



James Emmett Blakely

January 16, 1940 - July 22, 2022

James Emmett Blakely, of Easton, passed away on July 22, 2022.

Born on January 16th, 1940, to the late Erma Florence Blakely and Lester Eugene Blakely in Torrance, California. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Edna; a son, Jeffrey Blakely (Donna); a daughter, Kimberly Blakely Williams (Bryan); grandchildren, Connor Blakely, Chadwick Blakely and Erin Williams; a brother, Laurence E. Blakely; and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother, Bruce Lester Blakely and his wife, Norma; along with a sister in law, Darlene Blakely.

Jim's career spanned 36 years at the Library of Congress. As a Senior Reference Specialist working for the Congressional Research Service, he served Members of Congress, and congressional staff with research for numerous legislative matters. He appreciated working together with his many talented colleagues, remaining friends for life.

After retirement he volunteered for many organizations. For 25 years he enjoyed barbershop singing; most of those years with Bowie Knights of Harmony.

He wanted everyone to know, "He Tried" and to be kind to one another. He has now relocated to heaven.

At his request, services will be private.

Those wishing to make a donation in his memory are encouraged to do so to a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Emmett Blakely*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *James Emmett Blakely*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *James Emmett Blakely*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Jim was a kind, caring and wonderful colleague. I was very fortunate to have worked with him early in my career at CRS. He just knew how to help new folks grow and learn by the examples and practices that he set. Jim exemplified service to the Congress and, though often working in a very busy and sometimes frantic atmosphere, he also exuded calmness and compassion. I will miss his sense of humor and the twinkle in his eye. My condolences to Jim's family and his many friends. Kristen Whitney*

Kristen Whitney - July 28, 2022 at 08:55 AM



“ *Sara Jane Davidson lit a candle in memory of James Emmett Blakely*



sara jane davidson - July 27, 2022 at 02:41 PM

“ From this point on, this easily writes itself.

Jim was always the quiet leader of family, friends, and so many congressional research and other colleagues, by his deeds, example, and steadfast principles that allowed no compromise. It's impossible to rank the order of his accomplishments, since so much stood out over his giving years. It wasn't always necessary to hear him voice the best of his advice and take-charge actions in myriad situations. One just needed to look and see the results of his actions. From his professional colleagues, the words, "how would Jim do it" always came up in discussions of putting our best foot forward and resolving issues. Yet, there was no lecturing or tutoring from him required, because the examples of Jim giving the best effort and results played out right in front of us all.

First-in-service might also be the related hallmark, because it accompanies his quiet dedication to all of those of us listed above. Jim had the qualities that would never allow for anything less in representing his family, friends, and professional colleagues. He epitomized the word "service" in going the distance to always put others' interests above his own with no time-clock limitations. He often placed limits on things in his own interest while never placing limits on his service to others. In this, he never let go of a task until it was thoroughly complete.

But when these things are mentioned, it runs the risk of leaving out the sheer warmth, fun, and spontaneity of this man who may ultimately best be remembered by all for his sense of humor and for us having the joy of just being in his company. Not just his "sense of humor" by the way, but his "sixth sense" of humor which came so naturally and captured every situation to its perfection. No wonder that his avocational interests such as his great Barbershop group participation over the years was such a hit. It's doubtful that he needed to rehearse even a minute to come up with the right inflections, tone, and full rousing performances that were perfect for the many shows he and his partners gave.

Let this close now with the recognition that this man and his loving wife gave others the chance to see what parenting and grandparenting is and should be all about. By his love and caring for those in his family and from his gifts to all generations whom he met and “adopted,” he enabled this family to be better stewards and loving parents and grandparents by example to our own. His life was the success that created success and happiness for so many others.

Mike Waterhouse



Michael Waterhouse - July 27, 2022 at 11:55 AM



“ *As you can easily imagine working for Congress, we had demanding clients. Jim provided those of us who were new to Congressional Research Service with a terrific model for how to be professional and kind, too. He was a generous mentor and also fun to be around. I just want to add that it was easy for me to see how very happily married Jim and Edna were. My sincerest condolences to all of your family. - Janet Kinzer*

Janet Kinzer - July 26, 2022 at 05:23 PM



“ *Jim was a perfect Gentleman. — a grateful colleague, Jennifer Manning.*

Jennifer Manning - July 26, 2022 at 04:12 PM

FF

“ *Jim was a wonderful colleague. He was calm in the face of often stressful situations, a model we could all only hope to copy. My deepest condolences on your loss. Floris Flam*

Floris Flam - July 26, 2022 at 04:02 PM