



James "Jim" Mason

June 10, 1947 - November 12, 2024

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of James "Jim" Mason on November 12, 2024, in Springfield, Missouri. Jim was a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, whose humility, kindness, and gentle nature left a mark on all who knew him.

Jim was born to Arthur and Patricia Mason on June 10th, 1947. He grew up in Long Beach, California, where he graduated from Lakewood High School. His love of learning led him to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education and later a Master of Science in Geology.

After moving to Missouri, Jim discovered a lifelong passion for caves, which ultimately shaped his career as Manager at Fantastic Caverns, a cave he came to love dearly. In this role, he combined his deep knowledge of geology with his love of teaching, inspiring tour guides and countless visitors to appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

Jim had a profound connection to nature, finding solace and joy in the great outdoors. He truly embodied the mantra: "Take nothing but pictures, kill nothing but time, and leave nothing but footprints." He especially loved traveling out west with his wife, Karen, where they shared many treasured moments exploring breathtaking landscapes together.

Above all, Jim was devoted to his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Karen; his daughter, Rebecca; his sister, Carolyn Jenson; and several nieces and nephews. Jim was known for his quiet confidence, quick wit, and fierce love for his family. He always strived to do what was right,

leading by example with integrity and strength. To those who knew him, he was more than a husband, father, or friend—he was an anchor, a role model, and one of the best human beings we could ever hope to know. Jim's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who loved him and in the beauty of the natural world he so deeply cherished.

Please join us in celebrating his life on Saturday, November 30th, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home in Buffalo, Missouri. A short memorial service will begin at 11:15 a.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **30**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo

931 W. Main St.

P.O. Box 993

Buffalo, MO 65622

(417) 345-2211

info@cantlonotterness.com

<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

Tribute Wall

SG

“ Shirley G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Mason.

Shirley G. - November 29, 2024 at 11:42 AM

BS

“ Brian and Donna Sothern purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James "Jim" Mason.



Brian and Donna Sothern - November 26, 2024 at 01:24 PM

BS

“ Brian and Donna Sothern planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Mason.

Brian and Donna Sothern - November 26, 2024 at 01:24 PM

CR

“ Calla, Leslie, Jason and Rivers purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of James "Jim" Mason.



Calla, Leslie, Jason and Rivers - November 23, 2024 at 04:13 PM

CR

“ *Calla, Leslie, Jason and Rivers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Mason.*

Calla, Leslie, Jason and Rivers - November 23, 2024 at 04:13 PM