



James Dennis Merrill

August 24, 1957 - November 7, 2022

JAMES D. MERRILL (JIM), 65, OF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA PASSED AWAY AFTER A VALIANT AND DIFFICULT FIGHT AGAINST CANCER ON NOVEMBER 7, 2022, WITH HIS WIFE AND SON AT HIS SIDE.

JIM WAS BORN IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND ON AUGUST 24, 1957, AS THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE, TO RICHARD AND BARBARA MERRILL.

JIM WAS A MAN OF UNENDING TALENTS. THERE WAS NOT ANYTHING HE COULD NOT FIX, CREATE OR INVISION. HE WAS A HARDWORKING MAN HIS ENTIRE LIFE. WORKED HARD AND PLAYED HARD. IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS HE RACED GO KARTS, MOTORCYCLES AND LOVED SKING. HE EVEN LEARNED HOW TO RIDE A SINGLE WHEELED BIKE JUST FOR FUN. HE WAS A MECHANIC BY TRADE AND LATER HAD HIS OWN LANDSCAPING SERVICE UNTIL HE SOLD IT TO PURSUE HIS LOVE OF MUSIC.

IN THE EARLY 1970'S ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER RICK THEY PLAYED ACCOUSTIC GUITAR IN SMALL BARS AROUND TOWN. AS THEIR REPUTATION GREW, THEY EXPANDED THAT TALENT TO BECOME THE ROCK GROUP KNOWN AS "THE MERRILL BROTHER'S BAND". THEIR HARMONIES BROUGHT LIFE TO THEIR MUSIC AND WERE WRITTEN ABOUT IN MANY A MUSIC REVIEW THRU THE YEAR. BECAUSE OF

THEIR INCREDIBLE HARMONIES, THEY OPENED FOR BANDS OF THE TIME, SUCH AS AMERICA, FIREFALL, JOHN SEBASTIAN, MITCH RYDER, NANTUCKET AS WELL AS BEING IN CONSTANT DEMAND TO PLAY FOR LOCAL CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS. AS TIME WENT ON, THEY WERE JOINED BY BROTHER DAVID. JIM HAD TO END HIS MUSIC CAREER AFTER FIVE YEARS PLAYING AT MARGARITAVILLE WHEN HIS VISION LOSS PREVENTED HIM FROM BEING ABLE TO DRIVE.

JIM HAD A GENETIC EYE DISEASE CALLED RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA. BUT IT NEVER STOPPED HIM FROM FINDING OTHER WAYS TO EXPRESS HIMSELF. HE NEVER LET HIS VISION LOSS STOP HIM FROM DEVELOPING A LOVE FOR GROWING ORCHIDS AND HAVING ONE OF THE NICEST YARDS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

HE LOVED TO WORK WITH HIS HANDS AND DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR WOOD WORKING. YOU WOULD ALWAYS FIND THE GARAGE DOOR UP AND JIM WORKING ON SOME KIND OF PROJECT OR JOB. HE BUILT FUNCTIONAL THINGS, BUT HIS GREAT LOVE WAS CREATING AND DESIGNING HIS OWN. HE SHARED THAT TALENT AS GIFTS TO FAMILY & FRIENDS THROUGH THE YEARS WITH HAND MADE BOAT SHELVES, BOOKCASES, TABLES AND MOST RECENTLY RESTORED A FRIEND'S BOAT AND HIS WORK WAS PUBLISHED IN WOOD BOAT MAGAZINE.

SO MUCH TALENT, SO MUCH BRILLIANCE HAS BEEN TAKE FROM US TOO SOON.

IN ADDITION TO HIS PARENTS, JIM ALSO LOST HIS BROTHER DAVID. HE IS LOVED AND REMEMBERED FROM THIS DAY FORWARD BY HIS WIFE LYNNE (COTO) MERRILL, SON JAMES (JAMIE) MERRILL, DAUGHTER N LAW SHANNON (BATES) MERRILL AND ADORED GRANDSON, CALEB JAMES MERRILL, HIS

BROTHER RICK, AND SISTERS SALLY & LAURIE
AS WELL AS NIECES AND NEPHEWS, WHO HE WAS DEVOTED TO AND
SHARED MEMORIES WITH.

A CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE WILL BE HELD FOR JIM ON NOVEMBER
19TH 2022 AT 2PM

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, WE ASK THAT A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
CANCER SOCIETY BE MADE IN HIS HONOR AND ALL THOSE WE LOVE
WHO FIGHT THE FIGHT.

TO THOSE WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE SERVICE, WE WOULD LOVE
FOR YOU TO SHARE A SPECIAL MOMENT THAT YOU HAD WITH JIM.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

NOV 19. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Service

NOV 19. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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Reception

NOV 19. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Dennis Merrill.*



November 18, 2022 at 11:53 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Dennis Merrill.*



November 18, 2022 at 03:37 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Dennis Merrill.*



November 18, 2022 at 08:30 AM



“ *Barry Roberts and Crystal Pittard purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Dennis Merrill.*



Barry Roberts and Crystal Pittard - November 14, 2022 at 02:13 PM

DJ

“ I knew James through the eyes of Lynn and I know he was an amazing individual just by the way she spoke about him. His absence will be felt by everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May you rest in peace James.

Dalila and Pablo Jones - November 12, 2022 at 11:26 AM

JP

“ The first gig I played with Jim and band, I remember a sign on the door which read "POSITIVELY ABSOLUTELY NO KNIVES, GUNS OR CHAINS...AFTER 8 P.M." Now, here it is some 30 plus years later and we were still at it. RIP my friend and musical brother.

John Prince - November 10, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Dennis Merrill.



November 10, 2022 at 01:54 PM

CW

“ Jim was such an amazing man, but an even better friend and neighbor. It has always brought me comfort knowing he was always right across the street if we needed him. He was always willing to lend a hand when I needed to borrow something or when I needed to figure something out. He would always call me and say “ Y’all left the garage door open again.” Lol! I loved the way he loved my dog Blue. He always said he liked when Blue was outside because he would only bark at strangers passing by (not at just any old thing) and it gave Jim comfort since he couldn’t always see who was coming up, Blue would let him know. I guess it was Blue’s small way of giving back to Jim what Jim had given to us..comfort and safety. Jim was so talented in his wood work. He redid our stairs and as I go up and down them every day, I will always think of him. He will be forever missed in our neighborhood but even more so in our hearts. We love you! Rest In Peace my sweet friend!!!

Caterina Warren - November 09, 2022 at 10:07 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Dennis Merrill.



November 09, 2022 at 06:15 PM

BP

“ Our brother Jim was amazing in every way. We all share the love of his talents and the memory of all his wonderful music. He recreated our home interior with beautiful woodwork and designed our kitchen. His woodworking talents were to perfection. He was quiet with a very quick wit, and it was devastating to see him struck down with Cancer. His love of family and friends will always be remembered. Our warmest thoughts and prayers are with you Lynne, Jamie, Shannon and Caleb and may God wrap his arms around all of you with comfort and beautiful memories. We love you, Bob and Sally Pickering

Bob and Sally Pickering - November 09, 2022 at 12:15 PM