



James Louis Lathrop

May 14, 1935 - August 29, 2017

On August 29, 2017 James Louis Lathrop, 82, a forty-eight year resident of Brea, CA passed away peacefully. His last day was spent enjoying the company of his wife and friends.

He was born May 14, 1935 in Sioux Falls, SD and grew up in Reading, MN. He attended the University of Minnesota before enlisting in the US Army in 1957. He was a Special Forces radio operator where he served in Ethiopia, and attained the rank of Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1959, but was recalled in 1961 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

He married the former Nancy Marie Berres on October 7, 1961 in Racine, WI and together they moved to Southern California in 1962 to raise their family. The arc of his career was a tapestry of the American Dream. He began as a young man working on a family farm, served his country overseas, took part in the Apollo Mission as a technician at North American Aviation and became an entrepreneur and small business owner for 20 years before finishing his career at JC Penney. He retired at the age of 63.

He enjoyed every day of his retirement, and lived life to the fullest. His greatest joys were times spent with his wife, children, grandchildren and many friends. He enjoyed both salt and freshwater fishing and fished from Alaska to Costa Rica, and from California to Minnesota. An avid reader, coin collector

and woodworker, he also enjoyed traveling, studying history, playing cards and having long conversations over coffee.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Eldena Highfill (née Lathrop, née Dirks) and his brother Ken Lathrop. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, his brother Geno Lathrop of Kirkwood, MO, his stepbrother Ray Highfill (Pat) of Placentia, CA; his three children, Steven (Linda) Lathrop of Dove Canyon, CA, Kevin (Trina) Lathrop of Sandy, UT and Sandra Lathrop-Tweedt (Erik) of North Tustin, CA as well as seven grandchildren: Michael Lathrop, Christine Lathrop, David Lathrop, Jonathan Lathrop, Jessica Lathrop, Isobel Tweedt, and Abigail Tweedt; nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

His family and friends will be celebrating his life on September 9th at Memory Garden, 455 West Central Ave, Brea, CA at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/CHOC/KevinLathrop>

Tribute Wall

BK

“ our McDonald's family will dearly miss Jim. he always brought a calm, peaceful and fun spirit whenever he came for his cup of coffee. what a great and loving human being we lost. I will especially miss his beautiful smile while shaking my hand for a good morning greeting.

Brice Kemle - September 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ We will always cherish the friendship we have had and all the memories we shared over the last thirty years. The most fantastic trips we have taken together, with great fishing and adventures. All the delicious meals that we have shared at our cabins such camaraderie with hours of fun and laughs are all treasures to us. You are loved and will be greatly missed.

Sal and Margo Longo - September 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Thinking of all the wonderful times, trips and cruises we had together. Thank you for being such a big part of our family and lives. We all will miss you terribly.

Raymond Highfill - September 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dearest Nancy, The friendship of you and Jim has been so special to me. I'll always remember the wonderful times that I have spent in your home; playing cards, eating your delicious dinners and most of all the wonderful friendship of you and Jim. I will miss him terribly, but you and I will stay in touch.

Betty Fernandez - September 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ *Uncle Jim, We are going to miss you. Say hi to all the relatives and we will meet again. Aunt Nancy, Steve, Sandy and Kevin, Cherish the memories and Uncle Jim will live forever! Thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Love Ande and family*

Andrea Berres-Robers - August 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM