



James M. McVeigh

April 16, 1951 - January 1, 2021

Jim made it out of 2020, passing away 23 hours into the New Year at his Benicia residence at the age of 69. Anyone who knew Jim would recognize this as his last stubborn stance. Diagnosed with cancer two and a half years ago and given six months to live, stubborn is the word.

He was a father. A husband. A dog lover (and reluctant cat lover). A passionate (democratic) political pundit in his own right, and true lover of knowledge.

Born in April 16th, 1951, to parents Marjorie and Cyril McVeigh, Jim grew up with siblings Carol, Don, and Ed “Eddie Paul” in the small Nebraska town of Chadron and from the outset he was determined to create a life that was bigger than himself.

His adventurous spirit led him to work various jobs at both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park. Working in the parks served as an excuse to explore the beauty of nature, have run-ins with wildlife, and to be frank, party with his friends. A short time after this, on a whim, his friend called asking him to move to California. So he did, setting out on a new journey, distinctly different from his past.

Having moved to San Francisco, Jim obtained a bachelor’s degree in accounting from San Francisco State University. Soon after, Jim met his wife, Lisa, at a San Francisco CPA firm where they both worked. They married three years later and moved to Benicia where they raised their four children. Jim’s proudest professional experience was opening his own accounting practice in Benicia, at which he worked for 34 years, right up until his death.

Jim was a passionate sports fan who loyally rooted for the Giants, Warriors, 49ers and Nebraska Cornhuskers. Known as “coach Jim,” he served as a coach for many of his own children’s soccer teams. Late in life, he developed an affection for road biking which he did extensively with the Benicia Bicycling Club, even participating in the Tour de Wyoming, a 370-mile biking event.

Throughout his life, Jim showed that love comes from kindness. He was an active and dedicated father, and an advocate for those in need. Even in his death, he worried more about those around him than he did himself. He was and will forever be a kind adventurer, a thinker, and a man of many opinions.

Life is more than any of us. Jim taught us that. And also that stubbornness pays off. We love you, Dad.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Lisa, children Brandon, Meaghan, Ryan, Todd, daughter-in-law Anna, his siblings Don McVeigh and Carol Moser, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Due to the pandemic a small, private service will be held on Saturday, January 16th at 2pm. However, viewing via live stream is available. If you would like to access the stream or if you need more information please contact Leslie Whitney at 707-746-5604, Brandon McVeigh-Murphy at brandonmcveigh2044@gmail.com, or Lisa McVeigh at lisatrainier@att.net.

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Jim, You were our Benicia "go to tax guy" for years. However, our memory of you is much more than that. A true gentleman is what I always recall when I think of you. Your pleasant smile, and of course your efficient business demeanor will be missed.

Carol & Bob Berman

Carol Berman - February 25, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ I met Jim when I was 17 and he was 18 when we both first came to Yellowstone Park. Jim befriended me right away for which I was forever grateful. I don't think Jim ever met a stranger and always went out of his way to make you feel welcome and comfortable.

Hard working didn't begin to describe Jim. He put himself through college the hard way and then built a successful practice. All of this speaks to his "grit" and determination. More than anything Jim was proud of his family.

They say that in this life you only have 3 "real" friends. I am proud to count Jim as one of mine

Kevin Mahoney

Kevin Mahoney - January 15, 2021 at 08:41 PM



Thank you so much for sharing your memories of stories I had never heard! Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement!

Lisa McVeigh - January 17, 2021 at 10:08 PM

KM

“ Kevin and Mimi Mahoney purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James M. McVeigh.



Kevin and Mimi Mahoney - January 15, 2021 at 03:43 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of James M. McVeigh.*



January 12, 2021 at 09:32 PM

NG

“ *We wish you peace and comfort during this time of sorrow. Jim was a true friend and advisor-he will be greatly missed. With our deepest and heartfelt condolences.*

The Koerner Family

Nicholas W Gotelli - January 09, 2021 at 03:39 PM



Thank you so much for the beautiful arrangement. It means a lot!

Lisa McVeigh - January 17, 2021 at 10:06 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of James M. McVeigh.*



January 09, 2021 at 03:33 PM

DM

“ *Kindergarten to 12th grade, Chadron Assumption Academy, Chadron Nebraska, Jim and I and a group of other kids grew up together for 13 years. He was a really good friend, funny, scarily smart and had a laugh that was unforgettable. Jim and I played football for the Academy and in one game I went out for a pass that was thrown behind me and intercepted. I peeled back around to chase the fellow down and just as I thought I had him he zigged and I collided helmet to helmet with Jim. It was one of the hardest hits I ever took. What a great classmate he was. Dave Moore, Rockledge, FL*

Dave Moore - January 08, 2021 at 05:30 PM



Thank you for sharing your stories of Jim. Since I did not know him when was that young, I have learned alot about him that I never knew!

Lisa McVeigh - January 17, 2021 at 10:10 PM

RG

“ Jim and I attended 13 years of school at Chadron Assumption. When we were kids, I remember asking my parents, "Why does Jim have the coolest leather jackets, cowboy boots, leather belts, fun buckles." Because his dad owns the Western Wear store in town, How lucky can a guy get?
In High School, Jim was convinced he had the fastest Ford Falcon in town. One morning at school, he said, " Roger I raced two other Ford Falcons last night and beat them both, made me feel pretty good".
Most of all I remember Jim's great sense of humor, on numerous occasions he would come up with something that would make everybody laugh.
The family was lucky to have him, I am sorry for your loss.
Roger Goffena
Chadron, Ne

roger goffena - January 07, 2021 at 08:22 AM



Thank you for sharing your stories. I keep hearing a lot about this Ford Falcon!

Lisa McVeigh - January 17, 2021 at 10:11 PM



“ Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate was purchased for the family of James M. McVeigh.



January 06, 2021 at 02:15 AM

BC

“ Lisa, Todd, Ryan, Megan & Brandon our thoughts & prayers go out to you. I will never forget the 55 years of friendship I had with Jim or forget the life changing journey we made from Nebraska to California. I will not forget the seasons we spent in Yellowstone, our ski trips, 49er & SF Giants games, our passion for Nebraska Football, The Foster Farm Bowl, The Tour de Nebraska bike trip in 2016, and long road trips where we never ran out of conversation. Jim enjoyed life, being a husband, a father, and wanted his family to have many of the great experiences he had. We will always remember him for the kind man and great friend he was. Boniface & Aline Chase



Boniface Konrad Chase - January 06, 2021 at 02:04 AM

PC

To the family of Jim. I graduated out of the same high school class with Jim and my brother Boniface. Even back in our high school days there were great fond memories of the fun and crazy things we went through. Jim was always a kind hearted level minded guy that always kept his cool about him. He was very diplomatic towards people back then and sounds like he kept that coolest about him all these years later. Jim was more than a friend to Boniface. He was his brother and will be greatly missed.
Paul Chase

paul chase - January 07, 2021 at 12:05 AM

BP

To Lisa and Jim's family, my sincerest condolences on Jim's passing. I worked with Jim during early & mid 70's in Yellowstone National Park, on the National Park Service Maintenance Crew in Canyon Village. Great times shared during our days in the Park. On one occasion, Jim & I got in hot water with our boss over a party we threw for NPS & YP Co. friends (it was a great party!). Through Jim, I got to know Boniface Chase, Jim's good friend from their hometown of Chadron, Neb. The three of us have stayed in touch through all these years...we've all come a long way personally & professionally since then. I'll always remember Jim - his appreciation for friends, family, and shared experiences. RIP my friend...Bruce Pipes

Bruce Pipes - January 08, 2021 at 05:48 PM

JA

*My Sympathies to the McVeigh Family,
My heart is heavy. I've had the pleasure of occupying an office in the same building as Jim's business. I've known him for most of my time in our lovely city. I started my business in 2004 and Jim subleased space to me. As all know starting a business takes a little money. Although only for a short period of time, this helped me tremendously when starting. Over the years we have shared many a laugh, many political discussions, several delicious dishes as Leslie, his Ofc Mgr. orchestrated pot-luck celebrations -end of (tax) season parties and Christmas, and even a few clients. Jim was dedicated to his practice and many a Saturday he would be here. Jim was a dedicated Father... his kids could always call on him and he was there...evidenced by them dropping by his office. Through tears I say, this space will never be the same.
You are missed!*

Julia Allen - January 12, 2021 at 06:09 PM

TG

I met Jim in June of 1969 in Yellowstone. I was 21 and Jim was 18. I had just started my summer job as dining room manager in the old Canyon Village dining room and Jim was a busboy. He was a shy, quiet 'kid' from Nebraska. He always had a ready smile. He seemed to get a kick out of my San Francisco way of doing things and we hit it off right away. As the summer progressed, our friendship grew. We enjoyed each others company at pow-wow and parties. When I returned to Canyon the following season, I promoted Jim to waiter. He and Kevin Mahoney and Jim White worked 'The Grill Room,' which was right near the hostess stand, where I hung out to observe what was going on and to make sure tables were turning. That second summer, I got a job for my then girlfriend, Cathy, in the coffee shop next door to the dining room. Jim's girlfriend at the time, Jan, worked in the coffee shop with Cathy, which made it convenient for us to double date. We made several trips to the Gusher in West Yellowstone for pizza and beer together, and took a trip to the Tetons for a couple of days. I'll never forget that trip. We took the chair lift to the top of Snow King, the tram car to the top of Rendezvous Peak, visited the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar, the Church of the Transfiguration, Teton Village, Jenny Lake and Jackson Lake Lodge, and Grand View Point. It was the first time I explored the Tetons and Jackson Hole. The wildflowers were in profusion, and the four of us were in heaven. It would wind up being one of my fondest memories of my savage years. I didn't return to Yellowstone the following summer because Cathy and I got married that January. But in 1972, Cathy and I took a break from hiking the John Muir Trail and drove up through Jackson Hole to Yellowstone. We wandered around Canyon Village, had dinner and retired to the Grill Room Lounge. And who should be sitting at a side table – Jim, dressed in his NPS uniform and surrounded by friends, with a pint of beer in front of him. (It always seems so strange to visit places like Canyon, where the population turns over every summer and within a few summers you don't recognize or know anyone anymore.) I didn't see or hear from Jim for about 30 years after that. I didn't know that he and Kevin were going to school at S.F. State and living in the City... When Kevin contacted me out of the blue in 2005 and said he and I and Jim should get together, I was surprised to learn that Jim was living across the Bay in Benicia. We met at a burrito joint at 20th and Valencia and it was sooo good seeing the two of them again. I told Jim I needed a CPA to do my taxes and that ensured that we would see each other and keep in touch at least a couple of times a year. We were able to get together for a few hikes out at Point Reyes National Seashore. On one, we hiked our asses off and we both staggered back to the car. On the ride back to Petaluma, I talked Jim into getting a foot reflexology massage with me. We were both lying face down on the table, getting our calves massaged, eyes closed, asleep. I opened one eye to see how Jim was doing. He lifted one eye at the same time and his pupil was rolling around in its socket liked an eight ball searching for a corner pocket. Yes, Jim, I remember you and the good times we shared and it brings a smile to my face.. You are missed, my friend! – Tom Graham 

Tom Graham - January 16, 2021 at 06:15 PM

TG

My condolences to the McVeigh Family. The loss of Jim is deeply felt by all of his friends.

Tom Graham - January 16, 2021 at 06:34 PM