



## James Schell

March 17, 2018

James Schell 73, of Siesta Key, Florida (formerly Darien, CT) found peace in heaven on March 17th after a long health struggle. He died right where he wanted - in the loving arms of his wife of 51 years Susan O'Laughlin Schell. He was born and raised in Chicago by his hard working parents Frank and Shirley Schell. As an only child, Jim's sense of family grew when he married into the large, fun, wild Irish O'Laughlin clan. It is fitting that this man who was raised by tough Norweigan parents from Minnesota died on St. Patricks day. Jim is also survived by his three grateful and loving children, their spouses and 9 absolutely perfect grandchildren. Kari and Dan O'Donnell with Regan, Maggie, Jack and Healy of Cohasset, MA. Mike and Brooke (Sobel) Schell with Rowan and Dalton of San Francisco, CA and Ryan and Mary (McDonnell) Schell with Andrew, Baker and Kate of Memphis, TN. Jim graduated from Loyola Academy in Chicago in 1962 then graduated from Vanderbilt University before admissions required a perfect SAT and straight As. By age 24 Jim had an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis, a wife and a new child. He spent the majority of his working career in consumer finance at Chrysler and American Express. Jim and Sue spent their early family years in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan then 35 years in Darien, CT where a wide circle of loving friends became their extended family. Jim was loyal beyond measure to these friendships. Despite having the ugliest golf swing out there, Jim loved time on the course at Wee Burn or The Founder's club with his buddies and wasn't afraid to tell grown men that he loved them.

Jim served others with his volunteer work at the Darien YMCA, Girls Inc. Sarasota, and MOAT Aquarium but mostly in his small daily gestures to anyone around him. His warm smile and genuine interest in others was apparent to those who knew him or met him for the first time.

Jim loved blue bird ski days, a deep tan, shopping at CostCo, vintage Neil Diamond, 3 foot gimme putts and rare cheeseburgers.. He was a lifelong boat owner and in his youth had exceptional waterskiing skills. He loved rehabbing dead orchids, DIY house projects and any day with sunshine. He traveled extensively and saw much of our beautiful world. There wasn't a country left on his personal bucket list. In recent years, his favorite travel was to Boston, Memphis or San Francisco to spend time with his children and their growing families. Nothing gave him more pleasure, joy or pride than these 15 people who affectionally called him Bucka. Jim's greatest gift to his children was an example of a loyal, loving, faith-filled marriage to his wife Sue. They met at a high school prom and although they arrived with different dates, they were loyal to each other from each day forward. Jim concluded this life with a beautiful new relationship with God and was grateful to Father Michael Cannon from St. Michael the Arch Angel for his spiritual reawakening.

In lieu of flowers, donations can me made in Jim's name to Girl's inc Sarasota. 201 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237.

A full celebration of life and funeral service will be held in Darien, CT in May. Details forthcoming. Jim's life was one to celebrate - please join us when we celebrate in your bright colored polos!

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ Dear Kari and family,

*Please know that we are thinking and praying for you. You are such a close and loving family and your Dad will certainly be missed. We love the memory of Audrey crawling onto Jim's lap years ago and the two of them sharing a tender moment of giggles and smiles. She was drawn to his genuine warm nature! Love, The Marshmans*

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**Pam Marshman** - March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ We know there will be many wonderful accolades said about Jim, reflecting on his truly good heart, happy spirit and perpetual sense of humor. The Greenes stand in that long line of friends honoring a good man. Our lives were blessed sharing this world with Jim. But he only walks ahead to assume his time honored role as gracious host to all of us as we move to join him in God's warm embrace. Our guess is that he's already been put on St. Peter's welcoming committee whispering his poignant and hilarious observations about our imperfect individual human conditions. And as we look up at St. Peter and apply for passport through Heaven's Pearly Gates, we see Jim standing just behind smiling with his fake goober teeth bringing humorous relief to a momentous occasion. God Bless you Jim. And to Sue, Keri, Mike and Ryan and your families we send our love, support and sympathy in a huge family hug from all the Greenes. Love lives beyond time; Peace be with you all. Ed, Cherie and our gang!

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**Ed and Cherie Greene** - March 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *My love to your family, Sue.  
I met you and Jim in Darien when introduced by Charlotte Suhler  
and my brother, John Suhler.*

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**Sue Suhler** - March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *Kari and family-  
Please know that all seven of us are praying for you and your family  
at this time. We are so sorry for your loss and KNOW how much  
you all loved your dad!  
Love,  
The Bowens*

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**Gieriet Bowen** - March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Sue,  
Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. In the short time  
we've known you and Jim, the love you both have for each other  
has been very apparent. What tremendous spirit Jim exuded, even  
on days he struggled with his health. Jim's smile and welcoming  
nature made us feel like old friends, even though we met just over a  
year ago, our little pups bringing us together. I enjoyed every  
conversation with Jim, whether it was current news, grand kids, or  
reminiscing of dogs gone by. He was a good man. May you take  
comfort in all your wonderful memories, and in your dear family's  
love and support.  
Sue Honsberger and Jim Tate*

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March 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM