing up in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, where they spent a lot of time outdoors camping and fishing. Jimmy was active in organized sports such as basketball, baseball, and football. He was a member of the Boy Scouts, earned his blackbelt in karate, was a self-taught guitarist and became a certified diver at age 14. One of his proudest accomplishments was earning the title of Captain as he received his Master Captain’s License, the highest recognition by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Jimmy attended Christ our King Catholic School during his primary education. The Clarkin Family were active members of their church where Jimmy was an altar boy and member of the choir. He graduated from Moultrie High School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. After high school, Jimmy furthered his diving education by becoming a PADI Master Scuba Diver, Dive Master, Master

Diving Instructor, and Cavern Diving Specialist.

Jimmy and his wife, Kathy (KC), met while they were both working on the island of St. Croix, USVI. KC was an elementary school teacher and Jimmy worked for Caribbean Sea Adventures as a first mate on fishing vessels and trimaran sailboats. He was also a scuba instructor and dive specialist. KC and Jimmy married in 1982 and moved to Orlando, Florida. In Orlando, Jimmy was a marine aquarist at the Living Seas at Epcot for 25 years. He logged thousands of hours as a diver and cared for and studied a variety of marine animals. Jimmy continued his lifelong love of music by entertaining in both St. Croix and Orlando.

He was often mistaken for Jimmy Buffet as he looked and sounded just like him.

Jimmy and KC were blessed with two daughters, Jeana (33) and Liza (28). It was important for Jimmy to create his own family and being a “girl dad” was his dream come true. He took on the title of “Dad” to many, including Heather Stephens (33) and Sydney Meade (28) while also taking on the title of “Poppy” to their children. He adored his grandson, Liam Root (9). He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a lover of all family rescue pets and a guy that could fix, repair, build and design anything, especially school projects! He will be known for his sense of humor, work ethic and zest for life.

He was preceded in death by his parents James and Jean Clarkin, his daughter Angela Noelle Clarkin, and nephew James A. Clarkin. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Kathleen Cox Clarkin (Longwood, FL), daughters Jeana Nicole Clarkin (Orlando, FL), Elizabeth Delaney Clarkin (Raleigh, NC), sister Terry J. Clarkin, niece Megan T. Clarkin (John’s Island, SC) and brother John Clarkin (Hollywood, SC).

A mass will be held at Annunciation Catholic Church, 1020 Montgomery Rd. in Altamonte Springs, FL on November 10, 2023 at 10am. Followed by a memorial reception at Highland Manor, 604 E. Main St. Apopka, FL.

If you cannot attend in person you can view Jimmy Clarkin's service at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/agU1deizAmw?si=nxnejJQJXwIRnhBt>

Donations to Quincy's Hope Canine Coalition can be made via check to 3507 Rosewood Cir. Lynn Haven, FL 32444 or Venmo@qhcc_dogs.

Donations to the Coral Restoration Foundation can be made via check to 89111 Overseas Hwy. Tavernier, FL 33070, or their website www.coralrestoration.org/donate.

Please be sure to indicate that your donation is in memory of Jimmy Clarkin.

Previous Events

Mass

NOV **10**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Annunciation Catholic Church
1020 Montgomery Road
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

Reception to Follow Funeral Mass

NOV **10** (ET)

Highland Manor
604 E. Main Street
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall

KA

“ I have known Kathy since college...50 years! Although I never met Jimmy, I feel like I have known him all my life.

Ever since their meeting in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, a captivating young man's incandescent spirit and irresistible charm transformed her life.

Jimmy lived his life with joy and purpose. His family, Kathy, Jeanna and Liza came first and foremost. In Jimmy, Kathy found her soulmate. Someone who shared her sense of adventure and her love for life.

Jimmy is the love of her life. You only have to listen to her speak about Jimmy to know that this is true. Their love for each other and their unbreakable bond is a blueprint for all for a healthy, loving relationship filled with respect, admiration and love.

This will be a difficult journey for you and the girls to navigate. However, you know that the "Sem" ladies will be there to help you every step of the way.

May God bless you and keep you in the palms of his hands.

Kim Axson❤️

Kim Axson - November 28, 2023 at 06:54 PM

DD

“ It was my honor to call Jimmy my friend. He was always there for me. He helped me out in times of need, a shoulder to lean on, and a laugh that was needed. I was in Saint Croix visiting them on the night he asked Kathy to marry him. He loved his family with all his heart. My heart is heavy with sorrow that he is no longer among us.

Darra E Das - November 28, 2023 at 04:10 PM

KC

“ Oh Jimmy! From the first night we met at The Grandstand on St. Croix when you got up and joined the band by singing Bob Segar’s Old Time Rock in Roll, I became smitten. The next day we met up on Buck Island and you ended up buying shots for Mike so he was too drunk to pick me up for a date. Your clever tactic worked. We have been together ever since. That was January, 1979. 44 years we have been soulmates. God placed us together but he took you away so unexpectedly. The girls and I are lost without you but will try to navigate these uncharted waters like you, our captain would want. Thank you for always loving me even when it might not have been easy! I will always love you and be eternally grateful that you were mine. Thank you for prioritizing our family and for being the best daddy and partner we could have ever dreamed of. Give our sweet baby Angela our love and continue to send us signs. We will be returning home to St. Croix with you soon. How I wish it were different. I love you Jimmy. I look forward to being in your arms one day. Until then, our memories will remain in my broken heart forever. 😭💔 kisses from the love of your life, Kc.

kathy clarkin - November 14, 2023 at 10:56 AM



“ I have made a donation to Quincy's Hope in honor of Jimmy. It makes total sense that such a big-hearted man loved those big dogs - matches made in heaven, and now they are reunited. My warmest thoughts for peace and big fuzzy/furry memories in this difficult time. --Ann

Ann Cleveland - November 09, 2023 at 07:12 PM

JH

“ The first time I went to the Clarkin’s house, I walked in and saw Mr. Jimmy’s guitar area with a picture of Jimmy Buffett - as many know, the similarities between the two Jimmy’s are uncanny - I looked at the picture, looked at Liza, looked at the guitar, saw the name and I said “... Is your dad Jimmy Buffett?”. I then met Mr. Jimmy and Ms. Cathy and they quickly became my second home, my second parents. Over 10 years later and I still have a never-ending love for them and all they did for us. Mr. Jimmy was such a dedicated father - he took me and Liza to every cheer practice, Disney many times, out on the boat and more.i shared SO. MANY. LAUGHS. with this amazing family and I felt so at home with them. Mr. Jimmy was, IS, an absolute LEGEND and will be remembered SO FONDLY and so greatly missed by every one. Party in Paradise with the Buffett man, Mr. Jimmy - you are one heck of a guy! ❤️

Jessica Hughes - November 09, 2023 at 11:51 AM

LS

“ Liza's Orlando Girlies (and Sisters) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..



Liza's Orlando Girlies (and Sisters) - November 08, 2023 at 08:40 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..



November 08, 2023 at 05:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..



November 08, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ Love always, britt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..

Love always, britt - November 08, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ Daddy, I miss you more than words can say. Please watch over me, liza and mommy. Our worlds are shattered and we will be heartbroken for the rest of our lives. I'd give anything to hear your laugh or wrap my arms around you. Nothing is the same without you here. I love you more.

Jeana Clarkin - November 06, 2023 at 08:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..



November 01, 2023 at 03:05 PM

TW

“ My loving memories of Jimmy are too numerous to list but his guitar playing and singing at the rehearsal dinner almost 40 years ago stands out. As was catching my redfish off North Captiva on Jimmy's boat (without the requisite license, which made us immediately hightail home to clean and eat). Gonna miss you brother.



TWC - October 21, 2023 at 02:22 PM

DS

“ When Kathy had her first back surgery I asked her to make sure someone let me know that my friend of sixty two years came through it without any issues. Jimmy took the time to call and reassure me she was fine. It was the first and only conversation we had, yet I feel like I've known him forever. Though I can't be there in person to support the family, you are in my thoughts every day. With love, Doreen Sproviere

Doreen Sproviere - October 16, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..



October 13, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Reynolds Clarkin Jr..

October 13, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ For a Catholic the repose of the soul is the most precious gift. Please rejoice in the divine knowledge that Jimmy will forever remain only a whisper away.

Robert O'Connor - October 13, 2023 at 05:50 PM