



James R McConnell, Jr.

October 14, 2021

James R. “Jim” McConnell, Jr, beloved father, grandfather, adventurer, traveler, storyteller, and former Seminole Fire and Rescue chief passed away on October 13, 2021 at home at the age of 73.

A native of Marlton, New Jersey, Jim served in the United States Navy, where he met his wife Linda, and relocated to Seminole, FL in 1973. He worked in Seminole as an EMT and then a firefighter for sixteen years, serving as the Seminole Fire Chief from 1983 to 1989. He was known to many in Seminole as “Chief,” but to many more as a Rotarian, career mentor, neighbor, humanitarian, and friend.

Jim’s reach was not limited to the city of Seminole. Through his extensive travels, outdoor adventures, and boundless curiosity he made lifelong friends everywhere he went. He lived to make connections and create community with others, and encouraged everyone he met to follow their hearts and talents (and to carry a light backpack, which he felt was both good practical and metaphorical advice).

Though he wore his Chief and adventurer roles with pride, his favorite role was that of family man. Jim was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, and uncle, and proudly served his family as the storyteller and keeper of traditions. His generosity was as abundant as his ice cream stash--which was no small

thing--and his beloved granddaughters always knew who to ask to take a trek in the woods or to bake Christmas cookies with them.

Jim is survived by his son Thomas and his family: wife Deanna and granddaughters Margaret, Moira, and Minna; sister Ruth and brother-in-law Ron Staufenberg; sister Dorothy and brother-in-law David Graham; sister-in-law Ellen Caspers; nieces Deanne Ondrovic and Lindsey Caspers and nephew Grant Caspers. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda. He lives on in the hundreds of lives he touched and helped over his full and adventurous life.

A viewing will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday, October 20 from 6-8pm. There will be a memorial service at the same location the following morning, Thursday October 21, at 10am and a committal ceremony at Florida National Cemetery at 1:30 pm. Out of respect for Jim's love of his granddaughters, who are too young to be vaccinated, all attendees at indoor services must be masked regardless of vaccination status.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the Florida Symphony Orchestra, The Glacier Institute, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, or the American Battlefield Trust. If you wish to further honor Jim, he would want you to find a friend, sit outside, and tell stories during a sunset.

Tribute Wall



“ Provide comfort for the family by sending flowers or planting a tree in memory of James McConnell, Jr.. Show Your Care By Sending Flowers Guaranteed hand delivery by a local florist

January 19, 2022 at 10:26 AM



“ Nita posted a condolence I am shocked and saddened to learn of Jim's passing. We became friends through his group "50 Plus Explorers", and I was always impressed by his adventurous spirit. He will be missed...May he be in Perfect Peace.

Nita - November 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ Lin Lowe posted a condolence Jim was so proud of his family. I spoke with him more than once about the trips he made with his son Tom and his granddaughters. He cherished the time that he spent with you. He is a great spirit and will live on in the hearts of those that knew him. I wish I had had the opportunity to get to know him better but I always enjoyed speaking with him and will miss him.

Lin Lowe - October 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Rhonda Renee posted a symbolic gesture To Jim’s loved ones, my heart is with you. I only got to meet Jim on a few occasions through the FiftyPlus Explorers, but he made such an impression on me. I attended a camping trip for my first gathering with the group and I knew no one. He made me feel welcome and put me at ease. It’s hard to forget someone who showed such kindness to me. Rest in peace, Jim, you will live on in the memories of so many lives you touched.

Rhonda Renee
Fellow Explorer

Rhonda Renee - October 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ Rick and Heidi Cody planted a tree in memory of James McConnell, Jr. Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

October 19, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ The family of James R McConnell, Jr. uploaded a photo

October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ A Memorial Tree was planted for James McConnell, Jr. We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home and Crematory Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jim & Phyllis Bird. sister of Jimmy Brown planted a tree in memory of James McConnell, Jr. Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree*

October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Louis Sclafani posted a condolence What a great guy! Always enjoyed our Wednesday night "old guys" dinners where we would talk Fire Department and adventure travel stuff. He will be greatly missed.*

Louis Sclafani - October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM