



James Keith Saunders

March 25, 1954 - July 5, 2011

James Keith Saunders

James Keith Saunders, 57, beloved husband and father, passed away July 5, 2011, following an extended illness.

Jim was born March 25, 1954, to M. Keith Saunders and the late Joan Cantrell Saunders in Camp LeJeune, NC, and was raised in Clifton Forge, VA. He graduated from high school in 1972 and went on to receive his B.S. degree from Virginia Tech in 1976 and his M.S. from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1982. He was awarded his CPA in 1983. Jim spent almost 20 years working as an accountant and auditor for MeadWestvaco in both Covington and Richmond, VA. He began his career at ConocoPhillips in Bartlesville, OK, in 2008 and continued there until his illness.

Jim is survived by his wife of 34 years, Paula, of Bartlesville; daughter Melissa Saunders and her fiancé, David Fulton, of Midlothian, VA; son, Matthew Saunders, a current Peace Corps Volunteer in Mary, Turkmenistan; daughter, Lexie Saunders, of Stillwater, OK; and father, M. Keith Saunders of Clifton Forge. He is also survived by a brother, Mike, and his wife, Conley; mother- and father-in-law, Georgia and John Sigalos; brother-in-law, Louis Sigalos, and his wife, Dana; sisters-in-law Stephanie Merkel, Adria Ger and her husband, Steve, and Donna Budjenska and her husband, Patrick; and a host

of nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother, Joan; sister-in-law, Cathy Odom; and brother in law, Craig Merkel.

Jim was an avid sports fan, both as a participant and observer. He loved biking, hiking, camping, and bird watching. He loved spending time with his family and especially enjoyed sharing his love of music and movies with his wife and children. Jim had a wonderful sense of humor and was known for his dry wit. He was of the Christian faith and attended Grace Community Church in Bartlesville.

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Tribute Wall



“ *James Keith Saunders*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *James Keith Saunders*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I miss you.*

Melissa Saunders - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I am just now writing this because I feel like it's just now hitting me. I never knew how much my heart and soul could ache until now. I feel like you have definitely shaped the person that I've started to become.. the appreciation of nature and simplicity come from you. I met a couple who lived in the hippie commune that dennis hopper based the one in easy rider off of. The same couple also hung out with the guys from Nitty Gritty Dirt band. It pains me that I can't call you to brag about it because I know how excited you would have been to hear it. I feel like you are playing a big part in my destiny too. I had no desire to go east until you died.. then out of nowhere I had this huge need to go back to your roots in the appalachian mountains. I've had the best experience of my life because of it. I want to go places that you would have enjoyed because I feel you with me in my heart. You were a good simple loyal man who worked your ass off to provide for your family and I have nothing but respect for you. I love and miss you so much. You will never drift away or be forgotten and your legacy and life and the man you really were will be celebrated. "death will steal your innocence but it will not steal your substance"

Lexie Saunders - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Paula & Family, Thoughts and prayers have been with you all for months and are definitely now as you are mourning the loss of Jim. Jim was just a one-of-a-kind guy - he was one of the finest mentors I ever had at mwv, a dear, dear friend, and just someone that you could easily talk to and would always treat you with respect. I can only imagine the loss you're suffering right now but, first and foremost, always in his life, was his family, and I am so glad he spent his last weeks and days with all of you.

Thinking of you all.

Melanie Rickett - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Paula, Matt, Melissa and Lexie, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear husband and father. Even though it has been years since I have seen your family (when you lived in VA) I remember Jim as a gentle and loving man. I know how much he was loved by his family and will be missed. All of you are in my prayers.

Debbie Dennen - July 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Im so sorry that things had to be this way for you guys, i know you are glad he is not in pain but it still doesnt help with yours. I remember him as "quietly funny :)" and he had to be a GREAT dad to have kids and a wife who loved him so much! rest in peace Mr. Saunders and know that you were truly loved by your family. Paula, Lex, Matt and Liss, if you need anything dont hesitate to call. I love you guys.

Melissa Polston - July 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with yall!*

Amanda Buchanan and Jason Whitebread - July 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Dad, I miss you so much, no words in this message box can truly express my feelings. I can never thank you enough for all you did for me. Any fool can be a father in the biological sense, but you were a true father in every way possible. All that I have seen and done so far in life, and all I will see and do in the future is only possible because of your support. Just like any other family, we had our highs and lows, but no matter where we were you were always there for us. I love you and miss you so much but I know you are in a much better place now -- probably drinking an evan williams and coke now with Craig. I love you.*

Matthew Saunders - July 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *Paula, my prayers are with you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss. Please let us know if we can help in any way.*

Karen Lutke - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *I love you so much. I have so many good memories with you, even the last week I was here we created some memories. I got my humor from you and a host of other things that I am so grateful for. I love you I love you I love you.*

Melissa Saunders - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Jim was always a quiet, steady presence, and he certainly is missed. We are so grateful to have had the honor of knowing him and being part of his family for so long.

Donna Budjenska - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I am so sad to lose dear Jim. He was a beacon of strength throughout his life. He was quiet and not flashy, but his actions spoke loudly. I remember when our sister Cathy was ill, Jim spent days building a concrete path in her yard. He would choke down Evan Williams whisky just to share time with Craig. He gamely attended most of the Sigalos family summer camps, even though it meant spending a week in close quarters with the crazy and loud Sigalos family. I could go on and on, but this gist is that he was a wonderful man, a great husband to my sister Paula, and a terrific and patient father to Melissa, Matt and Lexie. He will be greatly missed.

Stephanie Merkel - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Jim during my first year at work. He was very kind and had a sense of humor that would make me think-Was that a joke?- Of course, it was. I am very sorry for your loss and may the memories you have of him, help you and give you strenght. My prayers are with you and your family.

Tonita Moran - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Paula, our family is thinking of you and we are so sorry for your loss. You and Jim and wonderful people and a loss to our lives, community, and world. We love you very much and if we can do anything, please, please, please ask.

Rob and Tracy Morrison - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ My deepest sympathy to Paula and her family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bill Matthews - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Paula,

Our hearts goes out to you and your family. We will be including you in our prayers.

Mark, Sharon and Trevor Janda - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Paula and family,

We are thinking of you and hoping that you are all sharing your wonderful memories of Jim at this time. b

Jamie Archer Bennett - July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM