



James Hawley Chester

February 15, 1942 - October 23, 2020

JAMES HAWLEY CHESTER, age 78, formerly of Houston, TX, passed away on October 23, 2020, after a long illness. Jim was born in New York City to William Curry Chester and Patrice (Neely) Chester and grew up in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. He was a graduate of Ridge High School, class of 1962, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington and Jefferson College in 1966, where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and where he developed many lifelong friendships. Jim had a long and distinguished career as an executive with Exxon Corporation, highlighted by Senior Managerial roles in Houston, TX and Angola. He retired in 1998 after a 32-year career. He moved to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, during the last year of his life to be near his family.

Jim was an avid fisherman; he loved to travel, and was a passionate art and antique collector. Some of his happiest moments were spent playing golf at his beloved Hearthstone Country Club and "playing the ponies" at Sam Houston Racetrack, where he was a member of the Jockey Club. He also loved painting, gardening and cooking and was an avid sports fan. He was a genuine "people person," who would enliven any occasion and was considered by most as "the life of the party." Jim was a true gentleman and was rarely seen without his standard blue blazer, pocket square and penny loafers, no socks of course. He was cherished by his family and friends for his wonderful generosity (almost to a fault), humorous one-liners and witty "side observations."

He is survived by his daughters: Kristen Snyder (Jeremy), of Exton, PA and Katy Wolfington (Tom Schindler), of Coatesville, PA; son: Hawley Chester (Kara), of New York City; grandchildren: Madison, Carter and Creighton; sisters: Patrice Burd (Frank), of Reisterstown, MD and Sally Chester (Nicky Williford), of Stevenson, MD; many nieces and nephews; and his step-daughter: Lesley Weiman, of New Orleans, LA.

The family would like to express its deepest appreciation for the wonderful help and care given to Jim by the staff at Jenners Pond and Willowtree Hospice. Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts in honor of Jim be made to the Amedisys Foundation, 3854 American Way, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816.

Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. Condolences may be offered online at <http://www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com>.

Comments



“ Just discovered this after a friend from Exxon contacted me and I felt the need to have my annual call with Jim to negotiate a new bet about the Duke Blue Devils. Jim was the epitomy of fun and class mixed together. A great mentor and a fabulous human being.

Love you Jim and family.

David - December 16, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ Jim was my first boss at ExxonMobil and what an impression he left! He was always very honest with his feedback and I picked many good traits by watching Jim. Even after moving on to other jobs in the company, Jim and I stayed in touch as every few years we would get together at Hearthstone. We lost touch when I moved overseas.

Last night I was reading a book about mentors and Jim immediately came to mind. A quick search on Google and I was heartbroken to see this obituary. You kids were the light in his life and he often talked about you

Jim Chester was a special man but his light continues to shine in the many that he touched throughout his career.

Warmest Regards,
John Herbert

John Herbert - December 16, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ So many fun memories and happy times. So many laughs and sooooo much generosity ! Uncle Jim always brought happiness and laughter... and ridiculously wonderful gifts ! He had impeccable taste and always a funny joke. I remember so many fun thanksgiving passing around the pearl onions while Hawley and katy kicked me under the table during family prayers. And a particularly rambunctious family football game in out front yard which left me with uncle Jim's trademark penny loafer imprinted on my thigh! No one said we weren't competitive. I have uncle Jim to thank for the lesson of “doing Lima bean” tasks first; getting those over worth to be able to get on with a job. I will miss him and treasure the times when we were all together. I miss those thanksgivings!!



Abby Finney - November 05, 2020 at 05:07 PM