



James R. Claeys

March 26, 1943 - December 31, 2021

James R. Claeys passed away peacefully on December 31, 2021 in his home in Bonita Springs, Florida. He was 78. Jim is remembered for his faith, deep love and friendship for all in his life, generosity of his time and love for adventure.

Born in Davenport, Iowa on March 26, 1943, Jim was raised on a dairy farm in Long Grove, Iowa and was the oldest of his siblings Judy Hovey and Joseph Claeys. His parents were Robert and Bernice (Madden) Claeys. He attended a one-room schoolhouse before attending St. Joseph's Elementary and High School in DeWitt, Iowa and St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. Jim married his loving wife Dolores (Konrad) Claeys on October 24, 1964. They operated a farm in Welton, Iowa. He and his family then moved to Washington Township, N.J. in 1973 when he joined the beer distributorship founded by his father-in-law, eventually becoming vice president. Jim and Dolores moved to Bonita Springs, Florida in 2006. They also continued to spend summers in Avalon, N.J.

Jim lived an active life full of adventure and travel. He camped, hiked and canoed as a Boy Scout volunteer with his three sons, all of whom are Eagle Scouts. He was an avid cyclist, riding across Iowa several times as part of the "Register Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa" (RAGBRAI) and enjoyed golf. Jim loved skiing and particularly looked forward to the annual Gentlemen's Ski

Club trips to Vail, Colorado. His passion for cars led him to racing his Porsche and becoming a driving instructor. He belonged to the Schattenbaum Region of the Porsche Club of America in N.J. and Everglades and Paradise Gruppe in Florida, and also managed parts for rare cars at the Revs Institute in Naples, Florida. Jim loved adventure, including climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa and shadowing the Tour de France.

Jim generously gave his time to help friends and others. He could be counted on to use his "Grandpa McGyver" skills to help fix any neighbor's household problems. Besides Boy Scouts, Jim's volunteering included lecturing at Holy Family parish in N.J. As a member of the Avalon Yacht Club he enjoyed giving boat rides to campers from the Helen L. Diller Vacation Home for Blind Children. Jim also helped with the renovation of the Palmira Renaissance Center Club.

Jim is preceded by his son Mark Claeys and brother-in-law Donald Hovey. He is survived by his wife Dolores, his sons Stephen (wife Tara) and John (wife Wendy) and grandchildren Brian and Erin, as well as step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, Florida. A burial service in N.J. will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation in his name to St. Matthew's House in Naples, Florida or St. Agnes Catholic Church..

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned Since 1978.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Agnes Catholic Church
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.
Naples, FL 34120

Tribute Wall



“ *James R. Claeys*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James R. Claeys.*



February 04, 2022 at 07:14 AM



“ *Dolores, I am so very, very sorry. I will always remember Jim with a smile on his face.
I pray for your peace.
With love,
Mary Anne DeVecchis*

Mary Anne DeVecchis - January 10, 2022 at 12:30 PM



“ *We have known Jim for many years through our involvement in the Porsche club, Paradise Region Gruppe. Jim was always helpful, friendly and great fun at our events. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. My condolences to his family.*

Carlos & Maria Vasallo - January 05, 2022 at 07:48 PM

WH

Deloris , We are so very sorry for your great loss and also my condolences to his children and siblings . He was a very gentle man as I recall. I am sure he will be missed by all who knew him and fondly remember.

Wayne and Pat Hansen - January 14, 2022 at 05:15 PM

PR

“ *Jim was a friend through the Paradise Region Gruppe Porsche club and he and Dolores were always a lot of fun and ready to share some stories. Jim will be missed.*
Patrice

Patrice Roma - January 05, 2022 at 03:47 PM

PH

“ *Jim was a loyal friend to our family for the last 60 years and now joined his friend Don on heaven*

pat henricksen - January 05, 2022 at 03:31 PM

LC

“ *Jim was such a hard worker. Being his cousin, my sister and I would frequently spend time on their farm in the summer. Jim would be up at 4 AM to milk the cows and do chores. He kept his Iowa ethics throughout his life as a caring and helpful person. He will be missed by many.*

Lynn Claeys Colgan - January 05, 2022 at 02:33 PM

BG

“ So many great memories of Jim Claeys and Porsche here in Southwest Florida. He was a beloved original member in our club and a huge supporter & friend. We are thankful to Jim for organizing our Paradise Region Gruppe participation in Revs events such as their Cars & Coffee. It was wonderful seeing Jim with Dolores recently at our holiday party on December 4. We will all miss Jim so much for his kindness and always upbeat spirit... Sending our love and support to Dolores and family.

Becky & Scott, Paradise Region Gruppe - January 05, 2022 at 01:22 PM

JA

“ Many loving and fun memories. And bonding with an amazing Brother. Missed every moment. 🧡🙏💕 Judy

jahovey1@aol.com - January 05, 2022 at 11:03 AM

 Leslie
Cosacchi

“ Jim’s unending support and love of his family I hope will help them in their grief and be a wonderful memory forever. He was such a kind man.

Leslie Cosacchi - January 05, 2022 at 10:21 AM