



James "Jim" Howard Key II

OCT 5, 1952 - JUN 19, 2012



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James "Jim" Howard Key II

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James "Jim" Howard Key, II, passed away on June 19, 2012 in Memphis, TN. Jim was born in Milan, TN, on October 5, 1952. He grew up in Jackson, TN, and graduated from Jackson Central High School in 1970. He earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering at Mississippi State University in 1975, and began his career at NASA as a computer specialist in the satellite program. Jim worked in the computer programming and telecommunications industries for 35 years, most recently as a Senior Telecom Consultant for Hewlett-Packard. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, James Howard Key and Frances Hilliard, and by his stepfather, Joe Crosby. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Sharon Key, and by two daughters, Amy Key Mirdo and Elizabeth Key. His first grandchild, Lyda Elizabeth Mirdo, is expected in September 2012. Jim enjoyed playing the clarinet and the piano. He was active in The Church of the River, and sang bass in their "Awesome Little Choir." His passions included music and the arts, travel, technology, philosophy, and current events. Jim was a kindhearted and generous man, and was beloved by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed. A Memorial Service will be held at the First Unitarian Church ("Church of the River") on Saturday, June 30, at 11:00 AM. The family invites all of Jim's friends to come celebrate his life with them. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Charles A. Schulz Scholarship within the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis. University of Memphis Foundation, Department 238, P.O. Box. 1000, Memphis, TN 38148 Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38119, (901)767-8930, "Behind the Stone Wall".



Tribute Wall

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CW

Carolyn Brown Whaley posted:

Blessings on your family as you celebrate a wonderful guy. Carolyn Whaley (an old H.S. friend and band mate)

June 27 at 12:14 PM

AT

Aleta Thomas posted:

Over the 20 years or so that I knew Jim I don't think I ever heard him say a bad or negative word. He was one of the kindest people I have ever known. People were immediately drawn to him. His passing will leave a hole in the lives of us who knew him. My

June 24 at 1:20 PM

DD

Diana Dryk posted:

I worked with Jim at Tandem, Compaq and HP. He was such a nice man. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

June 24 at 1:17 PM

RM

Rima Mycynek posted:

I cannot describe the profound sadness I feel at this moment. Jim was a loving father and husband, and an upstanding member of his community. He always treated me like a friend, and made me feel welcome. Indeed, the entire Key family made me feel that wa

June 23 at 12:52 PM

AP

Ann Randle Poche posted:

Dear Sharon, Amy, and Elizabeth, Please accept our sincere sympathy on the loss of Jim. He was a very talented person and the light of his mother's eyes! My daddy- Enoch Randle- was an uncle of Frances- even though they were close to the same age. O

June 22 at 4:42 PM



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Linda Boggs posted:

I first met Jim 32+ years ago (before Austin). Jim had very thick white hair before he was 30. I know our birthdays are 2 months apart- now I cannot remember who is the youngest. We worked together in Memphis at Data Communications. I have always a

June 21 at 7:30 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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