



## James Raftery

May 6, 1945 - February 8, 2010

### Obituary of James Raftery

JAMES EDWARD RAFTERY, 64, of Bushnell, Florida, died Monday, February 8, 2010 at Leesburg, FL. He was born May 6, 1945 in New York, New York. He moved back to Central Florida in 2008 from Cape Cod, MA. He served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam. He was a Retired Firefighter with the Washington D.C. Fire Department. He also worked as a self-employed Construction Contractor. He was a Charter Member of the Emerald Society of the D.C. Fire Dept., a former Professional Squash Player at the N.Y. Athletic Club, a former Baseball Coach and Softball Player, and he loved Photography.

He is survived by his fiancée, Louise Callahan Chambers of Bushnell, FL; sons, Stephen James (Kim) Raftery of Cape Cod, MA, Keith Scott (Beth) Raftery of Bushnell, FL, Ryan Lee (Nichole) Raftery of Cape Coral, FL; daughter, SN Sunnie Rae Raftery, U.S.C.G. of Southwest Harbor, ME; 4 grandchildren; and Harry Lake and the Lake Family.

### Services

Services will be held at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Bushnell, FL on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 11:00 am, Reverend Lewis Tanno will preside.

#### Interment

Interment will follow at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

#### Memorials

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Pine Street Inn, P.O. Box 3215, Boston, MA 02241-3215.

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Raftery*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Louise, Sunnie, Keith, Stephen, Ryan and Harry and his family- Our prayers go out to all of you. Jimmy was always "larger than Life" itself and he will be in our hearts forever. We are with you all in the Spirit. May our friend Rest in Peace- Love Diana & Carl*

**Carl S. Back and his wife, Diana** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Keith (and your entire family), I am so sorry for your loss! What an extraordinary man and a huge loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sue Rogers*

**Sue Rogers** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My Prayers and thoughts are with him and his family. hope he gets a chance to meet my grandfather Al. With All My love*

**Matthew** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ryan and Family, So sorry to hear about your loss. I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

**Erin McDermott** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Words cannot express how sad we feel. We just had made plans to see him the beginning of March and had planned our annual trip. Life makes surprises and changes. We will miss you Jim. Love, Elaine and Alan

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**Elaine and Alan Aarons** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ I'll miss him very much. Before I read the obituary, I didn't really know Jim had done all those things. I like knowing that he was a firefighter in DC, where I live. I think he must have been very brave. Love, Jack Tongour

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**Jack Tongour** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Jim was a nice man. He took us on boats. He made us cupcakes, too. I am going to miss him. Love, Alec Tongour

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**Alec Tongour** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ I am going to miss him for a long time. He was sweet to me. He made us yummy cupcakes. Love , Stella Louise Tongour (age 5)

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**Stella Louise Tongour** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I will always remember Jim's generosity to our children, his devotion to Louise and to his children, and his love for the NY Yankees. He had a big heart, and will be missed by all of us. With deep condolences to Louise and the Raftery family, Mike Tongour

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**Mike Tongour** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Dear Luise, I spoke to you and your dear Jim on phone while Carl and Diana visited. Then I got the sad news of your loss. No words can take away the pain you feel right now, dear Luise; time is the only healer. We do not know why sad things happen but we know that nothing beautiful in this world is ever really lost... because all precious things live in memory...forever. May God's blessings be with you all in this time of sorrow. And may be the words a Pastor Ritter wrote will help a little bit: "I will live until I die, and when I die I will live." May your memories bring you comfort. My deepest condolences are with you as you grieve.

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**Renate** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We love you, The Armenio Family oxoxox

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**Nadine, Sal and family** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ My Friend, JR I was fortunate enough to have become a close friend of Jimmy's over the last five years. We were both sober men who had been given a second chance at Life. Jimmy scared many people by his rough and gruff demeanor, but beneath that cover was a cream puff of a man- a kind and gentle heart. I suppose we became close because we were so different. He was from Harlem, New York and I was from Fairfield County. He had rubbed elbows with the very rich and played squash at the New York Athletic Club. He also knew the streets...something I had never experienced except when representing criminal defendants. But, our lives had brought us to the same venue- searching for a spiritual solution to Life's problems and practicing gratitude. Jimmy was a confidant, teacher and role model. He loved his Louise, children, grandchildren, friends and BoBo. We shared our fears, dreams and even a few heated discussions- now and then. I will truly miss all that. Jimmy was proud of what he had in Life but duly acknowledged that it was all a blessed gift from God. I learned perseverance, patience and love from JR. We laughed about alot together even the sometimes "bad deal" that we felt we received some days. He was always hopeful, generous and loyal. He was sarcastic when required, reminding me that "You are your father's piñata!" or "Just stay teachable" or "They're just invitin' you to dance." I trusted Jimmy and I was blessed that he trusted me. That is a true gift. The photos he took and gave to us as gifts, the "knock-off" sunglasses, the crystal pineapple, the good times at the beach and driving in the Benz. The frustration with people who complain about their lives and do nothing about it. More gifts than I could ask for. True friendship. Laughter in times of fear, sadness and even despair. Jimmy boy, you are sorely missed by Carl. Thanks for everything you gave me...and us. Amen Carl S. Back 2-09-2010

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Carl - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Stephen, Keith, Ryan, Sunnie and Louise - I offer my solemn condolences. Jimmy was my teacher and friend. I will miss him more than words can convey. He taught me to be grateful for all that I have...to be teachable...and to thank God. I am truly blessed to have had Jimmy as a friend and confidant... Again, my sincere condolences. Lance E. Beauchain, Esq.

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**Lance Beauchain** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ Dearest Louise - You and Jimmy made each other happy. And we all saw and loved him for it.

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**Lissa** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. God bless you.

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**Grif and Lynne Callahan** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ To Louise and Jim's children and family, we are so sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you during this sad time. Sincerely, Nicole and Scott Albright

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**Nicole and Scott Albright** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Dear Aunt Louise, Know that you are in my prayers. I am grateful for the happiness you and Jim shared over the last few years. May you find peace in your many wonderful memories. I pray that God gives you strength to trust a journey that is difficult to understand. I love you. Laura Laura

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**Laura** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ Dear Louise and Family, I am thinking of you all at this most difficult time~ As Jim's exit from the physical world has created a void we cannot fill, he has moved over to a place where we will one day see him again. In the meantime, we share his memory and he forever lives on in each of us. I feel so fortunate to have met him and fondly remember how he drove us through the woods on his property in his big truck just weeks ago. He enriched my life as he did so many, and I am thankful for the time I had with him. Love and blessings and comfort to friends and family, Jimmy will not be forgotten. Love, Diana

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**Diana** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ This was such a shock to me when I got the sad news. I feel your pain for I just laid to rest my Fred last month. Jim was so thought full that he made a point of sending me flowers and comforting me when he came to the VA. He was a wonderful and caring guy. We will all miss him and we will all pray for you and the family.

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**Markie DiRienzo** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Sweet Aunt Louise...My heart hurts for you right now. I am so sorry. I am so sorry also to Jim's children. You are all hurting and I pray that you will have the strength to remember him in love and goodness. May God carry you during this sad time. I love you, Aunt Louise. Prayers and love to you. Love, Natalie

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**Natalie Chambers Snapp** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Love you Pop.

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**Keith** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ We love you too much PopPop and we miss you terribly.

Beth & Erin - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Beth, Keith and Erin I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep you all in my prayers

Gail Baxley - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GI

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Guardian Land Title, Inc. - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RY

“ Pop- It has been almost a month now, and I still can't believe it... I miss you and love you.

Ryan - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ I lost you a month ago tonight. Please wake me from a bad dream.

keith - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Jimmy!!!! We all miss you....very much! Love- Carl

Carl - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ *My heart hurts every day, I love and miss you more than I can ever say. You are the best Pop.*

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**Son** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ *Love you pop miss you every day.*

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**keith** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RY

“ *I still can't believe you are gone. Today makes one year, and I miss you more and more everyday-xoxo*

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**Ryan** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *JIMMY! I still can't believe you're gone. I also cannot believe that your Jets lost in the playoffs....BUT, they came close. God Bless You, Brother!*

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**CARL** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM