



James "Jim" Andrew Brekke

JAN 4, 1944 - JAN 11, 2022



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James "Jim" Andrew Brekke

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On January 11, 2022, James Andrew Brekke, loving husband and father, passed away at the age of 78, in his home surrounded by family; he will be missed. James, or Jim, was born on January 4, 1944, in Tamarack, Minnesota, to Oscar and Lydia (Franklin) Brekke. He and his wife were married for 47 years and throughout those years, they made many of their dreams come true. Other than the pride Jim felt for his sons, Jeffrey and Michael, and the love for his wife, Susan, one of Jim's greatest accomplishments was becoming a pilot. Jim's fascination with flight began when he was a boy, and in 2004 he retired as a Captain for Delta airlines.

Jim was known for his subtle kindness and generosity; maybe that is because he knew what it was like to have so little. Born in a small farmhouse in the woods, he lost his parents in his adolescence, and was raised by his siblings, Dr. Grace Guemple, Vickie Struve, and his brothers Bob, Captain Carl, and Delbert Brekke. During these formative years, he became adaptable and resourceful. Jim was a skilled huntsman and an expert on all things outdoors. His love of nature took him all over the country, Alaska being one of his favorite spots. Jim honorably served in the United States Army as a military police officer and center snapper for the football team. Beyond his affinity for aviation, he had a passion for economics and real estate. One of his favorite sayings was "Leave a little on the table for the next guy."

The family is forever in debt to his neighbors, family, and friends for all of their help in recent years. We could not have done it without you. Although Jim died of complications from Parkinson's, and his last years were filled with trials due to the disease, his family chooses to remember how hard he fought to stay himself; they will remember him as an inspiration.

Jim has chosen to be cremated and the Brekke family will hold two celebrations of life in his honor in the year of 2022; one in Salt Lake City, Utah where he and his wife currently reside, and one in Minnesota, his home state. Jim is survived by his wife Susan, his two sons Jeffrey and



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Michael, and their wives Vanessa and Samantha. Jim was an example of the fact that it is never too late to make your dreams come true.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that you respect Jim's spirit of "Leaving a little on the table for the next guy" and pay it forward in the kindness of your own heart.



Tribute Wall

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MB

Michelle Barber posted:

Dear Susan and family, I didn't know Jim well, but flew with him many times. He was always professional and courteous. May God bless you and comfort you all. Michelle A BarberDAL FA retired

January 31 at 5:21 AM

JM

Joan Mills posted:

Dear Sue, Jeff and Michael, So sorry to hear about Jim. He was always such a nice, friendly guy! Thinking of all of you. Joan and Dennis Mills

January 23 at 7:40 AM

CC

Cheri Cawley posted:

Sue, Jeff and Michael-my heart goes out to you. Today I was watching old VHS movies (from 1987) when we were building our house in Buckley WA. Your Jim was part of the building gang, Jeff and Michael were playing in the dirt piles with our boys, Clint and Curt, and Sue and I were talking and laughing.... such sweet memories. Jim had the kindest heart, the best laugh and the biggest smile. After the movie ended, I googled his name and couldn't believe what I was reading. Even though we haven't seen each other in many years, all of you hold a special place in my heart. Praying over all of you. Our Jim's are soaring in heaven and one day we will all be reunited!

January 20 at 5:20 PM

SB

Susan Brekke posted:

Hi Sweetheart for 5 years I saw you as my best friend. Until at some point I started seeing you as my life partner. For 47 years of married life, we dreamed and worked to make our dreams come true. Life brought us a world of adventures and wonderful caring friends. I thank you, and honor you for sharing your life with me. We had such fun with our boys as they grew up, a true Blessing from God. We talked often how so very proud we are of them as they have developed into wonderful men. We were able to Celebrate their adulthood, marriages and career success. In My Heart And Dreams Forever. Lovingly Sue

January 19 at 5:37 AM



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RM

Roger Murphy posted:

Our deepest condolences to Jim's family & friends. I was one of Jim's poker "buddies" and enjoyed our Wednesday night gatherings. Jim will be missed but not forgotten. Regards, Roger and Beth Murphy

January 18 at 6:48 AM

SA

Sam Anderson shared an album called **Memories Album**.



January 18 at 4:42 AM

AB

Anne Benson posted:

I remember Sur and Jim's wedding day so being sunny and warm and love was freely flowing in Sues parents backyard where they were married. I was in high school but I could see the deep love they had for each other. A very joyous day!!! When you were talking with Jim you were the only one in the room. A great listener and you had his full attention. He had the best laugh I ever heard and he laughed often. I'm so glad you had such a great guy to be married to Sue and Mike and Jeff had a great dad!!!

January 16 at 12:18 PM

BP

Barbara Peterson posted:

I will all ways have great memories of Jim. All the trips and cruises we took together. We all ways had so much fun. My Jim and Brekke were such good friends. Now they are together again. I will miss him. Love to you all. Barb Peterson

January 16 at 11:16 AM



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JS

Jeff Struve posted:

When I was a teenager Jim took me up in the Cessna he kept at Flying Cloud airport in Shakopee or some where near. I had only been on commercial planes so I was already rattled when I got in this little plane We took off, climbed up pretty high then Jim says "Wanna try stalling it?" I didn't have a clue what that meant but this was Jim Brekke asking so I said "Sure". So he stalls it, we start dropping. I'm trying to stay cool but Jim, though attentive, was pretty nonchalant. We drifted down, he kicked it back in and my personal crisis was over but that was an experience I would never have if not for Jim Brekke. I will always remember it. Jeff Struve - nephew

January 16 at 10:35 AM



Anonymous sent a sympathy card to the Brekke family.



January 16 at 9:47 AM

SA

Sam Anderson posted:

My deepest condolences to Jim's family & friends, he well be missed by all but not forgotten. I can remember all the things we got into, bike rides out to Round Lake, peeling Poplar, Cutting up poplar, Ice fishing, Hunting playing BB especially beating Hermantown for the Polar league championship (First for McGregor). So many great memories. Thanks Sam

January 16 at 6:51 AM

DC

Dale And Julie Croonquist posted:

We remember Jim from so many years ago . . . always so kind, so generous and loving. Both of us will miss him so very much. Good bless him.

January 16 at 4:37 AM

KH

Ken And Gloria Hank posted:

Our heart breaks hearing the news of Jim's passing. He was always a true gentleman and carried a special touch. God bless Sue and her family. Our prayers are with you. Love, Ken and Gloria

January 16 at 12:08 AM



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GS

Gerry Satterlee posted:

I was one of Jim's poker pals. "Mr. Omaha High Low" was a good friend, with plenty of stories to share of pilot life and Minnesota life. We'll miss him, and wish Sue all the best. Gerry and Beth Satterlee

January 15 at 5:41 PM

JF

Jim Fox posted:

I got to meet Jim through his nephew Randy who is married to my daughter Bri. I was blessed to have crossed paths with Jim a few times up in the Tamarack area, where he was "in his element." He impressed me with his love of his family, his kindness and his fine character. I'm saddened by his passing and will pray for God's comfort for all who knew and loved him.

January 15 at 4:27 PM

MB

Michelle Barber posted:

Dear Brekke family, I am so sorry for your loss. I flew with Jim a few times out of SLC. He was always friendly and upbeat. May God bless and comfort you at this sad time. Michelle Barber Retired DAL flight attendant

January 15 at 2:06 PM



Media

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Sam Anderson shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

January 18 at 4:42 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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