



Jimmy Mario Clark

September 13, 1950 - September 13, 2016

Jim Clark died peacefully at home with his family present on September 13, 2016.

In November of 1945, after serving in the Pacific and occupying Japan, Jim's father, Elbert Clark reenlisted in the Army. After returning to spend a year in the USA, in January 1947 he was then assigned to the US troops who, along with British forces, occupied the city of Trieste. This city and the surrounding region had just been established as an independent territory by the UN Security Council due to extreme tensions between Italy and communist Yugoslavia. It was one of the first "hot spots" along the new Iron Curtain.

While in Trieste, Elbert Clark met and married Liliana Rosa Molinaro, Jim's mother, who had been born and raised in Trieste. Jimmy Mario Clark was born there on September 13, 1950. In March of 1952 the family left Genoa, Italy by ship, arriving in New York City on March 27.

For the next decade Jim's life was very mobile, as would be expected for an Army brat. From December 1952 to November 1955 he lived in Panama; there his brother Larry was born on January 31, 1954. Afterwards, the family moved frequently from one stateside Army base to another, particularly in Missouri and Louisiana where Jim's father's family had lived for generations before. During this time Jim remembered moving at least yearly, once three times during a school year.

This nomadic life ended in 1963 when Jim's father retired from the Army and his family settled in Southwest Louisiana. There Jim attended Junior High School, High School, and college, eventually earning a degree in Civil Engineering in May 1972. On June 17, 1972 he married Deborah Louise Burk whom he had known since Junior High and dated during High School.

In 1972 the newly married couple moved to Killeen, Texas where Jim worked for the Corps of Engineers. While there, their daughter Amy Elizabeth Clark was born on December 4, 1974. The new family then moved to Alaska when Jim transferred to the Alaska District of

the Corps of Engineers in May 1975. It was during this time, on January 4, 1978, that Deborah gave birth to their son Brian James Clark. About five years later Jim left the public sector to work as Senior Engineer for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the company that built and operated the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. For some time Deborah and Jim had wanted to live a rural, country lifestyle. After several years of searching, in 1984 this wish led to the purchase of rural property and a home west of Shedd.

Still living in Alaska, Jim was soon offered the position of Engineering Manager for the City of Corvallis. After accepting and moving, the family arrived at their rural home in October 1985. From there Deborah pursued her advanced education (ultimately earning her PhD), Amy graduated from OSU, and Brian from U of O. Here Jim would live for the remainder of his life.

From 1990 until December 2002 Jim worked as City Engineer for the City of Lebanon. In 2003 he, along with a former work associate, started their own business – GeoSolve Inc. – providing specialized geographic information systems (GIS) services. Considering this the most rewarding part of his career, Jim worked for his business until illness made it impossible.

During his life Jim engaged in many interests: ham radio, fishing, hunting, woodworking, playing guitar, genealogy, cycling, motorcycling, the many facets of being a “gentleman farmer”, to name just a few.

After struggling with ALS for several years, Jim died on his birthday, September 2016. He leaves his wife Deborah, daughter Amy Wald and son-in-law Aaron Wald of Seattle, son Brian and daughter-in-law Liz of Portland, and granddaughters Lilliana Wald, Wren Wald, and Vivian Wald.

Memorial contributions may be given to the ALS Association, Oregon Chapter (www.alsa-or.org).

Comments



“ Chip Ullstad is following this tribute.

Chip Ullstad - September 22, 2016 at 04:35 PM



“ My wife Raylene and I just returned from Cycle Oregon 2016 and heard the sad news of Jim's death. Jim was my inspiration to start bike riding. He took on the task of training a small group of friends for Cycle Oregon 2000 and I was fortunate to be part of that group. With great patience Jim would calmly tell us how to be safe and what not to do. On one training ride I sat on my bike helmet while resting after a long uphill. He shared with me the importance of my new chair to the ability of keeping the shape of my head in tack. That chair was always on top of my head after that lesson. One of many lessons he shared while enjoying our time riding together. This year was my wife's first Cycle Oregon and we had many conversations about how Jim started the tradition for many new riders.

Rod Sell - September 20, 2016 at 12:40 PM



“ With sadness, but very fond memories, I learned of the passing of my friend, Jimmy. I remember the first time I met him, right after they moved to Louisiana from Missouri. He ultimately introduced me to Scouting, and we made many memories on camping trips and scout camp, for several years.

We double dated and carpooled some to college. I remember in those days, you could tell an engineering student by the slide rule on top of their books under their arms... way before backpacks were cool. His was the very first digital calculator I ever saw, awesome with perhaps four functions plus square root. House current only, and the size of a 9 by 9 baking dish. :) .

We were best men for our weddings. Jim and Deborah were going camping on their honeymoon, so I gave them a Coleman cook stove with two burners, and a Coleman lantern. They gave me a set of Craftsman tools, some of which I still have.

Just the other day, as perhaps an intuition, I opened a box of keepsakes, and found my high school and college notebook of memories. There were Jim and Deborah's photos, their wedding article, and his dear mother's obituary. Just last week. I wonder if it was his birthday....

My thoughts and prayers are with you all, Deborah, Amy and Brian...

See you at the campfire, Jim.

David Cary.

David Cary - September 18, 2016 at 09:26 PM



“ Deborah, Amy, and Brian,
So sorry for your loss. Larry and I remember Jim as a good neighbor, great dad, and a sweet quiet man....praying for you .
Leona Crawford

leona crawford - September 18, 2016 at 03:52 PM



“ My favorite memory of Jim: Shirley, Jim, Ed and I were in a Managers meeting. The meetings were usually very serious discussions about business. I do not recall how the subject came up but Shirley asked me if I knew who the comedian Ron White was. In my best southern accent I replied: They call me Tater Salad! I had never seen Jim laugh so hard before. Jim was a good man and was always very kind to me. I always appreciated that about him.

Vicki Desrosiers - September 15, 2016 at 09:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shirley - September 15, 2016 at 07:53 AM



“ Such a wonderful man. I'll always remember him. He loved my dog Banjo.

Marita-

Marita Haddan - September 17, 2016 at 05:37 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I had the privilege of working with him when he was at the City of Lebanon and I was the City Attorney. Always kind and soft spoken with that slight Louisiana accent, I could always count on Jim for sound analysis, helpfulness and willingness to find a better way to get things done. The City of Lebanon was at a loss when Jim moved on; and the greater community has lost a very nice, smart and caring person.

Thomas McHill

Thomas McHill - September 18, 2016 at 03:25 PM



“ I'm so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. I had the good fortune to work for Jim when he was with the City of Corvallis. Overtime as we left Corvallis I got to meet with Jim when he was with the City of Lebanon.

Jim was truly a kind hearted guy who always had your back. He had a great, dry wit, that put things into perspective. I remember some of his funny stories from working in Alaska and with the Corps of Engineers.

A great person and a good friend - he will be very much missed.

Chip - September 21, 2016 at 10:53 AM



“ I really enjoyed working with Jim at the City of Lebanon. He was the first person to give me opportunities for more responsibility and I owe him a lot for that valuable experience. More importantly, I will always remember that you could count on Jim for support, wise words of advice, and, of course, a large side of dry wit.

When Jim left the City, he gave me a framed copy of the 6 Phases of a Project:

- 1) Enthusiasm
- 2) Disillusionment
- 3) Panic
- 4) Search for the Guilty
- 5) Punishment of the Innocent
- 6) Praise and Honors for the Non-Participants

It hangs in my office today and I'm always amused at how well it fits in so many situations.

Jim was a quiet leader who always modeled integrity, kindness, and friendship. May he rest in peace.

Allen Dannen - September 21, 2016 at 09:15 PM



“ Jim was a truly unique human being, with so many great qualities. I worked with him at the City of Lebanon and was so grateful for his good advice and his patience when we worked together to solve a problem--usually having to do with personnel or budget, but sometimes other things as well. I was greatly honored when he and Shirley came to me for advice when they decided to open their business. I was so happy for their success, which was richly deserved. Please accept my condolences. Judy Hill

Judith Hill - October 28, 2016 at 05:34 PM



“ My dog Banjo loved Jim as did I. He was such an amazing, brilliant man. I'm so sorry he is no longer with us. Salute!

Marita - July 22, 2020 at 07:22 PM