



## James "Jim" Abram

August 12, 1929 - February 22, 2018

James Elmer Abram

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James Elmer Abram passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Jasper County, Missouri on the family farm, August 12, 1929 to Eva Ann Stroup and John Elmer Abram. Growing up on the family farm, Jim completed his elementary and secondary school before enlisting in the Army. After two years in the service he came home and did one year of community college, focusing on pre-engineering.

On October 9, 1949 he married the love of his life, Louise Kirksey. They had 68 years of life, full of love, travel & companionship, Louise at his side supporting him in all his visions and many business ventures.

Before moving to the Columbia Basin, they lived in several cities, ultimately buying a business and settling in Moses Lake in 1957. He and Louise were the owners/operators of the Conoco Bulk Plant.

After selling the bulk plant his next vision was to come up with a way to bring airline companies to Moses Lake to train their pilots. With the help of Senator Magnuson, that dream became a reality, resulting in the creation of JETT-AERO, which provided aircraft ground support & fueling services.

After the sale of JETT-AERO, Jim continued on the Board of Directors for the Washington Trust Bank in Spokane. He also remained focused on start-up companies that exhibited a vibrant, entrepreneurial spirit, from new and innovative developments in agriculture, to SPACE-X and other forward-thinking endeavors.

Jim was an avid fisherman and hunter, but let's not forget master gardener... always challenging friends to see who could grow the biggest tomato!

Jim, a man of faith, lived by example. He was a gentleman, a man of integrity. He encouraged those who knew him well to strive to be their best. He will be missed by many.

Jim is survived by his wife Louise, their daughter Teresa and son-in-law Clyde Gies of Moses Lake, sister-in-law Leeanna Kirksey of Portland Oregon, granddaughter Megan, two great-grandchildren, Nicholas and Samoa and several nieces & nephews.

At Jim's request there will be no service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations may be made to the following organizations:

Big Bend Community College Commercial Pilot Training Program

Billy Graham Evangelistic Foundation

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Hospice of Spokane

Moses Lake Christian Academy

# Comments

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“ You are the best man for all of us that you touched in our lives. So proud to have known you. Miss you and always be in my heart.



**Michelle Mathews** - March 29, 2018 at 08:04 AM

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“ Jim was my dad's (Richard Boyd) favorite cousin. As a young girl growing up in Missouri, our family vacationed many summers in Moses Lake, Washington with Jim, Louise, and Teresa. They are cherished memories. Likewise Jim and Louise returned for visits to Springfield to check on my parents and play cards in the evenings. We loved seeing them and catching up on our families' lives. I will never forget the day Jim called from the hospital to tell me also had lung cancer like me. He said, "I have lung cancer, but I've lived a very full and long life, but you gal are just beginning." It meant so much to me! It was a revived closeness we felt all through 2017 until Jim's passing. Jim and Louise are very special people and Jim will surely be missed by the Boyd girls!

Valerie Boyd Killingsworth



**Valerie Killingsworth** - March 21, 2018 at 12:30 PM



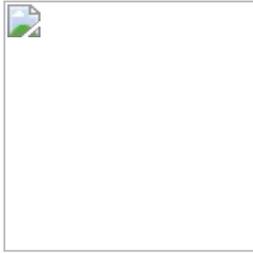
“ I'm so grateful that Sis (Valerie) and I were able to come to Spokane to see Jim, Louise, Teresa, Clyde, and LeeAnna this past fall. We love you all! Kristi Boyd Brannen

**Kristi B Brannen** - March 21, 2018 at 02:07 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album The contributions of Jim and Louise Abram to our community.



Larry Godden - March 14, 2018 at 09:11 PM



“ VIDEO: a young man, who recently moved to Moses Lake and is working at the airport, takes a peaceful stroll through the Japanese Garden.

Larry - March 15, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ 24 files added to the album The contributions of Jim and Louise Abram to our community.



Larry Godden - March 14, 2018 at 09:09 PM



“ Larry Godden is following this tribute.

Larry Godden - March 13, 2018 at 08:01 PM



## “ Tribute to Jim Abram

During the late 60's, I had the privilege to work for Jim at his Fixed Base Operation, Jet

Air, at the Grant County Airport. His progressive thinking set in place the necessary infrastructure to service the many Boeing Training flights that utilized the airport during

those times. He pursued the potential Japan Air Training facility at great personal expense, which came to fruition in 1968. That operation continued to an economic and relational blessing to the city for 40 years.

Working for Jim was one of the greatest experiences of my life. He was such a humble

gentleman that treated us all with such respect. We all felt like we were such a part of his effort to bring success to the airport, and the community.

I was a college kid, just trying to support my “flying habit” as a student in Big Bend’s aviation program. There were times when it was crazy busy out on the flight line, and sometimes not so much. Even during the slow times, he kept me on the payroll. Jim was committed to customer service, so we were always open from the time that the control tower opened at 6:00 AM until it closed until....well, whenever the last training flight of the day departed - usually sometime after 10:00 PM. Every day of the week and holidays included - he wanted us there to serve the needs of the flying public.

Since I was on my own at college, with my family back in the Midwest, I’d volunteer to

work the holidays so that the other employees could be home with family - it just made

sense. During my tenure, every Thanksgiving, every Christmas, and every Easter, Jim

& Louise would show up out at the airport with a holiday dinner with all the trimmings for me. That had quite an impact on me in those formative years. I often thought that when I grow up, I’m gonna be a “giver” like Jim & Louise.

Years later...I had opportunity to return to Moses Lake and work at the Air Traffic Control Tower. One of the first folks I bumped into upon my return was Jim. Even though I was just one of the many employees that came and went from Jet Air, Jim recognized me and gave me the warmest welcome as if long lost friends.

Subsequent

to that, we enjoyed many meals and good times together.

Jim & Louise worshiped at the Moses Lake Missionary and Alliance Church. They were

more than “church goers”, they lived their faith. They believed in and supported the Moses Lake Christian School. I know that they quietly helped many in the community throughout the years, as well.

If there was ever a role model for one to follow, Jim was it. I know that upon his arrival

in Heaven, our Lord greeted him with “...well done, good and faithful servant”.

Jim Sibley



“ Louise & Teresa, I have so many good memories of Jim. He was such a nice man, always willing to help and so full of ideas. He will be missed.  
Sally Goodwin

Sally Goodwin - March 07, 2018 at 09:54 AM

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“ Louise,  
He really was "a man of integrity" and I'm so glad to have known him.  
Sending love and prayers from Vanessa Muccilli Kimble & family

Vanessa Kimble - March 04, 2018 at 06:06 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Larry Godden - March 02, 2018 at 02:04 PM

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“ The following is a tribute from Scott Dietzen:

I knew Jim for more than 45 years. I recall the relationship that he and Louise had with my parents dating back to the early 1970's. Jim and Louise lived out on Wheeler Road and I recall them hosting contestants for the Miss Moses Lake Pageant in the spring of 1972 or 1973. My sister was a contestant. Jim and my father both invested in a commercial mushroom growing facility in one of the hangars at the Port of Moses Lake and I believe that both were investors in Eastern Washington Bank. Jim walked alongside my father as he endured the death of my mother and then the onset of dementia prior to my father's death in 1995.

I became closer to Jim after I joined LeMaster & Daniels in 1987. Jim served as a mentor to me especially after my father passed. He was that experienced voice available to me at any time while I considered various decisions. Specifically, Jim sold a 10-acre parcel of ground to me and my wife in 1991 and I developed that piece of property with a home, garage, outbuildings, corrals and pasture. Jim and Louise and Rick & Patty Honsowetz helped us finance that piece of property that served as the home where we raised our children over a span of 18 years. That property allowed us to raise livestock which created the framework for developing discipline and character in our children. We see the fruits of that effort today as our children begin that same journey of raising a family.

Jim avoided the spotlight and is rarely mentioned for his accomplishments in Moses Lake. He was very instrumental in landing Japan Airlines and helping foster a deep relationship with the airline and its executives over several decades. His entrepreneurial spirit served the jet fuel industry, agriculture and banking to name a few. He represented what I believe it means to be an American, to enjoy freedom, to take risk, create jobs, serve others and give back. His commitment to God and his church served as an example for many including me.

Although I did not see Jim much over the past 9 years since we moved to Spokane, I am deeply indebted to his influence and molding of my life. I seek opportunities to mentor other young men, husbands and fathers as a sign of appreciation for all Jim did for me.

I recall with smiles and even laughter yet today, the memories of fishing with Jim and the other men off the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Scott Dietzen

Larry Godden - March 01, 2018 at 07:24 PM

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“ Wimpy, Jimmy Jett, The Professor, Ab and most importantly, Mentor & Friend—these are all names that I called Jim over our 36 years of friendship. Jim was my sounding board and the giver of sage advice. When asked he never hesitated to give me an honest answer regarding ideas and decision I was considering, both personally and professionally. His opinion, insight, guidance and encouragement help define my course in life. He was family.

I don't believe any of us will ever know how many lives Ab impacted but I do know he left a lot of us with wonderful memories. For me it will be the homemade biscuit & gravy breakfasts, the tours of a changing Moses Lake, talks of world events and his nightly ritual of sharing a treat with his dog H.B.

Louise, Theresa & family thank you for sharing Jim with us over the years. He was a rare man, a one of a kind original and I will greatly miss him. Thoughts and prayers to you all.

The heart remembers most what it has loved best.  
Barbara Myers Jones

**Barbara Myers Jones** - March 01, 2018 at 06:54 PM

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“ Louise, Teresa, and Clyde,  
I have enjoyed the last 30 years of family and friendship. We missed several years but I think that we have shared some of the best. The great trips, stories and laughter has been the basis of many wonderful memories. It doesn't seem possible that Jim is no longer with us. He is missed. Wishing you peace and sending you love.  
Gayle Glosser, niece

**Gayle Glosser** - March 01, 2018 at 04:39 PM

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“ Dear Louise and family; We were so sorry to hear that Jim has passed away. He was caring, genuine and trustworthy. Jim's zest for life was truly contagious. He made everyone with whom he came into contact feel special. People who knew Jim, could tell the most important thing to him was his beautiful family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sincerely, Cathy and Paul Kersey

**Cathy Kersey** - February 28, 2018 at 10:37 PM

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“ A man among men!

**Bill Dress** - February 28, 2018 at 07:14 PM

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“ Louise, Teresa, Clyde and family,  
Dale and I were so sorry to hear that Jim had passed away. Even as your hearts ache, remember that he no longer hurts or is suffering. You are all in our prayers.  
Love, Dale and Wendy

**Wendy Gies** - February 28, 2018 at 02:47 PM

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“ Jim's older sister, Berniece, is my mother. I loved the Man. Steven w. Glosser -  
Dallas, TX.

**steven w. Glosser** - February 28, 2018 at 01:53 AM

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“ First off, my condolences to Louise, Teresa and Clyde. Second, Jim was a remarkable man. Although I've only known him a little more than 25 years, it seems like he has been part of my life since my birth. He always had the time to visit with my wife, Barbara, and I when we were in Moses Lake. He gave us the royal tour of the city on most visits. One particular visit, he wanted to spend more time chatting with my wife and less with me, so he arranged for Clyde to take me golfing, one of my favorite pastimes. Jim was always gracious and generous with his time. I really enjoyed our discussions about agriculture while touring his garden. I will miss him.

H Bart Jones

**H Bart Jones** - February 27, 2018 at 01:33 PM

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“ Outside of my immediate family, I can't think of anyone who had more influence on my life than Jim Abram.

In the 40 years that I knew Jim, he was my friend, my mentor and a role model for my professional and personal life. Jim was a military veteran and a self-taught successful entrepreneur. He was wise in the ways of finance and investing and life, but soft spoken and humble....a real gentleman and man of integrity. He possessed a strong, simple faith which guided his personal and business life. He was devoted to his family and to his beloved wife Louise.

So many memories---weddings and family celebrations, pinochle tournaments, fishing trips....and I miss our regular lunches where we discussed issues of faith, business, community and politics.

Jim and Louise sort of “adopted” my family many years ago..... and we continue to be blessed by the love and encouragement they provided.

Patty and I are praying for you Louise, Teresa, Clyde and the entire Abram family.

Rick Honsowetz

**Rick Honsowetz** - February 25, 2018 at 01:44 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Vickie Hubsmith** - February 24, 2018 at 01:24 PM