



James Ross Kinnaird

December 5, 1951 - January 11, 2024

James Ross Kinnaird passed away on January 11, 2024 at home in Eaton Rapids, MI following a long battle with cancer and heart disease. Jim was born on December 5, 1951, in Danville, KY to Mildred Martin McCain Kinnaird and Barrington West Kinnaird. He grew up in Waynesboro, VA. As a teenager, he attended Darlington School in Rome, GA where his grandfather, James Ross McCain, served as the founding headmaster from 1905 to 1915. Jim, who bore his grandfather's name, strove always to honor his grandfather - a man who loved education, the Lord, and service.

Jim earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Emory and Henry College and his master's degree in labor relations from Michigan State University. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1976 where he served as a paymaster and in the supply corps. Following separation from the Navy, he continued to work in the Naval Reserves, retiring after 20 years with the rank of Commander.

Jim was employed as a Personnel Analyst for the City of Lansing in the Human Resources Department. Living on the Grand River at the time, and his office being situated near the river, Jim took pleasure in occasionally paddling a canoe to work where he would casually enter the workplace with a dripping paddle over his shoulder.

Jim loved travel. He visited 27 different countries and was excited about each one. A planned trip to Greece and Crete was canceled due to his final illness, but he undoubtedly made a quick detour there before heading to his Heavenly

destination. He trekked the Camino de Santiago - the oldest pilgrimage route across Europe to Santiago de Compostela in Spain - three times.

Jim served others quietly and unobtrusively. He participated in building the first two Habitat for Humanity homes in the Lansing area. He was a 5-gallon blood donor to the American Red Cross and volunteered with them as a responder for national emergencies. He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 701 and served on their color guard recognizing and honoring military veterans who had passed on.

Jim joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while in the US Navy. He was taught the gospel by shipmates on the USS Eisenhower where the roar of launching and returning aircraft on the flight deck often interrupted Sunday services. He had a deep faith in his Savior Jesus Christ and served faithfully in different Church responsibilities. He married his sweetheart Lisa for time and eternity in the Washington, DC temple of the Church and they enjoyed 41 years of married life on Earth together.

Jim will be dearly missed by his wife Elisabeth (Lisa) Gottlieb-Kinnaird, his siblings Barrington (Barry) West Kinnaird, Jr. (Jude), Mary Scott Kinnaird Miller (Bob) and Elizabeth (Bett) Isabel Kinnaird Verbeek (Tony), nephews and nieces, special cousin Marvine Howe and special friend Eric Moore.

A memorial service is planned for later in the year. Jim will be buried in Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. If you wish to honor Jim, please consider a donation to the Volunteers of America or the American Pilgrims on the Camino. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ To Lisa and Jim's family. You do not know me. My name is Craig McCrary. I was born and continue to live in Douglas, Ga. Jim and I were classmates at Darlington School in Rome Ga. We graduated in 1970. I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was probably my best friend at Darlington. We spent many days around each other laughing and enjoying life. He was a kind, caring and great friend ! When I married in 1974 in Douglas, Jim surprised me by driving down from Virginia to be at the wedding. What a guy ! I guess we both got busy with life and did not stay in contact. I had often wondered where Jim was and how he was doing. I even searched Facebook hoping I could find him. Seeing all of the fine tributes written about Jim does not surprise me. It is obvious that he lived a full and productive life. I regret not being able to see him again to tell him how much our friendship meant to me. May The Lord comfort you.

Craig McCrary - February 16, 2024 at 09:40 AM

PA

“ Lisa:
My deepest sympathy to you and Jim's family regarding his passing. Jim was a wonderful giving man who put others above himself in his personal, work, and church life. The time he spent with his volunteer work with military families at the American Red Cross is a shining example of that. May God wrap his arms around all of you during the difficult time.



Paul Arnold - January 28, 2024 at 12:22 PM

SM

“ Lisa: I am so sorry for your loss. It was truly a pleasure working with Jim at the City. May your cherished memories of Jim bring you comfort and may knowing that he is in God's loving embrace give you peace. ❤️



Suzanne Moore - January 26, 2024 at 02:26 PM

TR

“ Jim was a great teacher to me when I joined him and others doing Service to the Armed Forces at the Red Cross. Once I returned from deployment, Jim asked if I wanted to do more with the Red Cross. He was a great guy. God bless him. I am still doing it today, thanks to him . Tom Robinson

Thomas Robinson - January 13, 2024 at 02:06 PM