



James Robert Eloff

March 25, 1946 - February 8, 2021

James Robert Eloff was born March 25, 1946 to James and Johanna Eloff in Great Falls, Montana. He lived in Great Falls until the age of 22 when he relocated to Seattle in 1968 with his newlywed and local farm girl, Elaine Grace Smiley, and their newborn son, Travis Michael Eloff.

In Seattle, Jim worked for Boeing and then Meltec, a steel foundry, until moving back to Montana in 1978. There, he worked in the concrete construction business for 16 years, then was the maintenance supervisor for an assisted living facility where he enjoyed conversing with residents who he grew to cherish. After the divorce from Elaine, he returned to Seattle and rejoined his friends at Meltec until retirement. Upon retirement, he moved to Ephrata, Washington to be near his son.

Jim was an outgoing person with many friends. While in Seattle, he formed many relationships which lasted his entire life and his home was always open to frequent visits as friends and family would travel for his annual gatherings which included pig roasts, horseshoe tournaments, and volleyball games.

Among his accomplishments aside from being a husband and father, Jim purchased land in central Montana and built a cabin with the help of his wife, brother, and many friends. He also partnered with a childhood friend to purchase a fishing license in Alaska. They bought equipment and constructed

a net for their beach seiner's license. He built another cabin on site and was prepared for his next adventure when the oil spill from the Exxon Valdez prevented fishing there for many years to come.

Jim passed away peacefully on Monday, February 8, 2021. He is survived by his brother, Ron Eloff, his sister, Marianne Sanders, his son, Travis Eloff, and his former wife, Elaine Eloff, with whom he maintained a caring relationship. He has two granddaughters, Melodie Pagliaro and Brand Eloff, who he is very proud of.

James will be cremated and his remains will be kept by his son. The family has decided not to have a service, but friends and relatives are encouraged to post a memory on this website if they so desire.

Tribute Wall

VS

“ I don't have a whole lot of memories of uncle Jim. I was young last time I remember seeing him. Might have been like 10 years old. I believe Travis was like 13 or 14 years old than. FYI this is Vern Sanders Marianne's Son. But I remember that I both Respected him a lot he was like my Hero because he didn't back down from Dan Perkins my stepdad when he was messing with my Mom trying to hit her. I also kind of feared him too Jim was a badass man that you did not want to get on bad side. But even though I didn't know him well as I would have liked too I have one memory never forget (Family Reunion picnic). Remember those need to do one again I'm so out of touch with mom's side of the family. I'm not even sure how big it is now! Like all my 2nd cousins can't even remember their names but I do remember nap time at Aunt Patty & Uncle Jim's house. The other uncle Jim. Lol anyway miss y'all and love y'all as well.

Vernon Sanders - April 22, 2022 at 06:50 AM

JW

“ Travis and family, so sorry to hear! So many good memories of the Eloff family! Prayers and condolences! Joe William's (Fagg)

Joe William's - March 01, 2021 at 08:14 AM

SC

“ Travis and family, I am so sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you all during this difficult time. Wishing you peace and comfort and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Suzi Cosand

Suzi Lafley Cosand - February 24, 2021 at 10:50 AM

MP

“ Some of my earliest memories with Grandpa are from when he lived in Seattle. We visited him in that area often and would usually go out to lunch at one of his local spots. We would always spend a little time at his house which I always loved because we got to play with his dog. He’s always loved dogs so I always loved seeing him around my own, particularly the little one. I have a little chihuahua mix, and Grandpa always said, “That is really a neat dog,” every time he saw her. It always made me smile.

I grew up a Steelers fan and I attribute that to Grandpa. He was a fan, so my dad was a fan, and that carried down to Brandi and I as well. Living in the Seattle area now, residents of this area always give me a hard time for my loyalty to the Steelers. I have always said, and will continue to say, “It started with my Grandpa.” I wish we had more opportunities to watch games together. Now whenever I watch a game I will be thinking of him.

My funniest memory was from Thanksgiving a few years ago. Brandi and I went to pick him up from his adult family home, and boy was he ready to bust out! He blew right past the sign out desk without a word. We had to sign him out and then run after him to catch up because even though we were calling after him, he did not stop and was on a mission to get out those doors. It was absolutely hilarious.

For some reason, the way Grandpa said, “Oh, hi!” whenever we would visit in person or talk on the phone sticks with me. It was always the same excited greeting and I can hear it so clearly in my head because I have heard it so many times throughout my life. I wish I had gotten to hear that greeting one last time before he passed. I will miss him very much. Love you, Grandpa.

Melodie Pagliaro - February 20, 2021 at 01:45 PM

BE

“ Some of my first memories of Grandpa involved dogs. I’ve seen some footage of my dad and I at Grandpa’s old house in Missoula where he and Grandma bred German Shepherds, with me running towards the fence to look at them. To me, Grandpa Jim was the grandpa with the dogs, which was extremely exciting. I attribute my love of dogs to Grandpa, who might not admit that he was a huge dog lover (much like my dad), but simultaneously couldn’t seem to live without one. Even after he moved to Ephrata and didn’t have one of his own, my dad’s dog, Tucker, quickly became very spoiled by Grandpa Jim – skyrocketing him to the top of the “favorite” list we always joked that Tucker had (Number 1: Grandpa, Number 2: Dad, Number 3: Me, and so on).

I visited Grandpa most after his move to Ephrata, and he always loved to talk about Seattle. He wasn’t a talkative man, but he had nonstop stories about his time in Seattle. He really enjoyed his time there, as well as his life in Montana and stint in Alaska. I wish I could have seen the cabins that he built in person; I’ve seen enough photos to know that he was a very skilled man. I do have a breadbox of his with “Eloff’s Bread Dept” monogrammed on it, and I swear that thing is going to last forever.

One of my favorite memories of late was “rescuing” him from the Assisted Living Facility on Thanksgiving. He had few words to say, but he bolted right out of there without stopping to sign out! Melodie and I couldn’t stop laughing; I don’t think I’ve ever seen him move that fast. He was always very abrupt with his “goodbyes”, and in fact was the only person on his side of the family that managed to actually be able to say goodbye in a timely manner, but I wish his last goodbye wasn’t so abrupt. I would have liked to bring Tucker by for him one more time, and hear one more story about Seattle before he passed. I’ll miss you, Grandpa!

Brandi Eloff - February 20, 2021 at 11:15 AM

SD

“ RIP, Jambo. 52 years of friendship. Great times, Brother.

STEVE DAVIS - February 18, 2021 at 03:05 PM

KM

“ Travis and the rest of the family, I am very sorry for your loss. I have some great memories of fishing in Montana during summer with Travis and Jim. What great times were had.

Love and prayers to all!

Ken Michael

Ken Michael - February 17, 2021 at 07:55 PM

DD

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family, love and hugs to all.

Diane Decker - February 17, 2021 at 06:46 PM

DA

“ I have lots of memories of my cousin Jim. He was older than me and I always looked up to him as the “cool” one in the family. One of my favorite cousin Jim stories goes back to the mid 70’s. My wife Mary and I moved to Seattle to go to Jr College. We’d made arrangements to stay with Jim and Elaine for a couple weeks while we apartment hunted. We pulled up to their house with a small U-Haul trailer being pulled by a green 66 Buick La Sabre, that I’d recently bought with my income tax return (\$250). When Jim met us at the door, his greeting was “Get that TOILET away from my house”. I’ve owned a lot of cars in my day, but only one had a name. I still speak fondly of my Seattle college days when I drove a 1966 Toilet.

Donnie Atkinson

Don Atkinson - February 17, 2021 at 02:50 PM

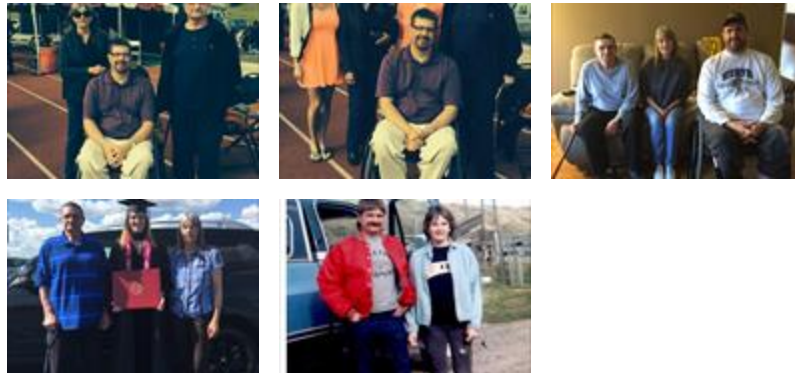
DS

“ Love and prayers to cousin Jim's family.
Lots of memories growing up in Great Falls. He was a kind and
compassionate person! May you Rest in peace, Jim!

Dorothy See - February 17, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



Kayser's Chapel of Memories - February 17, 2021 at 12:05 PM

DS

“ Jim was one of my dearest friends a brother from another mother . It's hard to explain the sadness I feel. Jim an Elaine my wife Di, and I spent most weekends together riding are dirt bikes, watching football, and just sitting around BSing and listening to tunes. The 4 of us would go to a concert at the Paramount in Seattle about ones a month. Jim turned me on to Ten Years After, The James Gang and many other groups. Like Elaine , Di and I were more into cowboy music but Jim expanded my repertoire. I think we saw The Kinks about a half dozen times in concert. After they moved back to Montana we made we made numerous trips to Montana to visit. After Jim moved to Ephrata and I to Lk. Chelan I would go visit once a week to have lunch and a beer and talking of past adventures and lying to each other about what great dirtbike riders we were. I love and miss my great friend.

Dick Steele - February 17, 2021 at 10:39 AM

HJ

“ Travis, Melodie, & Brandi,
Even though I didn't know your father, Travis, he must have been a fine person to have a son like you. It was a joy to watch your two daughters grow up at Grant and beyond. God Bless your family. May His strength comfort you as you remember your Dad and Grandpa.
Sincerely, Helen Jeske

Helen Jeske - February 16, 2021 at 08:09 PM