



James William Harmon

October 6, 1957 - April 13, 2016

After a valiant fight with cancer, James "Jim" William Harmon (58) passed away at home on April 13, 2016, with his wife Nancy and daughter Amber by his side.

Jim was born on October 6, 1957, in Spokane, Washington. He grew up in Spokane Valley, graduated from West Valley High School, and attended college at Spokane Falls Community College and Eastern Washington University. He was a great athlete and maintained life-long friendships with many of his teammates and coaches from high school and college.

Jim and Nancy's 40-year love story began in high school when Jim took Nancy on her first date in 1976. Jim's humble spirit and warm smile stole Nancy's heart. He was her rock, her best friend, her soul mate. They married on June 29, 1985, and were blessed with their beautiful daughter in 1986.

Jim, Nancy and Amber moved to Wenatchee in November 1993, where Jim began his career with the United States Postal Service. He loved being a letter carrier and took great pride in serving his customers. Jim also enjoyed his coworkers and valued his friendships with them.

Jim had an immense passion for golf and basketball that began in his school years and continued throughout his life. He taught his daughter Amber how to play basketball and travelled across the nation to watch her play ball in AAU through college, rarely missing a game. Due to his illness, Jim had to hang up his golf clubs before he reached his goal of golfing in every state. However, he was able to check off one bucket list item when he golfed at Pebble Beach

last fall with his nephew Mikey. Jim cherished the memories of that trip and other golf outings with his buddies.

Jim will be remembered as a loving, kind-hearted husband and father who adored his wife and daughter. He was a loyal and trustworthy friend who always looked for the good in people. His genuine good humor and loving nature made him slow to anger and quick to forgive, always encouraging those around him to "Let it go." As one family member noted, "They don't come any better than Big Jim Harmon and that says it all." We will all miss Jim's sense of humor, warm smile and gentle soul.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife Nancy and beloved daughter Amber. He is also survived by his brothers Tom and Jeff, and many much-loved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Phyllis (Swannack) Harmon, his father Rodney Harmon and his beloved basset hound Louie. Nancy and Amber are grateful to the nurses at CWH (especially Mel, Amanda, and Dawn) who provided exceptional care and attention to Jim and his family during his last few days.

A funeral is scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Wenatchee, WA. Condolences can be sent to his online guestbook at: www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Jude Research Hospital or other charity supporting cancer research.

Tribute Wall

“ On the day of Jim's Funeral , I invited a few of the guys that knew Jim and had played golf with him to join me on my back deck for some tears and beers sharing our fond memories of The Big Guy. We decided we would play golf the next day at Highlander in honor of Jim (4/23/16). Ken Kinners could not go; he had to work at the post office, John Evenson could not go because he was flying out to Mexico the next morning . Dave DeLong asked around and no one from the family could play with us on Saturday.

So the threesome was going to be Brian Crosley, Dave DeLong and myself (Buell Hawkins). The three of us played with Jim about every 5th Wednesday, when the three postal workers got that day off in their rotation.

When I awoke Saturday morning and got ready for golf, a thought swept through my head . There was a reason none was able to fill that fourth spot; it was to be Jim's.

When we met up at the golf course, I shared my thoughts with Brian and Dave and we decided to pay for a fourth player; even though, we were only a threesome. That fourth player was to be Jim Harmon and we decided each of us would take a turn for six holes with an empty seat next to us for Jim.

Dave DeLong was drawn to have the first six holes. He asked me : Do really believe Jim is with us today? I told him I believed it with all my heart. At that moment Dave reached inoto the bottom of his golf bag pocket and and arbitrarily pulled out a Titleist 55, that he had forgotten was in his bag. It was the very ball that Jim had given Dave on his 55th Birthday, three years before.

Y'All can say and think what you want about irony or that it was just a stroke of chance. But the three of us will tell you it was Jim telling us that YES he was going to be with us that day. And he was

alright and we could let go; because now he was with our Lord.

Each of us played our best golf during the six holes Jim was with us. It was a great day on the links with our buddy.

Buell Hawkins

Buell Hawkins - April 24, 2016 at 04:54 PM

EL

“ *We only knew Jim at work. We can both say that he was the nicest guy we had ever met. What a gentle soul. Our prayers are with you, Nancy and Amber.*

Eric and Nancy Loeb sack - April 24, 2016 at 03:08 PM

DR

“ *As a teacher and coach at West Valley High School in the Spokane Valley, I knew Jim as a student*

and as a friend. Jim had a wisdom not usually seen at that age and was a natural leader.

My sympathy and prayers are with Mrs Harmon and their family.

x

Duane Ranniger - April 23, 2016 at 04:57 PM

SP

“ *Jim; The Man in the Middle. I was blessed to get to know and enjoy Jim in the late 80's, on a rec BB team with some of his West Valley buddies. What a wonderful man. Thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort for Jim's family.*

Scoter Pischel - April 22, 2016 at 05:30 PM

ET

“ We are sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was our mailman for many years, even when we moved, he became our mailman at our new home, too. We had many wonderful visits with him and oh boy he loved his wife, Nancy. Jeanette especially enjoyed sharing with Jim that her dad was a retired mailman, from Puyallup. May God grant you and your family the peace and love, only HE can, through this difficult time.

Eric and Jeanette Thompson - April 22, 2016 at 03:52 PM

“ I absolutely loved Jim Harmon. He was a true "Gentle Giant".. We often played golf together; and it was usually on a Wednesday when, Dave DeLong and Brian Crossley , along with Jim, had a day off in the post office rotation.

I had given "Big Jimbo" my own personal nickname based on his golf game-"Hands of Stone" His hands were literally as big as catcher's mitts.. He could drive the ball easily 290 yards when he was hitting it well. Fairway woods and rons were routinely crushed.

But he had a heck of a time around the greens with his short game (putting and chipping) One Wednesday evening, Jim stayed for Three Lakes Men's Club , after our Wed. round with Dave and Brian. And, Jim and i were partners in a two man Best Ball Game . We were PARTNERS . We were supposed to be a TEAM. But our night quickly evolved into a mano-e-mano competition Jim vs me. And it was hotly contested. It came down to the last hole, which because of a shotgun start turned out to be Three Lakes #17- a par four.

Jim hit first and crushed his drive hitting to the upslope in front of the green. He was sitting pretty-lying one 40' from the flag. This seemed particularly true when my drive faded and ended up right behind a tree on the right side of the fairway and dead blocked from going at the flag with my wedge. I had to punch out and ended up in 2 about 20 yards behind Jim's ball. Now he was feeling really confident. So as we walked up to my ball , I said to him " Tell you what "Hands of Stone" I bet you beers in the clubhouse for our foursome that I get a better score on this hole than you for the out right win.

"Youi're on Buell" I pitched up with a good shot good shot and I had

a 4' putt for par.

Jim was next- As he walked up to his ball . I tried a little bit of gamemanship on the Bigh Guy. Actually it was really a dirty trick. I said to him. "Hands of Stone- Now don't fluff it. You know you have a tendency to do that on an upslope." He proceeded to do exactly that " wedge sliding under the ball and advancing it only 2' . " Now Jim don't fluff it again" And this time he "skulls it across the green into the arborvitae.

"Jim I'll help you find your ball-just let me putt this in first-which I did for a par. After the drop. Jim is lying 3 about 15' from the pin and he has to chip it in to tie. I didn't say a word. Jim, hit it to 5' past the hole.

"Jim pick it up-that's good for bogey-and the three of us will have Kokanee's .

We headed to the clubhouse Jim bought tyhe beers for Mike Ward, Randy Wellborn and myself, set them down in front of us at our table and took a seat as far away from us as he possibly could and sat with a blank stare on his face.. Randy and Mike said "Buell you are really lucky Jim didn't flat out kick your after the stunt you pulled" Nope I said Jim is way too much of a gentlemen to even curse me-which was absolutely the truth.

As i was told the following Friday by Nancy, and the following weekend by Jim, Jim shared with Nancy the outcome on #17 and the beers he had to buy. Her response " Shame on you-why do you let that Buell get into your head like that?"

Good question-perhaps a better question is why didn't he just take one of those big catcher's mitts on the end of his arms and wrap it

around my neck and squeeze the life out of me. I think the answer is , as he told me-I love playing with you Buell-you make me laugh!

Jim and I palyed golf together as often as we could and I did my best to stay in touch with him after he got the bad news. I remeember when I heard the news that he had terminal cancer -I cried like a baby and immediately called him on the phone and we spoke for an hour and he shared his options and plans without one complaint. And I remember when I got the news from Dave DeLong's text that Jim had passed .It was Wednesday and I was on the course at Three Lakes. And again I cried like a baby. I had so much wanted to talk to Jim one more time. I had texted Jim 3 days before trying to cheer him up and asking him to call me when he felt better-as I felt at the time he surely would.

*I will keep that text to Jim forever. I love you and will miss you
"Hands of Stone:*

Buell Hawkins

Buell Hawkins - April 22, 2016 at 09:10 AM

TH

“ *I will always remember Jim as a kind soul with a big heart. My heartfelt condolences.*

Toni Harmon - April 21, 2016 at 05:55 PM

RH

“ *Have some great memories playing softball with Jim and maybe a littte beer drinking. We never got in any trouble, I am sure Nancy would agree with that. Anyway very sorry to here about Jim I loved being around him. Randy holter. STEIN*

Randy Holter - April 21, 2016 at 03:59 PM

DC

“ Nancy and Amber you are in my family's thoughts and prayers. Jim was a special man in many ways that cannot be expressed without it making you smile both inside and out. I am proud to have known him, to work with him, and to be his friend. May the upcoming days give you comfort and peace.

Doug Countryman - April 20, 2016 at 05:16 PM

MM

“ To Nancy, Amber, Tom and Jeff: It was extremely difficult to hear of Jim's passing this past weekend but I wanted to express my thoughts and our prayers are with you all, during this time. In the coming days, I am sure that you all will have a chance to share those special memories of Jim with family and friends to help ease the sadness that you must now feel. I want you all to know that it was truly a privilege to know and grow up with the Harmon's for many years and Jim was always a gentleman and true friend. He will forever be remembered, and from now on, when I play Island Green, Hole 17 TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach Florida, I will be teeing it up for Jim. May GOD be with you all.

Mike Miller - April 20, 2016 at 04:36 PM

VP

“ Very sad to hear the news of Jim's passing. What a fine man and good friend. My condolences to his family.

Vic Parcher - April 16, 2016 at 12:13 PM

MV

“ We are a few of the many lucky souls to have been blessed to know Jim. We can't be thankful enough to have had him as a brother-in-law. Mike and I are so grateful to have been part of his life.

Thank you "Harmon" for being a wonderful uncle to our children and a loving father to our niece Amber. Thank you for being the one true love of my sister's life. Both you and Nancy were fortunate to share forty years together. We pray for your comfort in all the wonderful memories you've made over the years.

Nancy and Amber we are here for you always. You are in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers.

Love Mike & Sue

Mike & Sue Varga - April 16, 2016 at 11:44 AM

JH

“ I was sorry to read Jims obituary this morning. He is one of those guys who makes a positive impact on others with his kindness and thoughtfulness. He was a giant with a gigantic heart and even though it has been a while since we have been together flashes of his memory passes through me often. He is the perfect definition of "No man stands taller than when he stoops to help another."

Condolences to Nancy and your family and friends.

John Hathaway - April 16, 2016 at 10:33 AM

RF

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I had the opportunity to play a round of golf with Jim last May. I really enjoyed Jim's company during our round of golf and appreciated all the good shots he provided our foursome. We had some good laughs and a few good shots during our round. I know he is playing a great course in heaven right now.

I have the good fortune to work with Amber and I am certain of what a good father Jim was as he raised a very special woman in Amber.

We send our family's deepest sympathy and prayers during this difficult time.

Rick Krueger and Family - April 16, 2016 at 02:23 AM