



James George O'Keefe

February 4, 1950 - February 5, 2019

James O'Keefe

All Services will be held at a later date.

Survivors include his wife Phyllis O'Keefe of Elk Horn, IA; son James J. O'Keefe of Portland, OR; stepson Howard Kurtz of Manassas, VA; stepdaughter Jennifer Kurtz of Houston, TX; mother Pauline O'Keefe of Huntley, WY; sister Barbara (Joe) Straining of Paradise Valley, AZ

Comments



“ My sincerest and heartfelt sympathies for losing Jim. Loved the guy. Jim was my shipmate and brother on the Charles Berry, our first duty station in US Navy. We were spec ops ship and went everywhere--not the least of which a lot of days underway in Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam for extended periods as well as such interesting places (all over Wespac) including the garden spot of Midway Island. Can't imagine getting through that tour without Jim. He was brilliant, unique, opinionated, thoughtful, "all the way live", and a damn good officer! AND he was in my wedding party back in 1975. I truly am heart sick to hear of his passing. I regret finding out about his passing so late and mostly regret I did not know what he was going through medically. I might have provided some comfort to him by reflecting on those Pineapple fleet days and sharing stories that no one would believe--except for us. Fair winds and following seas my friend. John Traughber, LT, USN, jrt1cpr@yahoo.com I would like very much to reach out to Mrs. OKeefe and family or they can reach out to me--whatever is best--if ok.

John Traughber - March 17 at 08:35 PM



“ It has taken me 8 months to be able to post here. Fondest memory? Cruising downtown Honolulu in a convertible listening to Handel's "Water Music" on the way to the Naval Sub Museum or doing incredibly intricate mazes and puzzles he would put together by hand. Endless phone conversations about all topics. Exposure to the best of life from an early age, and unwavering support through 35 years of my life.

James Joseph O'Keefe, son

James O'Keefe - October 10, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Jim was an amazing mentor when i met him in Pensacola, FL as an Instructor of mine. He steered me to fly SH-3s and got me in as a Plank-owner for my first fleet tour in HS-14. His "work hard, play hard" mentality stuck with me throughout life. You will be missed!

Mike Dunn c/s Lumpy

MIKE DUNN - March 13, 2019 at 01:15 AM



“ Remembering Jim driving around southern California in his "O'Keefe's Rendering Services" panel van will always bring a smile to my face - He was also a good friend to talk with when I was stationed in Luzon.

God's Peace to your family at this time of loss.

Moose Getzlaff Navy '72.

Darryll Getzlaff - February 13, 2019 at 02:16 PM



“ One of the best (and funniest) guys in our class. A conversation with Jim always made a tough day much brighter. Good man and great shipmate. Mark Pistochini, USNA 72

Mark Pistochini - February 08, 2019 at 02:59 PM



“ I remember Jim from a 1968 trip to the Fitz army hospital in Denver for our pre-entry physicals. I was in from Utah, Jim from Wyoming if I remember correctly. And at least one June Week Jim was renting one of the cottages next to ours. A good man.

Al Grube 33rd Co - February 08, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ I remember Jim quite clearly from our Naval Academy days; always lots of fun. We talked at a 1972 USNA reunion a few years ago and spoke on the phone several months back. Truly a great guy.

Tom Keithly - February 08, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ I was Jim's roommate our first summer at the Naval Academy. He'll always be like a brother to me. I'm sad that we won't have any more conversations. Jim was a great talker. I'll miss you, Jim.

Tom Powers - February 08, 2019 at 08:49 AM



“ Rest in peace, Jim! We will never forget the way the you fought this SOB!
Your classmate, Bob Baczenas

Bob Baczenas - February 08, 2019 at 08:31 AM