



James F. Edwards

January 18, 2019

James F. Edwards died peacefully on January 18, 2019 in Providence, where he was surrounded and comforted by the love of his family. Jim was born in Mount Vernon, NY, and spent most of his childhood in Palos Heights, IL before moving to Redding Ridge, CT. Jim attended Canterbury Academy and spent time studying abroad at the International School in Paris. After graduating from Brown University in 1968, Jim made Providence his permanent home with a vacation lake house in Windsor, MA

International travel was one of Jim's passions. His adventures began in 1968 starting in Tunisia. He traveled through Algeria, solo trek hitch-hiking across the Sahara Desert and throughout West Africa. Upon his return he worked as General Manager at India Imports of RI. Jim brought a team of friends to The Gambia, West Africa to set up West Africa Exports, a garment manufacturer/exporter. This led to the start of Allegro rtw, an apparel company owned by Jim & his wife requiring extensive travel to India. In his later professional career, Jim developed technical apparel for Etonic and McGregor Golf.

Jim wrote two books about his travel adventures overseas. He was an avid storyteller. Jim loved baseball and was a longtime coach at the Fox Point Little League. He also played in a senior softball league.

Jim was a religious education teacher for 25 years at the First Unitarian Church of Providence and was active in social justice causes.

Reverend Jim was honored to have officiated both his sons' weddings. His family brought him much joy. Jim is survived by his wife Dena Quilici of 44 years (coincidentally, met Dena returning from the Woodstock Festival in 1969), his two sons Jameson Edwards, wife Christina Lovely and granddaughter Olivia, Tyler Edwards and wife Jordan Steinberg, and foster son Jordan Ellinwood.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at the First Unitarian Church of Providence, 1 Benevolent Street, Providence at 10:30 followed by a Celebration of Jim's Life at The Waterman Grille, 4 Richmond Square, Providence from 12:00 – 3:00

In Jim's memory, donations can be made to Refugee Dream Center
<https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Refugee-Dream-Center>

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Condolences to Jim and Dena's family. Worked with Jim and Dena at IIRI and enjoyed and honored knowing him. I really enjoyed reading his book.*

Charlie Stewart

Charlie Stewart - February 10, 2019 at 11:59 AM

DQ

My, my, thank you Charlie. What a surprise to hear from you. Thank you for sharing.

Dena Quilici - February 12, 2019 at 08:40 AM

DP

“ *Dena and family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss, and the world's loss of Jim. He was such a beautiful soul. I have always admired his love of travel that led to so many adventures around the globe as well as his commitment to local issues of social justice, to your beautiful family and to you, Dena. He once told me that when he saw you for the first time he thought you were the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Then, he went on, you turned out to be beautiful inside as well and he knew just how lucky he was. And(believe it or not) that conversation took place in the isle of East Side Market where I seemed to run into a him a few times a year. It was easy to have those kind of conversations with Jim even after not seeing him for many months. It's hard to believe he is gone from this world but his legacy lives on in the lives he has changed, the people he has loved and the beautiful boys he has raised. My heart goes out to you all.*

Deborah R Petrarca - February 10, 2019 at 09:11 AM

DQ

Deb, thank you for your very kind words. Your memories of Jim brought both tears and smiles to my face. That's Jim...he could have these in depth conversations anywhere. It was so sweet of you to share this with me. I hope you'll join us on Saturday to celebrate his life with live music & story.

Dena Quilici - February 12, 2019 at 08:38 AM