



James Daniel Bottcher

July 17, 1948 - April 16, 2022

James Daniel Bottcher, 73, passed away at his home in Altoona, FL, surrounded by his loving family, on April 16, 2022. He fought a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Jim was born on July 17, 1948, to Reme and Dorothy Bottcher in Middletown, N.Y. His family moved to Boynton Beach, FL, when he was 13. He graduated from Seacrest High School in 1967 and attended Palm Beach Community College and Florida Atlantic University, where he received his Master of Education degree. It was also in Boynton where Jim met the love of his life, Joyce (Jody), and they were married in 1968 and started a family soon after. The couple moved their young family to Altoona in 1979 and made it their home for the past 43 years.

Jim spent 32 years as a well-loved and respected elementary school teacher, starting his career at St. Vincent Ferrer School in Delray Beach, FL, before transitioning to the public school system. After moving to Lake County, Jim enjoyed a long teaching career at Altoona Elementary School and Spring Creek Elementary School in Paisley, FL. He also tutored at night at the Lake County Boys' Ranch. In addition to teaching, Jim was instrumental in managing the Safety Patrol program and also the 4-H Club at both Altoona Elementary and Spring Creek Elementary. From pigs to cows, Jim was the go-to man.

After retiring from teaching, Jim pursued his love of gardening and earned his Master Gardener certification. He had a green thumb like no other. He was a member of the Umatilla Garden Club and spent many hours volunteering at Altoona School. He enjoyed teaching the second-grade students all about gardening and helped them to start their own garden.

Jim was known by many names - Mr. Bottcher, Big Jim, JB, Dad and Papa. And all who knew him will remember him as a big guy with an even bigger heart and gentle soul. He'll also be remembered for his sense of humor, generosity and skillful dance moves.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jody; daughter Renie and son-in-law Mark; daughter Amy; daughter Wendy and son-in-law Brandon; five grandchildren, Lindsay, Lauren, Collin, Gavin and Megan; brother Bill; brother Mike and sister-in-law Karen; brother Tom and sister-in-law Kathy; and several nieces and nephews. Jim will be especially missed by Stormy, his beloved dog who enjoyed their walks, long golf cart rides, and naps with his "dad". Although it's sad to say goodbye, there's peace in knowing how many lives Jim has touched.

Like his favorite song says, Jim always felt he should have been a cowboy. His family is comforted knowing he's in Heaven riding until his heart's content.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 29, 2022, at 2:00 at Beyers Funeral Home, 279 South Central Avenue, Umatilla, FL. A celebration of life service will follow at the Bottcher residence. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that a donation be made to one of Jim's favorite charities, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Daniel Bottcher*



May 11, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ *Will always remember him as a great builder of character in my daughter as a patrol in elementary school. Also at the tree give away at the outpost each year. He would be happy to know many are growing well. Happy travels wherever it may be.....you have the same name as my father.....look him up and say hi.*

Linda & Bill - April 24, 2022 at 06:02 PM



“ *Jim And his entire clan are like family to us. He was a great humanitarian with a heart for the less fortunate. He was a also a great friend. We will miss him! Prayers for his loving family and for his friends who will miss him.*

Connie Gibson - April 24, 2022 at 10:23 AM

CS

“ I will always remember working with Jim at Spring Creek. His final year of teaching there was with us in 3rd grade. His sense of humor helped us to get through some of the days. He gave me a *Barnie's* coffee canister with a locking lid with *Barnie's* coffee as a Christmas gift the last year he worked. I still use it and think of Jim when I look at it. He remembered that I said I loved their coffee, and it was a special gift. I also have a deer skull that he left in the closet of his classroom. It hangs in my home. I thank him for his friendship and the dedication he gave to co-workers and the students at Spring Creek. My thoughts are with the family. Jim will be missed by so many. I will especially miss all of his FB postings in the last year. So many brightened my day and made me smile.

Clara M Settle - April 23, 2022 at 11:11 PM

JM

“ Dearest Jody, Renie, Amy, Wendy, and families,

We are writing this with heavy hearts. So saddened by the news of Jim's passing. We are with you in spirit, and pray for our Lord to give you strength and comfort during a difficult time. "Jim, rest in peace, dear friend". With love, prayers and fond memories,
Jim and Ellen

Jim and Ellen Mackenzie - April 22, 2022 at 03:32 PM