



Mr. James [Jim] W. Marler

October 24, 1950 - October 28, 2014

Jim was born to the late Charles and Pansy Marler in St Louis, MO on Oct 24, 1950. He worked as a Tankerman on a Barge Line.

Survived by two daughters Cheryl and Lisa; five grandchildren; two sisters: Donna Green, and Pamela Gettemeier, and one brother; Daniel Marler.

Was preceded in death by his parents, wife and one daughter Regina.

Memorial contributions to the Diabetes Foundation.

Cemetery

Events

Valhalla Cemetery

7600 St Charles Rock Road
St Louis, MO, 63133

OCT **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery
7600 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis, MO, US,
63133

OCT **Funeral Ceremony** 11:00AM
30

Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery
7600 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis, MO, US,
63133

Comments



“ Jim joined our organization (The Kirby Company) early 1993 as a Kirby vacuum salesman. I remember because he had requested to start a week later so that he could help the flood victims of the great Mississippi River flood of that spring. I had first told him that I didn't think the job was for him because of his age and seemingly physical limitations. But he convinced me to give him a chance because he always wanted to be in sales and that he would work very hard at it, so encouraged by his desire, and lucky for me I did give him a chance.

He took to the job, like a duck to water! His gregarious spirit made him an instant hit with his co-workers and prospects. He took top salesperson honors his first full month in business. The sales manager (fondly) nick named him "Never" because he said that he would never shut up. The name stuck along with being attributed as the "social director" never lacking for a joke or story about his experiences or who he knew.

The real treat came as we got to know Jim's talents: The first time I heard him sing, I was astounded and captivated by his stories of playing with Ike and Tina Turner and others. During our company's award trips and ceremonies he was often called up on stage to sing with the band, his notoriety quickly spread through out the Central States Division both for his sales ability and entertaining encounters.

lots of times we would be working in the countryside in van canvassing crews and Jim would have a story about every place we went and more times than not personally know someone from that area that he would drop by to see. It amazed us all how many friends and acquaintances throughout the region he had. Seems he could talk on any subject and feel at ease with any social class.

In conversations working the country backroads and over a beer or two it was apparent that, like many of us, Jim's younger years were not always accompanied by wise choices and had regrets of failed/unpatched relationships. Jim knew his bible inside and out but, admittedly, had wandered away from the straight and narrow. It was comforting to hear him say that he was being drawn back to that relationship the last time we had an opportunity to talk over the phone a few years ago.

Jim "Never" Marler played a big part of my story, and I have loads of fond memories from him selling me on a chance to give sales a try!

Jim Reid
retired Kirby Distributor

Jim Reid - April 22, 2015 at 11:00 AM



“ James (Jim) Marler

Jim enjoyed a “colorful” life, rich with triumph and laden with tragedy. Identified as gifted at a very early age Jim was promoted two grade levels in one year while attending elementary school. Along with a photographic memory and remarkable intelligence Jim was blessed with the “gift of gab” ... he possessed such a charisma that he never met a stranger. Jim would instantly win people over. Jim was also an incredibly gifted musician and singer. Jim played the guitar, steel guitar, and trumpet. In his first band “The Lost Souls”, Jim would entertain all with a voice that many compared to Joe Cocker. His musician friends knew him as “the blue eyed soul brother”.

Jim was blessed in so many areas but struggled to find his nitch in the workforce. He had many jobs including working the set at Club Imperial for Ike and Tina Turner, Carnival worker, Brick layer, Tankerman on a barge, and the job he loved most... a Kirby Vacuum Salesman. At Kirby Jim was awarded the Salesman of the Year... the same year he wrote and performed the company jingle. Yes... Jim was that talented. Jim was also a survivor. He lived through being electrocuted, falling of a barge in the freezing Mississippi, being bitten by a copperhead, 3 strokes and various other calamities too numerous to mention. Jim’s will to live always kept him going.

Jim was blessed with three beautiful children, Regina, Lisa and Cheryl. While he would have been the first to admit he wished he had spent more time with his daughters, he always kept them in his heart and on his mind. Everyone at the nursing home knew about Jim’s daughters, for he spoke about them regularly. Unfortunately, Jim spent the last decade of his life in nursing homes. While his health failed him, his mind remained sharp until the end. A visit to Jim in the nursing home always resulted in a trivia quiz about current or classic movies, music or news of the day. Jim would ask the questions and then give the answers. He would be quick to tell a joke, make flirtatious remarks to his female caregivers and, he would always let everyone know what he was thinking.

Jim was blessed to have his youngest sister Pam overseeing his care over the past ten years. He was always excited to hear from his sister Donna and brother Dan. When Donna would fly in from her home in Houston to visit, Jim would talk about it for weeks. The same would be true when his brother Dan would visit from out of town. Jim would relive his hunting, fishing and music stories long after Donna and Dan would return home. Jim loved his family. He was proud of his younger siblings and extremely proud of his daughters.

On October 24th, Jim celebrated his 64th birthday. After an extended hospital stay Jim was ready to join his life partner Erica, father Charlie, mother Pansy and oldest daughter Regina in heaven. Jim was charming... all the way until the end... all the way until God decided he needed some good trivia and humor in heaven.

With love, your sisters and brother-in-law



“ The Gettemeier Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. James [Jim] W. Marler.



The Gettemeier Family - October 30, 2014 at 11:18 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James [Jim] W. Marler.



October 30, 2014 at 10:14 AM



“ I give you this one thought to keep.
I am with you still; I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush.

Of quiet birds in circled flight,
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone,
I am with you still at each new dawn.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.

All my love,

Your sister and friend.

Peggy Dienstbach

Peggy Dienstbach - October 29, 2014 at 12:06 PM



“ What a wonderful celebration of Jim's life. We are so very thankful for the time we had with Jim. We are thankful for the friends and family that came today to support us and share memories. A special thanks to Phil, the chaplain at NHC for his heartfelt words, shared scriptures and his beautiful voice/music. We are blessed as a family. God takes such good care of his children. At the sound of our cry, he responds in an awesome way. Thank you Heavenly Father. We are honored and humbled by your care... your presence. Pam Gettemeier

Pamela Gettemeier - October 30, 2014 at 03:58 PM