



# James William Marsh

MAY 31, 2016



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## **James William Marsh**

MAY 31, 2016

**J**ames William Marsh of Cornelius, NC passed away on May 28, 2016 at the age of 68 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Jim was born on October 18, 1947 to the late James and Margaret “Peg” (Donoghue) Marsh and grew up in Springfield, MA.

Jim married the love of his life and best friend Irene Duff on August 29, 1970 in Springfield.

Jim had an impressive 35-year career in sales and marketing, starting out as a salesperson for R.J. Reynolds, eventually being named senior vice president of their beverage division. His various leadership roles at the company took him from Boston, MA to Atlanta, GA; Winston-Salem, NC; Houston, TX; Paoli, PA; and Avon, CT. In 1986, he moved to Lancaster, PA and went to work for Hamilton Watch where he rose to become President and Chief Executive Officer. After 10 years in Lancaster, he moved to Cornelius, NC where he was the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Tharpe Company in Statesville, NC. In 2005, Jim started Marsh Business Solutions, a consulting firm focused on sales, marketing and strategic planning. He served on the boards of several companies including Aquesta Bank, Dri-Mark Products and Weaver Leather.

Jim loved to play and watch sports. As a father, Jim was an enthusiastic coach for his sons’ teams, from soccer to ice hockey. In his later years, Jim was an avid golfer and was an active member at the Peninsula Club. He was also a huge Boston Red Sox fan.

Jim loved to cook, garden, boat on Lake Norman, play card games with family and friends and travel. He enjoyed visiting places all over the world, but one of his favorite spots was Hilton Head Island, where he spent time with his family.

A dear friend to so many, Jim was an incredibly social man, with a singular ability to engage with people; he never forgot a name or a face and always made people feel welcome and special. Jim had boundless energy and was passionate about everything that he did. Jim loved to laugh and



## Obituary

**James William Marsh**

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make others laugh with his deep collection of jokes and stories. He had an incredible memory for all kinds of trivia, and he loved music, especially the golden oldies.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Irene Marsh of Cornelius, NC; sons Christopher James Marsh (Elizabeth Curtis) of New York, NY and Ryan Francis Marsh (Amy Erb) of Charlotte, NC; four grandchildren: Ella Marsh, Rowan Marsh, Will Marsh, and Margaret Marsh; and sister Nora Lee Ashe of Chicopee, MA.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 4 in the chapel of James Funeral Home of Huntersville. Online condolences may be made at [www.jamesfuneralhomekn.com](http://www.jamesfuneralhomekn.com).

A reception will follow the memorial service at The Peninsula Club, 19101 Peninsula Club Dr, Cornelius, NC 28031.

The family would like to thank his physicians, Hospice nurses and the caring staff of the Levine & Dickson Hospice House. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148.



## Tribute Wall

James William Marsh

MS

**Mike And Pat Shaw** posted:

Irene...Pat and I just got the news about Jimmy... So sorry. We have so many fond memories of our time together in Atlanta and as it always turns out...we wait too long to contact our friends.We had no idea that you lived so close to us. Our older son Michael lives with his family in Huntersville and unbeknownst to us, we've been passing close by you for several years and weren't aware.You'll and your family will be in our prayers...Mike and Pat Shaw

August 1 at 11:29 AM

DA

**Darlene Ahmed** posted:

Dear Nora, My deepest condolences to you and the entire Marsh family. I did not know Jim but he sounded like a wonderful and loving brother, husband & father who had a zest for life and impacted the many lives he touched. There are no words, I'm sure, that will ease your the loss you feel except knowing his suffering has ended. My thoughts are with you at this difficult time.Darlene Ahmed

June 16 at 11:39 AM

PB

**Pam Biela** posted:

Dear Irene and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you today. Jim was the shining light of my childhood, and the memories of him will always be in my heart. Love, Pam

June 4 at 10:16 AM

MG

**Monika & Jerry Glenn** posted:

Dear Irene,We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing...he fought a hellva fight... Just like the Jim we all knew!!Jim was always the life of the party, gracious to everyone...and only threw his golf clubs on occasion! He will be in our thoughts and prayers as will you and your entire family. May God bless.Sincerely,Monika & Jerry

June 4 at 5:51 AM

DD

**Dotty And Bill Dodge** posted:

Dear Irene and family,Our deepest sympathy for a life lost too soon. What a wonderful man lost to Earth,but another beautiful soul watching over and guiding from heaven. May your days find happy memories and laughter mixed in with your grief.Love,Dotty and Bill

June 4 at 3:10 AM



## Tribute Wall

**James William Marsh**

TP

**Taffey Boyd--Drimark Products** posted:

My sincere condolences to the family. It was my great pleasure to have met and got to know Jim Marsh. Although it was a business relationship it never felt that way, he was personable and had a way of making you feel at ease. He had a great eye for reading people which is probably why he was successful professionally and I'm certain socially too. Thinking of him brings to mind the saying "people will forget what you said to them but never how you made them feel". Jim had a way of making you feel good so he will always be remembered. Taffey

June 2 at 12:20 PM

JD

**Jim & Tina Drakakis** posted:

To the Marsh Family, We are deeply saddened by Jim's passing and hope you find comfort knowing he made such an impact on many lives. I served under Jim's leadership and guidance for a number of years. The lessons learned and the sound advice given, will never be forgotten. Warmest Regards, Jim & Tina Drakakis

June 2 at 5:45 AM

RN

**Ray And Anne Noonan** posted:

Dear Irene and Sons, We were sad to learn of Jim's passing. We have many fond memories of our time together at Reynolds. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sincerely, Ray and Anne Noonan

June 1 at 5:45 PM

MM

**Maria & Bud Mazzei** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God's peace replace your heartache with warm and loving memories of Jim. Our heartfelt sympathy and love.

June 1 at 10:21 AM



## Tribute Wall

**James William Marsh**

KS

**Kenny Sur** posted:

To the Marsh Family:Both professionally and personally, I wish to extend my condolences for your loss. I called on Jim, when he was @ Tharpe Co. Me, @ that time, a young rep. and Jim, the President with his side kick Kathy Bromer, ALWAYS treated me with the upmost respect, and it was sincere. I have a picture on my office wall with Jim, myself and mother, who started my company, receiving Tharpe's first ever Vendor of the Year Award. I was so proud. Times have changed, but I'll always remember Jim in the most positive light. He took the time with me, the greenhorn, taught me much, and I admired his integrity, knowledge, intelligence, and wisdom. Wishing you peace, thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.Sincerely,Kenny SurPresidentJRM & Associates, Inc.

June 1 at 4:46 AM

BL

**Brenda Lorrey** posted:

Irene and family thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Love Brenda & Kiko

May 31 at 3:30 PM

GR

**Gary And Patty Regan** posted:

Irene and family, We are saddened to hear of the loss of Jim. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this most difficult time. You have so many memories to treasure. Much love to all.

May 31 at 2:09 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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