



James Franklin Easterling

March 15, 1939 - April 29, 2014

James Franklin Easterling, 75 of Springdale passed away Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at his home. He was born March 15, 1939 in Los Angeles, California to James Frank and Marie Brock Easterling.

Jim joined the US Army when he was 19 where he was stationed in Germany as a paratrooper. After serving his tour of duty, he came to Medford, OK where he began lifetime employment with his beloved Southwestern Bell where he served in many capacities, lastly as a manager. Jim's work ethic, intelligence, and great people skills enabled him to get noticed by his managers, paving the way for each promotion. He loved "The Phone Company" and all of the people he met and got to work with there. When he got an early retirement package at 52yrs of age, he received a large surprise party attended by many friends and colleagues who loved and respected him.

Jim and Mary's lifelong love story began when she was 16 years old. He pursued her after seeing a picture of her and persuaded a friend to set him up on a date with her. She loved his charisma, charm and good looks and, after dating for several years, they married on August 18, 1962. Mary was in Nursing School in Oklahoma City, OK where she earned her RN degree. They settled down and began their life together.

Jim was a wonderful husband, a partner who loved and protected Mary his whole life. She was his rock and he reciprocated. As a wonderful father, he worked hard to support his family, being a daily example of what it meant to live your life with integrity, honesty, and morals. He lived up to his word every time. He was a wonderful friend, always loyal to those in his circle. You never had to worry if he "had your back."

They had 4 children, 3 sons and 1 daughter, who they made sure were brought up loving God, valuing hard work, and respecting authority. While there was discipline, there was so much love and fun. Favorite memories include summer vacations, celebrating Holidays (especially Christmas), learning to water ski on Beaver Lake, countless camping trips, big family dinners, donuts after Church on Sunday, and celebrating each others accomplishments. His children had children, and he loved his grandchildren greatly. You couldn't go a visit without hearing about some new accomplishment that one of them had achieved. In true Grandparent-style, every milestone was a miracle!

Jim's hobbies were many - fishing, coaching, boating, target shooting, hunting, softball, and watching history documentaries - but his main passion, outside of his family, was golf. Since his retirement, he played daily at the Springdale Country Club where he had many, many really good friends. Friends that he loved and treasured. On the day that he went to Heaven, he played his best game of golf in many weeks with some of his best friends. You could say it was a great day for him. He was loved by many and will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Easterling of the home; four children, James “Hank” Easterling and wife Karen of Omaha, Nebraska; Denise Easterling-Bugos and husband Chad of Bentonville, Arkansas; Todd Easterling and wife Marsha, and John A. Easterling of Springdale; fourteen grandchildren, Frank, Max, Branden, Logan, Brendan, Bria, Brooke, Austin, Brock, Carson, Hannah, Madeline, Riley, and Brett and two great grandchildren, Carter and Oliver.

Rosary services will be Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Raphael’s Catholic Church. Mass will be Friday, May 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Memorials may be made to Arkansas Children’s Hospital, 1 Children’s Way, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Franklin Easterling*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *I was crushed to hear of Jim's passing. He was a true gentleman. He was one of my heros from our golf group. Always had a smile and a greeting. Such a calm demeanor and kind spirit. I will miss him more than I can convey in this message. Much sympathy for your family's loss.*

Scott Bailey

Scott Bailey - May 06, 2014 at 09:26 AM



Scott, thank you for taking the time to leave such a heartfelt message. I'm so grateful that Dad had such a great group of friends that shared the passion that he did. He was such a lucky man to get to golf every day after his retirement, assuming it wasn't too wet or too cold (he got a little antsy during the cold of winter...). I loved Dad's calm demeanor also. You always could count on him, which is such a wonderful thing to be able to say about your dad. Thanks again.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 10:59 AM

S(

“ The obituary was excellent. Truly represented Uncle Jim. My fondest memories were boating for the first time - had mountain dew for the first time. Thanksgiving football near their home - that's the year we welcomed John Durkin into the family. Fun, fun memories. I also remember a time I got to go spend some time with Aunt Mary Ann and Uncle James when I was very, very young. I got to help cook and I remember eating "eggplant" - what a foreign thought for me! If I remember correctly - Uncle Jim's parents were there. Anyhow . . . I remember Uncle Jim as a kind hearted man and I did notice throughout the years how he seemed (I am sure now) how much he loved Aunt Mary Ann and all of his children and grandchildren. Uncle Jim will be missed. So very sorry for family's loss.

Susan Mervish (niece) - May 03, 2014 at 05:57 PM

DB

Hi Sweet Cousin, my favorite memories are of our camping/boating trips too! And YES, the Mountain Dew!!! So so good when it's super cold, on ice in the ice chest. Still love it! Love the other reminders you mentioned too. Thank you for remembering Dad with such fondness and love - that means the world to us. We love you very much.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 10:56 AM

MJ

“ John, Todd, Ms. Mary, et al: My deepest condolences to you all. Out of all the dads of all the friends I had growing up, Jim was always my favorite. He was also great to have as a coach on our Royals little league teams back in the '80's (seems like it was only yesterday). I regretfully was unable to attend his service today, but please know that you've all been in my thoughts & prayers all week & will continue to be there for some time. God Bless!

Mark Jackson - May 02, 2014 at 05:21 PM

DB

Mark, I'm glad to hear that Dad was one of the "cool dads." And he totally loved coaching, I DO remember that. Thank you for sharing your memories, it is very much appreciated!

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 10:45 AM

SK

*“ They didnt come any better than Jim, he was a great boss and friend to everyone who worked with him at SWBT.
Steve Kennan*

Steve Kennan - May 02, 2014 at 01:47 PM

DB

Steve, I always respected my dad's ability to be a good manager of process and people. It's a real tribute when co-workers have such good things to say about you - shows a little of the legacy he left. Thank you for the kind words.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 10:44 AM

RW

“ So sorry for your loss. Jim was my exchange repair supervisor with Southwestern Bell in the 80's and 90's. He will be missed.

Ric Wilkins

ric Wilkins - May 02, 2014 at 09:32 AM

DB

Ric, my dad loved The Phone Company (that's what we called it) and all of his friends there. And that's what he considered everyone, his managers and those he managed. Thank you for the kind words.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 10:42 AM

JC

“ sorry for your loss. We enjoyed Jim's calm demeanor and dry wit. A very well respected and admired man.

Jason & Lee cole

Jason & Lee Cole - May 02, 2014 at 08:24 AM

DB

Jason and Lee, thank you very much for the kind words. "Dry Wit" is exactly what he had. And he was the master of the Straight Face! My older brother, Hank, inherited that trait. I just skip the effort and go straight to sarcasm. He loved all of his friends.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 10:41 AM

HG

“ To all of the Easterling family, we were sorry to hear about James' passing. Please know that are thoughts and prayers are with you.

Howard and Wanda Griffin

Howard Griffin - May 01, 2014 at 10:05 PM

DB

Howard and Wanda, thank you very much for you kind words. Never underestimate how much the little things you say help in these times. Thank you again.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 11:01 AM

MC

“ We are so sorry to learn of his untimely and sudden death. Mary, you and all your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Mary Louise & George Cora - Delaware...Karen's friends...

Mary Louise Chesley-Cora - May 01, 2014 at 05:28 PM

DB

Mary Louise and George, thank you very much for reaching out and leaving this kind note. It is very much appreciated!

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 11:02 AM

LH

“ *Mary, to your family from our family we are so sorry! Gary and Loretta Harral*

Loretta Harral - May 01, 2014 at 02:02 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of James Franklin Easterling.*



May 01, 2014 at 01:52 PM

MD

“ *My Dearest Mary and children, I am so sorry for your loss, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones.*

Mercedes DeWitt

Mercedes DeWitt - May 01, 2014 at 12:12 PM

LN

Mary, my greatest sympathy for your loss, thoughts and prayers are with you and family. Lois Newman

Lois Newman - May 01, 2014 at 12:44 PM

DB

Mercedes, thank you very much for your kindness and friendship during this time. Every little thing that friends do really does help, so thank you!

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 11:05 AM

JB

“ *Hey Mary, sincere condolences to you from Jack and Virginia Burson. Played many rounds of golf with Jim. He will be MISSED!!!!*

Jack Burson - May 01, 2014 at 09:41 AM

DB

Jack and Virginia, thank you for leaving your kind message. Dad definitely loved his golf and all of his golfing buddies.

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 11:06 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Franklin Easterling.*



May 01, 2014 at 06:54 AM

MJ

“ I will always remember Jim's service to our Fire Department as a Volunteer Firefighter, and when he was a tackle for our Department football team when we played fund raiser games against the Police Department. He was big, strong, and a little bit mean on that football field, and strong and helpful on the fireground.

Mickey Jackson

Mickey Jackson - April 30, 2014 at 06:08 PM

DB

Mickey, thank you for the wonderful message you left and thank you for the plant you sent. Mom was especially pleased to hear your recollections of Dad - both on the football field and on the fireground. Thanks for recounting some great memories!

Denise Bugos - May 13, 2014 at 11:08 AM