



James S. Norton III

August 29, 1938 - April 26, 2020

UPDATE: His Mass of Christian burial will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 12PM at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church with inurnment to follow at Forest Lawn East Cemetery.

James S. (Jim) Norton III, age 81, of Naples, FL and Indian Land, SC, lost his battle with Alzheimer's disease surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of over 55 years, Catherine "Kay" (Cashman) Norton; his children Gregory (Irene) of Waxhaw, NC, Michelle (Chris) Lind of Waxhaw, NC, and Deborah (Joe) Holt of South Orange, NJ; and his grandchildren Matthew and Brynn Norton, Ashley and Ella Lind, Owen and Catherine Holt. He was also a loving cousin, brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents James and Anna Norton, and his sister Winifred (Norton) Chernesky.

Jim was raised in Roslindale, MA. After graduating from high school, he joined the Navy and proudly served from 1956-1961. His favorite duty assignment was aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Kearsarge. After his service, he attended The University of Massachusetts at Amherst and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He also attended the School of Public Relations at Boston University and was a Chartered Life Underwriter from the American College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Jim met the love of his life Kay during the summer of 1963 in Marshfield, MA and they married in November, 1964. Beginning their married life in Roslindale, Jim started working for Prudential Insurance Company and after a few years, they moved to Albany, NY. After a move to Framingham, MA and what they thought was a final return back to Boston, Jim's job took the family on a storied journey to East Amherst, NY, Manlius, NY, Naperville, IL and Randolph, NJ.

A hardworking and dedicated man, he worked for Prudential for over 27 years, retired, and then went to work for Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey until he retired again in 2001. He cherished his role as a mentor and friend to all that worked with him. Jim always said that getting to know people was one his greatest pleasures.

He was steeped in his Catholic faith as an active member of St. Agnes Parish in Naples, FL and Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, SC. He was equally proud of his Irish heritage.

An avid reader and history buff, Jim's most endearing qualities were his gift for the gab and ability to establish common ground with just about anyone. He loved all people and his bright, kind smile welcomed everyone as a member of his extended family.

Jim was most proud of his family. He was active in children's youth and high school sports as a coach, fundraiser and supporter. He often promoted his children and grandchildren's accomplishments in education and life to all that would listen. He was their biggest cheerleader.

Special thanks are extended to Riverview Hospice and Melissa Chavis who took such loving care of Jim this past year.

Due to the recent pandemic, a memorial mass will be held at a future date to be determined.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 12pm on Thursday, June 11th at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church with inurnment to follow at Forest Lawn East Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be contributed to Riverview Hospice, 2450 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732 or to the Alzheimer's Association Sun City Strong at 901 Pine Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302 or on-line at www.alz.org.

Arrangements are in care of Heritage Funeral Home, Ballantyne Chapel. Online condolences may be left at www.heritagecares.com.

Comments



“ To all Family and Friends,

The details around dad's services have been planned. The Christian mass and burial will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 12:00 p.m. in Indian Land, SC at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. We know these are crazy times, and while you would have liked to attend, you may not be able to. We are thankful Our Lady of Grace Church will be offering a live stream of the service. The full details are here in the obituary.

Our family appreciates the love and support during this time, and hope that you can join us – if not in person then virtually. The link to the live stream is www.gracewepray.org - please just scroll down to View the live stream link.

Love, The Norton Family
Kay, Greg, Michelle & Deborah

Deborah Holt - May 29 at 11:54 AM



“ Dear Kay and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was a wonderful person in so many ways. I am so glad I came to Naples in 2018 to visit. While Jim was struggling at that time, he was still his jovial self and seemed to very much enjoy our lunch together. You told me how his nurses loved the brightness he brought to their lives. As I wrote to Jim at Christmas I told him how much he meant to me as a friend and as a mentor in my career. Many of our colleagues have already reminded us of all the "Jim" lessons: Lombardy time, 3 shirts, managed care is like milk and the most memorable "common ground". A fun example of finding common ground which think I told you was the story when I was on a trip in Ireland having scones and tea with some fellow travellers. The woman was talking to her friend and sounded a lot like you (Boston accent) so I told her she sounded just like a friend of mine. I asked her where she was from in the states and she said Massachusetts. I then told her about my friends, Jim and Kay Norton, also from Mass. Then to my surprise she told me she was Jim's sister! Small world for sure. Jim taught us all a lot and helped us to be successful and make work fun. When I visited I brought photos of times together at Pru and Blue Cross. My favorite was the one where Jim and I are dancing in Puerto Rico in an attempt to get others up to do the same. I thank Jim for his guidance over the years and both of you for your kindness and friendship. Jim and you are truly bright lights in my life. God Bless you and your family. May Jim rest in peace. With love and sympathy, Carol Banks

Carol Banks - May 01 at 10:44 AM



“ Dear Kay, A couple of months ago we heard of Jim's illness and were shocked. When we were together in FL., he was as sharp as ever, full of life and so happy to tell old stories. Remember the blizzard of '69 in Albany. You and Jim were so helpful and caring to us. Albany and ST. Matthew's have so many great memories of being with the Norton's. Jim was more like a BIG BROTHER to me than a close associate. A bright light has gone out. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. With sadness and love, Leslie and Steve.

lesliekohoskie - April 30 at 07:55 PM



“ Kay, I was so very very sorry to hear of Jim's passing, especially so early in life. I'd heard that he was having some difficulty of late, but I did not realize that he was near the end of mortal life. This saddens me greatly. But then, I have so many wonderful memories of times spent with your husband. If I recall correctly you guys came from Roslindale? Do I have that right? I'm from Winchester if you may remember. Jim and I both started working for Prudential at the tower on Boylston St in 1965. Like college starter trainee jobs. \$95/wk. They soon recruited me to join the Grp Dept and I talked Jim into taking the same job. We did Pru School in Newark in 1966 and commuted home to Boston together every weekend. We got to be fast friends.

But my most favorite, truly unforgettable memory involves Buffalo, NY and the famed Blizzard of Jan. 1977. I casually arrived in town on a Fri AM for a sales call with a banker there and your husband was in on it. Of course he ran the local office in those days. We had a lunch, did the deal with the banker, but by that time it was snowing so hard you couldn't see 2 feet. My Allegheny flight was cancelled. I was wearing a top coat but my NYC loafers with no rubbers. Jim said no hotel, you're coming home with me to Amherst. He drove Transit Rd in a total white out, couldn't see anything! Some people did go off the road that day, or stopped and tried to wait it out in freezing temps. Some ran out of gas, heat, and sadly froze in their cars.

I stayed at the Norton house for a full week! I'm sure you remember. No way to leave town, and it just kept snowing! Day after day. God bless you! You had "Blackie the dog" who had to be helped up stairs. We drank every ounce of whiskey in your home. I was a bit of a drinker in those days. You sent us to a Seven Eleven to buy milk for the Norton children, a mile on foot in the blizzard. They had no milk but they did have Beer and we came back with 2 cases. I clearly remember your explosion! We shoveled snow off the roof so it wouldn't collapse, then you told us we had to move it. Tons! It was blocking the back door. And so on. Your patience and the generosity of you and Jim (and the hilarity) have lived with me ever since. God bless Big Jim. God bless You.

dana kelly jr - April 30 at 02:45 PM



“ Kay, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I have the fondest memories of Jim, who was my vice-president in the account area in Parsippany. I learned a great deal from Jim, with the greatest lesson being that it was always possible and always worthwhile to find “common ground” with others. On those few occasions when I stubbornly thought he was wrong about something, I always eventually came to the realization that he was right! You and I met at several functions with clients, and I was always struck by Jim’s devotion to you and to his family, as well as his ability to connect with everyone he met! I’m happy that the last time I saw Jim, at the party for his retirement from Blue Cross, he was the hearty, outgoing, and jovial person that I will always remember him as. I recently posted a photo of Jim and me on a Facebook page for Pru employees past and present, and wondered at that time how he was doing. He will be remembered by many of us, including my husband Chris, as a warm, caring, kind and very funny person. With our love, prayers, and condolences
—Lu-Ann Reilly

Lu-Ann Reilly - April 30 at 02:28 PM



“ Jim hired me as a group sales rep in Chicago in 1982. I had no sales experience and was not interested in a sales position. I told Jim this during the first of several meetings and telephone conversations we had over the course of 5 months. Nevertheless, Jim offered me the position and underwent a career change by taking the position. Why? At the end of those 5 months I was sold on Jim Norton. Trusting in Jim's vision for me was one of the best decisions I have ever made. In addition to putting me on a path to a career I didn't even know existed, Jim taught me so many things about life and business. Jim always emphasized that life and business were relationship driven, that relationships always came first. I will never forget Jim and his lessons.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Kay and the entire Norton family. RIP Jim.

Fred Veazey - April 30 at 01:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anne Li - April 30 at 01:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anne Li - April 30 at 12:59 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear this. We met Jim & Kay when we moved to Sun City. We have such wonderful memories of Jim. Going out to dinner, our Panama cruise, and just hanging out at our houses. Jim always had a smile!! Our sincere condolences to Kay & the family. Love Marguerite & Jim Kershaw

marguerite - April 30 at 10:35 AM



“ Mrs. Norton, I'm not sure if you'll remember me. My name is Kevin Carmelengo, and I worked for Jim the NGO Regional Account Operations starting in 1985. At the time I was a junior college drop out who started my career in Prudential in Group Life Claims. I posted for a position on Carol Banks' team and was hired. Jim used to joke that when he hired me in the RAO I was wearing jeans and had a pack of cigarettes rolled up in the sleeve of my tee shirt. He said he rescued me from Life Claims, and he was right.

He was a great mentor to me, and always took a great interest in both my life and my career. He took interest in my education and wrote a recommendation for me to Seton Hall, where I ultimately earned my BS. He always lectured me about putting money away for retirement. He told me that I was a leader and that I should act like one.

I am now a Principal and Senior Consultant with a national consulting firm. Jim, among others at Prudential had a significant impact on my career and my life. I am a manager, and often find myself teaching my junior colleagues the same lessons that Jim taught me. Fund your 401k, get to meetings well ahead of their scheduled time (Lombardi time!), find common ground, etc.

Jim left a great legacy in those he mentored throughout his career. Thank you for sharing him with us.

God bless you and your family.

Kevin Carmelengo - April 30 at 08:38 AM



“ We were fortunate to become neighbors of Jim and Kay..We loved his sense of humor. He was always ready with an amusing story, a good joke or just friendly chatter and of course, always that big beaming smile. Alzheimers claimed a wonderful man way too early and he will be missed.
Mo and Del Kendrew

Mo Kendrew - April 30 at 08:15 AM



“ Kay, Jim was not only who replaced me in the Pru group Albany office, but a long time friend while we moved throughout our Pru careers. He touched us with his humor and expertise.

I wish you and family well as we age.

Bob Lewis

robert lewis - April 29 at 10:27 PM



“ Jim and Kay have been our friends for 50+ years. I grew up in Roslindale and Jim and his family lived near us for some of his Roslindale years. Jim was a great friend. He was kind, thoughtful, and loyal. He was upbeat at all times. He loved to talk. We loved him and will miss him. Jim and Kay have been much more than work friends.
Anne and Ed

Anne Li and Ed Muldoon - April 29 at 07:46 PM



“ Jim was always a consummate professional.. Before he sold a Group Insurance product to a customer, he always tried to understand the product and, more importantly, why it was in the customer's interest to purchase one of Pru's products. He was always straight with the customer and never tried to get the customer to buy something they shouldn't. He had integrity and will be missed.

John LeDell - April 29 at 07:11 PM



“ The first time we met Jim we both knew he was not only an interesting well versed person to talk with but more important a man of the highest integrity. I remember going to a Red Sox game with Jim and Christopher and sitting in the last row of the right field bleachers at Fenway Park. By the time that the 5th inning had come Jim was engaged in conversation with a number of people that were sitting in our vicinity.

His people skills were second to none. After Chris & Michelle relocated to North Carolina we both looked forward to both seeing and speaking to Jim when we visited. Both Carol and I have fond memories and were so happy that we were able to attend his 80th birthday party event. Jim was a wonderful person and it was an honor to know him. We will both miss him but know that he is in a better place.

Carol & John Lind

Carol & John Lind - April 29 at 06:05 PM



“ I worked with Jim in Chicago, and remember him well. He was always cheerful, energetic, and supportive. RIP, Jim, and I hope your family realizes how many people will miss you.

KIM BELLARD - April 29 at 04:53 PM



“ May Jim rest in peace. Alzheimers is such a tough battle and one that you know will not be victorious.
Dennis first met Jim at a Friendly's in Albany, NY. It was because of Jim's encouragement that we became neighbors in Voorheesville, NY some 50 + years ago. We had some great times together.
My thoughts and prayers go out to all of Jim's family.
Sincerely, Dolores Collins

Dolores Collins - April 29 at 02:49 PM



“ Good bye my friend, mentor and best boss in my career. I learned so many life and career lesson from Jim. The most important lesson was the importance of family and finding work life balance! Rest In Peace Jim and may God embrace you as you embraced so many of us!

Bert Scott - April 29 at 11:44 AM



“ Such a wonderful man! A great family man, friend, travel mate, and conversationalist. Jimmy had an innate ability to connect people with different places and things and could converse on any topic. In addition to our escapades in Florida , we can add mountains of New Hampshire, his beautiful home in South Carolina, a trip through the Panama Canal and dancing our way through the Caribbean. Most memorable are the St. Patrick's Day parades on Fifth Avenue, Naples, placing our chairs on the street by 7:00 AM, having a quick breakfast then an early morning beer at Paddy Murphy's Pub! I am certain that Jimmy is in heaven, singing Irish "dittys" with all the

choirs of Angels and Archangels! A cherished friend that will be sorely missed. God bless you Jimmy!

Love, Carol and Jack



Carol Griffin - April 29 at 11:37 AM



“ Just remembering Jim’s optimistic attitude, his energy and great smile and his great gift of involving others. Prayers for all. Jim will be missed.
Love Barb and Ken Orth

Barb and Ken Orth - April 28 at 08:31 PM



“ Sunni Morgan lit a candle in memory of James S. Norton III



sunni morgan - April 28 at 08:07 PM



“ My parents spent hours talking with Jim at our childrens' Baptisms. They thought he was terrific. And he was. We will miss him, his stories, the way his smile lit up his face when we got together. Such a special man!

Rosemary Cashman - April 28 at 06:15 PM



“ We moved to Sun City in Fort Mill, SC in 2012 & were very lucky to live next door to Jim he was the first to welcome us to the neighborhood. Over the years Jim became not just a neighbor but a great friend. It was always nice to talk to him & he loved that we came from Massachusetts also. He was a wonderful man true friend & neighbor. We will miss him so much. So sorry for your loss of a great husband, father & friend.

Ruth & Lisa Patti

Lisa Patti - April 28 at 05:48 PM