



Captian James "Jim" Franklin Hackler III

November 24, 1945 - February 18, 2026

James "Jim" Franklin Hackler III, 80, passed away on February 18, 2026. Born November 24, 1945, in Lumberton, NC, he was the son of Major General James Franklin Hackler Jr. and Josephine Love Bridger Hackler, who preceded him in death.

Jim spent much of his early life in Myrtle Beach, a place he always considered home. He attended Woodberry Forest School in Virginia, where he excelled in baseball, football and soccer, displaying the competitive spirit and determination that would characterize his life.

After high school, Jim attended Maryland University, majoring in Business. He proudly served his country as a pilot in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, flying 181 missions. For his extraordinary skill, courage, and service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals. He attained the rank of Captain, a title he carried with quiet pride throughout his life.

Following his military service, Jim returned to Myrtle Beach and built a successful career as a realtor before eventually retiring to the Florida Keys, where he embraced the coastal lifestyle he loved. An avid outdoorsman and adventurer, Jim found joy in deep sea fishing, scuba diving, biking, fast cars, and most recently tennis. In 1998, he was honored in Florida as a Master Angler, a recognition that perfectly reflected both his skill and his passion for the sport. At the time of his passing, Jim was still playing tennis six days a week — a testament to his vitality and love of life.

Jim never met a stranger. He loved telling old stories, sharing good meals with friends, and striking up conversations wherever he went. He laughed easily and lived fully. He also shared a special bond with his beloved dog, Matey — the two were inseparable companions.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 40 years, Lannie Moore Hackler; his brother Joe (Vicki) Hackler of Myrtle Beach, SC; his daughter Paula (William) Morris of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; his daughter Jennifer (Meehan) Lunt of Atlanta, GA; and his son Scott McDade of Summerfield, FL. He is also survived by his grandchildren: grandsons Tripp, Tucker, and Truitt Morris; Zack McDade; and granddaughters Sophie and Brooke McDade, and Ivey Lunt.

Captain Hackler's legacy is one of courage, adventure, laughter, and deep love for family and friends. A memorial service in his honor will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Jim will always be in his neighbor’s hearts. Our condolences to all his family. Jim was the first person to greet us as we bought our property next to his, and was stopping by to offer to help us and lend us tools the first day when he saw us working. He didn’t have to do that, he could have just passed by. He didn’t know us from Adam, but there he was ready to pitch in with whatever we needed in the hot sun.

When work was needed to be done on the common areas of the neighborhood months later, he took it upon himself to do it on behalf of us all, without being asked, quietly serving his fellow man.

He always had a greeting when we passed each other on walks, ready and willing to lend an ear, and connect. He and Matey could be relied upon to keep to their walks, a silent pair of friends strolling together, man and his best friend. He will be missed. Not seeing them together somehow makes the place seem a little less alive, less warm. We are so glad we had a chance to meet him and send our deepest wishes to the family that the joy of his being with them as part of their lives outweighs the sorrow of his passing. We think of him up there flying on his new adventure. Fly Jim, fly.

jeanne bennett and bruce clements - March 10 at 08:49 PM

VV

“ What a great Life Tribute for Jim ❤️. I was so Blessed to have met Jim and Lannie a little over a year ago. He was so sweet and I always enjoyed every time I saw him. My memories are going to Gator Joes and Jim loving it because it reminded him of The Keys. He laughed at the birds so hard it cracked me up. We also went to a church service and that was so special to me. My heart goes out to Lannie, Family and Friends at this difficult time. Rest In Paradise my friend 🙏

VICTORIA VOS - February 20 at 08:24 PM