



James (Jim) Brian Atkinson

November 18, 1965 - March 23, 2021

James (Jim) Brian Atkinson met our beautiful creator on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. He passed away peacefully in his home in Tallahassee, Florida, exactly where he wished to spend his final days.

Jim was born on November 18, 1965 to James (Big Jim) and Marcia Atkinson. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, but spent the majority of his childhood and young adulthood in Melbourne Beach, Florida. Although taken from this earth far too soon, Jim made the absolute most of the 55 years he was given.

Jimmy, as he was called in his childhood, spent many days surfing with his buddies. As an adult visiting his hometown, he would proudly point out his old look-out spot where he used to gauge the surf. Depending on the size of the waves, Jimmy would decide if he would continue on to school or play hooky for the day. Priorities, right?

After graduating from Mel High, Jim attended the University of Central Florida where he received his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Jim and his wife Karen both taught at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School for a number of years before Jim changed career paths and began his 26-year journey working for State Farm.

August 5, 1989, Jim married his wife, Karen, and began the sweetest

adventure of 31 years.

Jim and Karen raised two daughters, Alyssa and Sarah. In his final days, the girls were sitting together by his side. He woke up briefly and Sarah said, "Hi papa, it's Alyssa and Sarah sitting with you." Jim's response before falling back asleep was, "sisters... sisters... beautiful sisters." This moment was such a reflection of how fiercely he loved his family. Jim raised his daughters with the phrase, "family comes first" and lived in a way that proved he meant it. Jim was endlessly proud of his daughters and "his queen."

The most important things in life to Jim were not things (other than his flip flops and guitars). He treasured his family and friends, and he found so much joy in the simple moments of life. Having grown up on the beach, Jim was in his happy place anywhere on the water. He was always in awe of the sunrise and sunset and took photos of them any chance he had. Some of Jim's most joyous days were spent playing corn hole on the beach, boating in the sunshine, kayaking, paddle boarding, or fishing. In his most recent years, his backyard pool became his little piece of paradise, fondly referred to as "Jim's Margaritaville."

Jim's other love was music. One day, he and a friend decided they were going to learn guitar. Little did he know at that time what a huge part of his life music would become. Over the years, Jim learned to play not only the guitar, but also the drums and bass. His girls became musicians too, and they spent years playing bluegrass together in a family band originally named, "Pigtails and Pop." Jim also dedicated many years playing in the worship band at Deer Lake United Methodist Church. After receiving his diagnosis, Jim mustered the strength to play guitar at church one last time, giving his family and friends a memory that will stick with them forever.

One of Jim's most special attributes was the way he loved others so genuinely

and selflessly. There was no better team than Jim and Karen when it came to welcoming others into their home and making them feel deeply cared for. A common prayer in marriage is that a couple will glorify the Lord better by being together than on their own. Jim and Karen's marriage exemplified this perfectly. They welcomed hundreds of kids from youth group into their home over the years, as well as took on many "extra sons." Jim welcomed his sons-in-law into the family and loved them as if they had always been a part of it. Countless other young men also looked up to Jim as a true father figure and as an example of how they strive to raise their own families.

Soon after receiving his diagnosis, Jim's friends and family organized a celebration of life party for him. A friend asked him that day if he had any big bucket list wishes, expecting his answer to be an exotic vacation or some opportunity of a lifetime. Instead, Jim's response was, "This is it, right here." To be surrounded by those that he loved so deeply is all that Jim desired.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother and father, and we pray that he is having the time of his life in heaven with them now. He is survived by his wife, Karen, his daughters Alyssa and Sarah, beloved sons-in-law Matt and Cody, soon-to-be grandbaby Ellie Mae, siblings Sandra and Sharon, as well as countless nieces, nephews, and friends.

Jim's loved ones were asked to provide singular words that described him. The best response was, "Oh, I have so many words for Jimbo!" Others included: genuine, devoted, selfless, giving, easy going, charismatic, hard-working, nurturer, Christ-like, gentle, kind, caring, goofy, intentional, comforting, selfless, mentor, loving, joyful, patient, faithful, strong, humble leader, pure-hearted, and beautiful soul. He sure did life right, didn't he?

At his celebration of life party, Jim was told, "There's not a person here that

doesn't think you're one of the nicest and the best people that they know." That statement holds so true. Those who were fortunate enough to know and live life alongside Jim experienced the greatest blessing. The impact that he made on this Earth is immeasurable, and his legacy will continue to bless many lives for years to come.

Jim's memorial service will be held at Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee on Friday, March 26th at 4:00 pm. The service will also be live-streamed via his Bevis webpage: www.bevisfh.com/obituaries/James-Atkinson-16/#!/PhotosVideos

To watch, click the thumbnail titled "Webcasting Video" at the service's scheduled time.

The theme for Jim's service is "Life is good. Heaven is the best." Jim was an avid wearer of Life is Good t-shirts, and these shirts so perfectly represent the joy he took in the simple things in life. At his service, Jim's family asks that you please honor him by wearing a Life is Good t-shirt. His family has purchased many shirts and will pass them out in advance, as well as have some shirts available upon arrival at Bevis.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Pura Vida Missions, Costa Rica. <https://puravidamissions.com/>

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR **26**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson*



Bevis Funeral Home - March 27, 2021 at 10:01 AM



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson*



Bevis Funeral Home - March 23, 2021 at 02:38 PM

JK

Melbourne Beach friends send love and support to everyone.

Joanna Kaevats - March 26, 2021 at 04:29 PM

KG

Thank you for sharing.

Kristy Gates - March 26, 2021 at 05:10 PM

Jl

Beautiful service!!!!

Jill - March 26, 2021 at 05:12 PM

KL

Sending you love today! What a wonderful tribute to an amazing man!

Kathryn Linski - March 26, 2021 at 05:13 PM

JT

Jim and I worked together for the short while we were both working for State Farm in Atlanta. I'm so sorry that I did not know he had an illness. I will miss him very much. Condolences to his wife, daughters and other family members. He was such a good person and will surely be missed. James Taylor

James Taylor - March 27, 2021 at 12:07 AM

PW

Beautiful service. Prayers for the days ahead.

Pam Webb - March 27, 2021 at 09:15 AM



“ *Tina Holobaugh lit a candle in memory of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson*



Tina Holobaugh - June 01, 2021 at 10:08 AM

CC

“ *Karen and Jim were one of the first people we met when Matt and I moved to Palm Bay and I started working at MCAuliffe. They invited us over for game nights, welcomed us and made us feel at home. There was always laughter and fun! Such a sweet and beautiful couple. I'm so sorry to hear about Jim's passing but I know he is resting in the arms of Jesus. Prayers and love for all!*

Coral Carrick - March 31, 2021 at 12:15 AM



“ To share Jimmy's last birthday with Sandra and friends at Lou's Blues was a wonderful experience. He had such a good time. He was so enthusiastic and sincere about meeting me. He made me feel very special. Such energy will not be lost in heaven.

David Miller - March 28, 2021 at 11:33 AM

BK

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Bruce Kirby - March 27, 2021 at 09:54 AM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joanna Kaevats - March 26, 2021 at 04:00 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 26, 2021 at 11:15 AM

TB

“ *My condolences to the family! Jim was a truly wonderful man!*



Traci B. - March 25, 2021 at 11:23 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.*



March 25, 2021 at 06:23 PM

SJ

“ *I remember when Jim and Karen would host Euchre game nights at their home in Palm Bay, Florida! The same group of "younger teachers" would gather at their house, lay down the ground rules, set the children up with an indoor playground, eat Karen's "ever famous" chocolate chip cookies, and get down right competitive! Good times and Great friends! We love you Jim!*

*Love,
Van and Stacey Jackson*

Stacey Jackson - March 25, 2021 at 06:00 PM

SJ

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Stacey Jackson - March 25, 2021 at 05:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 25, 2021 at 05:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 25, 2021 at 02:15 PM

JR

“ *Karen, I am so sorry for your loss! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. God be with you all in this very difficult time.*

Janet Roddenberry - March 25, 2021 at 01:40 PM

AS

“ Sweet memories of Jim's time on earth will live in your hearts forever and bring more smiles than sadness as time passes. May he rest in peace.

Ann Shahawy - March 25, 2021 at 12:48 PM

RT

“ As a coworker I know I speak on behalf of our entire team in saying I don't think Jim really knew just how much he helped each one of us. His acquired knowledge over the years made him our "go to guy" for everything. How to fix computer issues, how to handle work procedures, administrative issues, whatever.....we would all want to know what he thought about everything. He was always there for us. We would like to repay that kindness in telling Jim's family that we are here for you. If you need anything please let us know. Praying for your peace and strength through this time and that your memories of Jim will be forever joyful.

Rose Thomas - March 25, 2021 at 10:29 AM

YT

“ Your State Farm Team purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



Your State Farm Team - March 25, 2021 at 09:23 AM

MC

“ We may not see you physically anymore, Jim. But we know you will always be walking aside us, laughing and making sure everything is okay.

Jim is a wonderful person and soul. We had so much fun and laughter when he and his Wife, Karen, came to visit us at our cabin in Ellijay, GA. He will always be at our table enjoying good food and good times. We will miss him physically, but we know he will always be here, in memory and in spirt.

Then there was the time my Husband, Al and I, were invited to their home in Georgia. We sat back and marvelled at the way he interacted with his wife and children. There was no question - his pure love came shining through. That is just the person he was.

My Husband had a wonderful relationship with him, and could say he rose highest on his group of friends. He and Jim spoke often on the phone before he passed, and Jim reassured us he would be ready, as he was in the hands of God. My husband was always so excited to hear his voice.

We were so honored to enjoy such great and loving moments with our dear friend. Thank you, God, for graciously placing Jim in our lives.

Luke 20:36

For they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

See ya later, Jim. We love you!!

Martha Cash - March 25, 2021 at 08:30 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 24, 2021 at 11:32 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 24, 2021 at 10:07 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 24, 2021 at 09:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.



March 24, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James (Jim) Brian Atkinson.*



March 24, 2021 at 06:11 PM



“ *We went Jimmy and Karen to have lunch with them. Love that couple. I'm sure his dad was happy to see him in Heaven.*

Rose Atkinson - March 24, 2021 at 04:10 PM