



James E. Englehart

December 26, 1936 - February 20, 2019

On Wednesday, February 20, 2019, James Edward Englehart, loving husband, father of four, and stepfather of two, passed away at the age of 82, peacefully at his home.

Jim was born on December 26, 1936 in Akron, OH to Margaret Ann Wayman and Harry Adam Englehart. He received his Engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1958, after which he spent three years in the Navy and two years at Detroit Edison before transitioning to the Ford Motor Company in 1963. Jim had a distinguished career at Ford, helping to bring many of today's most popular truck and SUVs to market, including the F-150 truck, Ford Explorer and Ford Expedition. Jim was a dedicated product developer, leader, and mentor and retired from Ford in 1998, ending his career as Global Head of Product Development. He cherished the many friends and co-workers that he encountered during his career and always wanted to be known as "a Truck Guy".

Jim had a passion for life, which was evident in anything and everything he did. Be it spending time with family, playing golf, boating, playing cards or even working around the house. He was known for his quick wit, his infectious smile, and his kind and compassionate spirit. He always treated everyone fairly and considerately. Jim had a knack that we all attributed to luck, which manifested itself in him getting a twenty-four hand to skunk his opponent in cribbage or in finding the prime parking spot in front of the ice cream parlor during a busy summer day in Saugatuck. These things were common with Jim and kept him and all of us always smiling. He also loved to travel and he and Denni spent many occasions traveling across the world with friends and family.

Jim is survived by Denni Englehart, his wife of nearly 30 years, as well as his six children, Dan (Maureen) Englehart, Julie (Ron) Klotter, Ed (Inkyung) Englehart, Steve (Susan) Englehart, Stacey (Phil) Dalen and Brady Owens. He is also survived by thirteen grandchildren, his older brother Bill Englehart and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends and family too numerous to list but not forgotten.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 1, 2019 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home 28300 So. Tamiami Tr., Bonita Springs, FL. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 11:00 AM at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church 28300 Beaumont Rd., Bonita Springs, FL.

Additional services will be held at a later date at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers donation in memory of Jim be made to Joanne's House at Hope Hospice 27200 Imperial Pkwy., Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Cemetery

Events

**Cedar Grove Cemetery at Notre
Dame**

South Bend, IN,

MAR Visitation 03:00PM - 06:00PM

1

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So., Bonita Springs, FL,
US, 34134

MAR Mass of Christian Burial 11:00AM

2

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
28300 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs, FL, US,
34134

Comments



“ Dear Denni and family - I am so very sorry for your loss. Jim was a great, kind man. As a young kid straight out of college, I had the pleasure of working with him when I started my career at Ford in Public Affairs in 1994. It was a true honor to work with such an exemplary leader who clearly had deep integrity. And he very much reminded me of my dad so he was always one of my favorite executives to support. All the best to your family.

Carla Boyd

Carla Boyd - March 08 at 02:25 PM



“ Jim was our high school classmate and very good friend. His infectious smile, great sense of humor and our many adventures together will always be remembered. In our later years we saw that Jim was lovingly cared for by Denni. We thank her for bringing Jim to lunch with us and a few other classmate friends a week or so before his passing. Jim will be missed by many but most of all by Denni and their extended family. May God bless each and every one of them.

Roy and Rita (Utrup) Hollander

Roy and Rita Hollander - March 05 at 02:15 PM



“ My heart goes out to my Aunt and cousins and their families. I remember visiting then as a young child and going to the Detroit Zoo, family reunions over the years, weddings and other family events. He stepped in after my dad died and gave my sister Mary away at her wedding (she was his god-daughter) that was the kind of man he was. He lived life with gusto and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Love & prayers Helen (one of Patty's daughters)

Helen McIlduff - March 01 at 03:02 PM



“ Dear Jim, I write this as though you were still here on this earthly plane. You have left memories of smiles, good will and kindness. You have gone through your health issues with courage and dignity. Dick and I will remember you always but know in our hearts though you will be greatly missed by your family and friends you are at peace in the heavenly space with the Lord and His angels. Cherrill & Dick Cregar



“ Strategic Investment Group purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of James E. Englehart.



Strategic Investment Group - February 28 at 11:02 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to Dan and the Englehart family on their loss. James Englehart was clearly a person of distinction who lived an accomplished and significant life.

Pete and Diane Basso

Peter Basso - February 28 at 07:20 AM



“ As a young engineer at Ford at the time I worked under Jim, I was impressed by his approach to the problems of the day we were trying to resolve. He had the unique ability to make the engineers on the team truly feel they were of significant value. As my career advanced at Ford, I adopted this management style as well...Jim was a great man and leader.

Phil Schilke
Ford Motor Co. Retired

Phil Schilke - February 26 at 09:53 AM



“ To Denni and the Family and Friends of Jim: I knew Jim only through our connection as owners and part-time residents of East Shore Harbor Club, Saugatuck, Mi. I am aware of some of the medical battles he had in recent years. I have always had an admiration for men who quietly endure and fight the hard fights in life with determination and grace. Jim was such a man. Sincerest condolences to you all,

John and Bonnie Hefner

M John Hefner - February 26 at 09:20 AM



“ Dear Denni, we were deeply saddened by the news of Jim's passing . Our heart felt condolences to you and your family. Jim always had a smile and was so pleasant . May God bless and comfort you.
Sincerely, Ginger & Michael Lickley

Ginger and Michael Lickley - February 25 at 06:17 PM



“ Enjoyed working with "Gentleman Jim" in his years in Asia Pacific and with Mazda, Always fun along with the committed hard work! .Condolences Denni and family.
John and Lesley Morley

John Morley - February 24 at 09:30 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of your dad. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. Great memories from our childhood days. Peace be with you all.

jennifer (shepherd) carpenter - February 24 at 09:20 PM



“ Dear Denni, Steve and all of the Englehart family,

Our prayers and condolences are with you as you walk the pathway of grieving. Steve you have always held a special place in our family and we know losing a father is a normal but not a welcome time in life.

Denni while we haven't seen each other in many years we sincerely express our empathy and the support of God's loving graces during this most sad of times in a marriage and loving partnership.

We always enjoyed Jim and certainly his accomplishments were legendary.

God's special gift during this time is the beautiful and cherished memories that comfort us. May His Love be with you!

Loving Regards,

Skip and Michelle Dorrington

Ed Dorrington - February 24 at 11:53 AM



“ Many Native Americans believe that when you pass, that passing is incomplete. They believe that you are not really dead, you are not truly gone until you are forgotten. Only when you are forgotten is death complete. My wish is that Jim live on long in your memories. I will remember him often and fondly, and I'm sure you will join me when I say Rest In Peace Jim. Thank you for everything you did for us. We love you; we will miss you; we were lucky to have you. Rest In Peace and in our memories.

Gerry Schmidt - February 24 at 11:34 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James E. Englehart.



February 23 at 11:30 PM



“ Can one adequately say good-bye to a trusted friend of 65 years that you shared a lifetime of memories with? Beginning with our freshman year at Notre Dame, raising our young families together, sharing vacations, enjoying parties, playing sports, counseling one another, discussing the intense vicissitudes of life, talking careers and supporting one another during difficult times. Obviously too many specific and private matters to mention. He was a stalwart through it all and one I cannot compliment sufficiently that would justify his major impact on my life.

Maybe one incident could epitomize him. Like most hackers, we seldom won as golf partners, but one time we won a tournament and received an odd trophy - - a carrier pigeon on a stand. Until we learned that the pigeon at one time was so numerous in Michigan it's flock would cover the entire sky and take hours to pass by. This was Jim - - his actions and friendship covered everyone he encountered and were too many to chronicle. As one of the flock we all have our stories.

Rest in glorious peace forever, my friend.

Charlie Kitz

Charlie Kitz - February 23 at 04:46 PM



“ Charlie, we'll said. Dad and I tried four times to win that dam pigeon trophy. Glad you and DAD won that together. He was a great man/dad. I know he cherished your friendship through all those years.



“ Dear Denni & family,
Joan & I were so very sad to hear of Jim’s passing.
The news brought back a flood of memories of my intersection with him in our early days at Ford. From discussions at the investment club that held meetings at WHQ where, much to our chagrin, we picked very few winners; to our time in Truck Product Planning when he was Lt Truck Planning Manager and he graciously introduced me to that phase of the business as Truck Regulatory Plng Mgr. His help in maneuvering through both political and technical complexity of integrating the many new safety and emissions standards being applied to Truck for the first time was very important. He was a consummate professional who managed with high integrity, a quick wit and pleasant demeanor.
It was great to have had him as a friend. He will missed by all who knew him.
John Leinonen

John Leinonen - February 23 at 03:19 PM



“ Jim Englehart was one of the finest gentleman-leaders that I met during my 33 years serving Ford. He had a gift for engaging with people of all levels and getting the most out of them in a friendly, supportive way. He really understood the truck business - especially the light truck business - better than any other person in the Company. Part of the reason for this was that he was a great listener. When he retired from Ford a big part of the heart of Ford trucks went with him. The behavior and ignorance of some of the management that followed his departure caused me at times to wish most sincerely Jim was back at the helm.

My sincere condolences.

Dave Tarrant

David Tarrant - February 23 at 03:08 PM



“ Jim was an outstanding individual and mentor. He is the one who brought me into Ford Light Truck Product Planning for my first product planning assignment. He also was instrumental in providing me with the opportunity for a developmental assignment in marketing and sales at Ford Division. I enjoyed working for Jim and our relationship over the years. Jim and I stayed in touch for many years after our retirements from Ford when it was college basketball season. He was an avid Notre Dame fan and I was the same for Marquette University. We usually had a standing bet when they played each other. May he rest in peace.

Jerry Mittman

Jerry Mittman - February 23 at 11:09 AM



“ Jim was a visionary. In the early 90's, as chief truck engineer, he sponsored the development of an app to link drawings to release data: FIND. FIND was the first attempt to connect WERS and CAD.

Hans Kuschnerus, Product Development Systems

Hans Kuschnerus - February 23 at 10:46 AM



“ Dear Denni & the Englehart family,

Anne and I are deeply saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was such a kind and lovely man, and a dear friend to the Borda family. I have many fond memories of spending time with him and your family. Whether on the golf course or a boat, in Michigan or in Florida, Jim's zest for life, wonderful good nature, and love for his family and friends was evident.

May fond memories of him give you comfort and strength in this difficult time. Anne and I send our love for Jim and your family. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Tom & Anne Borda

Tom Borda - February 22 at 08:53 PM



“ Denni,
David and I are traveling and just read of Jim's passing. We are so very sorry. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Suzanne

Suzanne Hoover - February 22 at 04:38 PM



“ Jim was a first class human being in every aspect of his professional and personal life. It was an honor to know and work with him. May his siul rest in eternal peace.
Lou Lataif

lou lataif - February 22 at 04:33 PM



“ I never worked for Jim at Ford but worked with him a few times. He was always a gentleman and a professional. I will remember he always had a smile for you when he met you. Please accept my condolences. He was a good person and will be missed.

David Breedlove

David Breedlove - February 22 at 04:12 PM



“ Our paths crossed many times while I was at Ford. I remember his smile and he treated you as a gentleman. He will always be remembered as a trucker. RIP.

Dan Schneble - February 23 at 12:01 PM



“ Jim will be deeply missed. He was a good friend and had a profound impact on my life and career, as a mentor, supporter, friend, colleague and role-model. He was a wonderful, kind man of great character and was always there for me even in my darkest days when I left Ford and my late wife Karen died.

I remember those fun times we spent together in Australia driving Ford LTDs on the narrow roads at 140KPH, and chasing Kangaroos across the Ford You Yangs Proving Grounds paddocks, while the girls held back at the picnic areas looking for Koalas. It was a wonder we did not tear the undercarriage out of those vehicles! And watching those stupid penguins!

I remember his wonderful, even tempered management style, especially when we met behind close doors and evaluated legal issues and the ridiculous counter-offers we often got on product proposals from Japanese suppliers. He was always cool and thoughtful. I bit my tongue and wondered at his patience...

I remember his stunning request, when he asked me to stand up as his "best man" at his marriage to Denni. I had no idea that he considered me that good of a friend, or that I rated in that way.

I remember when he told me that he was being "promoted." He put me thru a guessing game where I had to tell him what job I thought he should or was going to get. I missed probably 4 times, and then finally he said he would be head of Ford PD world-wide. I nearly fell off my chair. This was one of the 5 biggest jobs in the company, and well deserved. I was further stunned when he told me that he was going to take the job for only 1 or 2 years, and had accepted the offer from Jac Nasser on that basis. Most men I knew would have killed for that job. Jim wanted a life with Denni, and was wise enough to see what was really important!

I remember sitting in a product development meeting with him at the Ford Design Center at Broadmeadows in Australia talking about the design of the new Falcon

station wagon. I never quite understood why I was invited to those meetings, because ... what the heck....what did lawyers know about PD? In retrospect, I realized that as a potential customer he wanted my opinion, and also political advice. It was almost as difficult getting an excellent product approved by strong willed senior Ford management, as it was actually designing the product itself.

Finally, I remember sitting on the Board with Jim at Plastech. What a blast that was, and how we strategized to get great people to serve with us from GM, Chrysler and U of M.

It is very sad now to have to look in the rear view mirror to see Jim, but what a wonderful, exciting fun-filled experience it was riding along with him.

Jim, God Bless you in your forward travels and thank you for your support and many kindnesses. Say "hi" to Karen for me.

May our roads converge again some day soon.

Cheers,

Walter Borda

Walter Borda - February 22 at 01:31 PM



“ Thanks for sharing - what a great tribute to him!!

Barb Riedberger - February 22 at 09:15 PM



“ Dear Denni and Family,

What a great loss to loss.

I share the great respect that the engineering community of Ford Motor Company had for Jim Englehart when he was in Truck Operations. He was hard working, thoughtful, and always approachable. His kindness permeated all of his dealings with others. One of the most likeable and helpful leaders in my career at Ford. I am sorry for your loss.

John King

John King - February 23 at 01:06 PM



“ Jim exemplified a "life well lived". He was always supportive to the Product Development group at Ford Truck and included all involved as members of the team. Jim was always approachable, and served as an excellent role model. He was serious about the task at hand but also could be relied upon to add a bit of humor.

He will long be remembered.

Leo Shedden

Leo Shedden - February 23 at 09:02 PM



“ Denni

Evelyn and I are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing.

Our thoughts are with you.

Fred Simon

Fredrick Simon - February 24 at 07:18 AM



“ Our condolences to Denni at the loss of her husband and a true gentleman. We have many kind and compassionate memories of him as one who made you comfortable just being with him.

Pat and Joe Hanish

pat and joe hanish - February 24 at 10:32 AM



“ Nice words Walter. Fascinating times they were! John Morley

John Morley - February 24 at 09:39 PM