



## James "Jim" Francis Barry

September 28, 1944 - August 8, 2021

We are sad to announce the passing of James (Jim) Francis Barry of Chestertown, Md. on August 8, after a long journey with Parkinson's disease. Jim was born on September 28, 1944 in Peabody, MA to Marie and Arthur Barry and married Sheila McIntire of Marlbehead, MA in 1967. The two enjoyed 54 years of devoted marriage.

Jim's engaging personality and sharp wit drew people to him. For much of his life, Jim stood up for the underprivileged and underserved, without consideration for the consequences. His passion for justice and service set an example for those who knew him to follow. A graduate of St. John's Prep, Boston College (B.A.), Suffolk University (MBA), and Northeastern University (Ed.D.), Jim enlisted in the Navy in 1966 and served in Vietnam as a Weapons Officer in 1968 aboard the USS Mt. McKinley based in Da Nang Harbor. He earned the Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal and left active duty in October of 1969, and served in the Naval Reserves afterward.

In 1980, Jim took a life-changing sabbatical in Haiti where he helped small scale farmers by forming a co-op bank. This enabled farmers to purchase seed and chicken coops to grow their business, support their families, and enrich their communities. This was the first of many trips to Haiti. Jim also volunteered in Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying, her orphanage in Port-au-Prince, and, in 1990, accepted an appointment from the Organization of American States to serve as one of 200 international observers during Haiti's

first democratic elections.

A much beloved coach and educator, Jim enlightened and empowered his players and students to become their best selves and inspired many of his students along the way. He joined the faculty at Cape Cod Community College in the 1970s and 80s and turned around the hockey program taking the team to a national championship tournament in Lake Placid, NY. In 1988 Jim accepted an appointment to the US Naval Academy to rejuvenate its club hockey program. Over eight seasons he accumulated a record of 91-42-12, enjoyed four league championships, and took the program to two national championship tournaments.

A very popular coach and professor of leadership and ethics, Jim confronted systemic challenges within the Navy's culture by authoring a passionate and controversial Washington Post op-ed in March of 1996 entitled "Adrift in Annapolis: To Understand Why the Navy's Moral Compass is Broken, Start at the Naval Academy". The article provoked national and Congressional discussion and reflection, and afterwards Jim left the Academy and moved his family to Chestertown, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Before transitioning from his career as an educator, Jim taught university students on the Semester at Sea program on two different occasions.

Jim also distinguished himself as a developer in the North End of Boston. In 1981 he founded JF Curtis Development and purchased and modernized a number of buildings in Boston's North End. His prize piece was the construction and development of 21 Cleveland Place.

In 1978 Jim and Sheila brought their family to Cuttyhunk Island, MA where they created a business offering mooring services to boaters and spent decades summering and developing lifelong relationships with many islanders. One islander commented that wherever he went, Jim made memories for people. He was a character who delighted in telling jokes, regaling friends with humorous stories and spending time with people he cared for. Cuttyhunk has remained the centerpiece of their lives and the root of many of their lifelong friendships. Jim and Sheila were long-time residents

of Barnstable, MA, until they moved their family to Andover in 1982, then to Annapolis, Maryland, and finally to Chestertown where he passed peacefully on Sunday morning, August 8th.

An ardent philanthropist, Jim served on non-profit boards including two shelters dedicated to serving those finding themselves temporarily homeless, St. Francis House in Boston and The Baltimore Station in Maryland, as well as Kent School in Chestertown. At both shelters Jim used his engaging personality to design and offer leadership programs for more than two decades to give life skills to those less fortunate so they could rejoin the workforce and fulfill their potential.

A long-time member of Al-Anon and Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, Jim poured his energies into sustaining thriving chapters of both on Cuttyhunk Island and in Chestertown. Finally, he created a support group for people with Parkinson's and their families in Chestertown, Md that continues on.

He is survived by his loving wife Sheila, their children, Shawna Buckley (Marc), Chandon Barry, Ajay Barry (Jackie), Alicia Barry (John), Nathan Barry (Lindsay), and their 9 grandchildren (Jack, Aidan, Cotter, Shawn, Colin, Matthew, Mila, Gillian, and Elle).

Jim was predeceased by his brother Arthur Barry, and his brother-in-law James H. Frame, and is survived by his siblings, Katherine and Curtis (Pauline), his sister-in-law Carol and their 9 nieces and nephews. Please send donations in lieu of flowers to Jim's favorite charities: Rock Steady Boxing (<https://rocksteadyboxing.org/donate/> Designate Rock Steady of Centreville), The Baltimore Station (<https://baltimorestation.org/donate/>), St. Francis House of Boston ([http://www2.stfrancishouse.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SFH\\_homepage](http://www2.stfrancishouse.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SFH_homepage)), and Cuttyhunk Fire and Rescue Company (mail checks to Town of Gosnold, Cuttyhunk Island, MA 02713, designate Cuttyhunk Fire and Rescue).

A visitation and celebration of life will be held for Jim at Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home in Chestertown, Md on September 18, 2021 from 1-3pm. Additionally, there will be a burial service at Cuttyhunk Cemetery on October 9, 2021 at 11am followed by a luncheon and sharing of memories.

# Previous Events

## Gathering

SEP 18. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

## Service of Remembrance

SEP 18. 2:30 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of James "Jim" Francis Barry*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 18, 2021 at 09:22 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Francis Barry*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 15, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ *James "Jim" Francis Barry*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *James "Jim" Francis Barry*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ James "Jim" Francis Barry

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Thinking of you and your family Sheila. Saddened to read of Jim's illness and death.  
I live in Alexandria VA and fondly remember catching up with you when I was in Chesterton for a wedding... btw... we have a friend in common  
Howard Goldman ( small world!)  
Peace be with you.  
Moira Prout Kelleher  
6179393291

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**moira kelleher** - May 03, 2022 at 05:11 PM



“ Thinking of all the Barrys Marianne Reichert Reilly-Andover MA

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**Marianne Reilly** - November 14, 2021 at 08:13 PM

DZ

“ Dear Sheila,  
We're very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a huge part of our lives both in business and personally. During the many times we were alone together the conversations touched every subject from the serious to the sublime to did we really say that. But we always looked forward to the next one which many times was the very next day.  
I'll always think of Jim as a smart, determined, creative man with his own unique style.  
Besides all that he accomplished in business , teaching and giving of himself to others he was most proud of the beautiful family you and he created.  
Our deepest condolences.  
Sandy and Don Zagoren

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Donald R Zagoren - October 10, 2021 at 10:37 PM

HG

“ Dear Sheila and family, Tracey and I were saddened to learn of Jim's passing. We recently watched our wedding video from 35 years ago where Jim provided his usual colorful commentary with those twinkling eyes and a huge grin! He provided an instant blast of fresh air to every room he entered. We will always remember our trip to Barbados filled with many adventures and laughs. I proudly wore my Frog Pond Marina shirt for many years after. Our deepest sympathies go out to your family and friends.  
Howard and Tracey Goldman, S. Glastonbury, CT



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Howard Goldman - October 01, 2021 at 04:07 PM

MO

“ I knew Jim from working in real estate when he was a developer. I have rarely met anyone as funny, kind, creative and innately intelligent. I feel privileged to have known him. Rest In Peace Jim. You made the world a better place.

Mary O'Connor - October 01, 2021 at 03:12 PM

MF

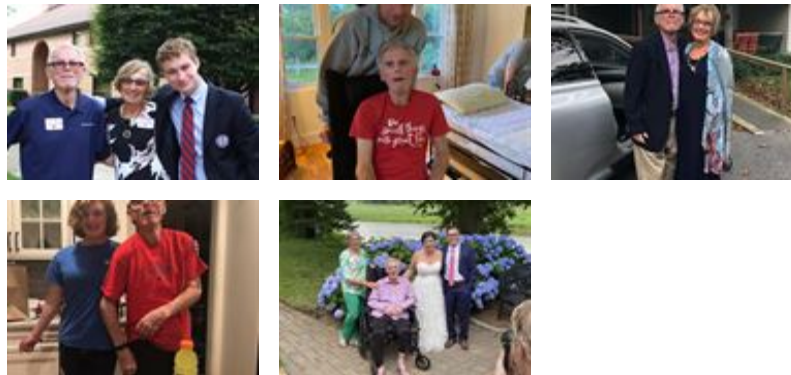
“ Mark & Sue Moynihan and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Francis Barry.



Mark & Sue Moynihan and Family - September 16, 2021 at 07:16 PM



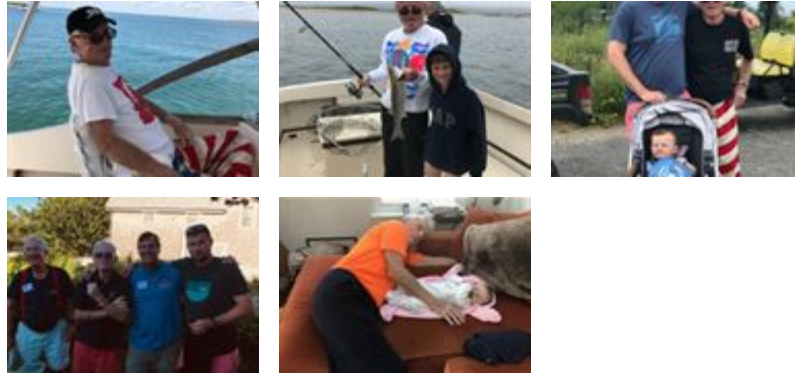
“ 9 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 16, 2021 at 09:14 AM



“ 74 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 15, 2021 at 02:54 PM

MO

“ 1 file added to the album *tribute wall*



Momo - September 11, 2021 at 08:20 AM

JG

“ *Bob and I send our sincere condolences to Sheila and the entire Barry family. Jm was a kind man who loved, humanity, his country and his family. I am sure he will be missed greatly.*  
*Jo Anne and Bob Gerhardt*

JoAnne Gerhardt - September 08, 2021 at 04:11 PM

DR

“ Jimbo was very special. The obituary mentions the Mt McKinley where I first met Jim. He was a Ltjg who had joined the ship from Pensacola - he decided he did not want to be an aviator. Jimbo took us brand new Ensigns under his wing, and was not afraid to air our grievances to the XO who did his best to agitate the Ensigns. Jim stood up for us, without consideration for the consequences. His passion for justice and service guided him throughout his life. I was proud to have him as my friend.

*Captain Dieter Rudolph USN (ret)*

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**Dieter Rudolph** - September 07, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Francis Barry.



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August 29, 2021 at 11:21 AM

ES

“ Sheila, I am very sorry to hear of your husband's death. He live an admirable, good life. Sending you my thoughts and sympathy.  
*Elizabeth (Barry) Sweet, Newton College 1968*

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**Elizabeth Sweet** - August 27, 2021 at 07:14 PM



“ Jim Barry, was my friend and godfather. Through his role modeling, he taught me many life lessons. Jim also brought me and my family Cuttyhunk with decades of memories I treasure. Jim often said, “Life was like a restaurant.” With Jim’s passing, someone else gets to sit at that table; I can only hope they positively impact as many people as Jim did. Love you, Jimmy B.  
 “Now he belongs to the ages.”  
 -Tim Trautman

Tim Trautman - August 27, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“ I remember Jim from Semester at Sea. He really was the students favorite. He also entertained us with wonderful stories. One story was of he and Shella being at a Nodel Event with Mother Theresa and his camera would not work.  
 Marcia Maloni

marcia - August 26, 2021 at 10:58 AM



“ Coach Barry is the man who got me past a jump and into the US Naval Academy. Without his influence, I would have had a much different life. I am better for having been in his orbit for the two years he was my coach. Go Screamin' Eagles.

John Bruzza - August 24, 2021 at 06:27 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Francis Barry.



August 24, 2021 at 12:50 PM

KN

“ Hugs from the Nemiahs to all the Barrys. Jim was always the sunshine in the room. Sometimes jovial in his story-telling, sometimes quietly taking in the scene, Jim drew you in until you were learning and laughing about some insight of human nature too. He will be deeply missed. Karen & Dave

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**Karen Nemiah** - August 23, 2021 at 11:29 PM

SL

“ We are extending our deepest sympathies for the passing of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and mentor! Our prayers and blessings are with you all!  
Much love,  
Stacey & Allie

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**Stacey Landrie** - August 23, 2021 at 08:56 PM

PB

“ I offer the sailors prayer to Jim, an older friend, and the Sheila and their incredible family. I could offer many find and fun memories of my times with Jim over all the summers on Cuttyhunk, one of my favorite was clamming with Jim & Ace in the west end, each with our own area, solving all the worlds problems as we competed to see who could dig the most steamers 😎  
The Sailors Prayer:  
“ To reach the port of heaven...you must sail. Sometimes hard against the wind...sometimes gently with it. But...you must sail, not drift aimlessly or lay at anchor.”  
You will be missed forever Jim...  
Paul Battaini & family 🙏

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**Paul Battaini** - August 23, 2021 at 06:48 PM

TT

*The Sailors Prayer, a perfect choice for Jim with the subtle reference to Cuttyhunk. Very thoughtful, Paul.*  
-Tim Trautman

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**Tim Trautman** - August 23, 2021 at 09:44 PM

JH

“*Jim was instrumental in helping me get affordable housing at a critical point in my life. Shawna, Ajay, & Alicia also helped me along. I had rather figured out that Jim was a philanthropist, and not because he told me, but because other people spoke of how he helped them. True charity is humble, and that was Jim. I remember speaking to him once, and he opened his trunk which contained a bunch of food and basic supplies. I asked him about it, but he demurred. I learned from a friend he kept it with him to help strangers who might be in need. His energies were poured into serving others, and he leaves behind a legacy few in this world ever will. I cannot say this about many, but the world lost a remarkable man. Jim Barry was one of nature’s true gentlemen, and he lives on in the many lives he touched.*”

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**Jake Haniffee** - August 23, 2021 at 12:44 PM

CM

“*I will never forget when our John passed away he went out of his way to help us. He was always helpful trying to find parts for our shop. He would joke and cut up smiling. Prayers for family for peace*”

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**Carol Mullins** - August 19, 2021 at 04:13 PM

CM

*So sorry wrong Mr Barry. Prayers for family*

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**Carol Mullins** - August 19, 2021 at 04:19 PM

KF

“ *Our very deepest condolences from all our family. We remember Jim's energy, sense of humor and generosity.*

**Kay Frishman** - August 16, 2021 at 12:38 PM

JF

“ *Joseph Cook & Family lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Francis Barry*



**Joseph Cook & Family** - August 13, 2021 at 08:01 AM

LP

“ *Lee Phillips lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Francis Barry*



**Lee Phillips** - August 12, 2021 at 05:46 PM

CM

“ *Jim always wore a smile; he was a kind and loving soul with a great sense of humor. He be greatly missed.*

**colette mcollum** - August 12, 2021 at 11:14 AM

TF

“ *The Pott Family lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Francis Barry*



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**The Pott Family** - August 12, 2021 at 09:52 AM

TF

*the POTT family*

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**The Pott Family** - August 12, 2021 at 09:53 AM

RS

*The first time I met Jim he came into Peebles and needed help buying mens clothing...37 bags later I had made a friend...Jiim and Sheila have a special place in my heart for their kindness, generosity and warmth...with love and prayers...Robin Sesplankis*

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**Robin Sesplankis** - August 17, 2021 at 03:22 PM