



James "Jim" Q Blomgren

November 6, 1947 - September 25, 2019

The Hon. (Ret.) James Q. "Jim" Blomgren left us far too soon on September 25, 2019 at the age of 71. He was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa on November 6, 1947, to Francis Hamilton "FH" Blomgren and Mary Hygiene Sharp Blomgren.

A proud 1965 graduate of Oskaloosa High School, he played tennis, basketball (#20), and football (#83), but did not sing in the glee club because, as he would tell you, "they didn't kick me out, they just didn't ask me to return."

He played tennis well into his adult life and was quite successful winning many singles and doubles tournaments both locally and throughout the state. When tennis was no longer an option, he took up golf and pickle ball and played both regularly.

Jim graduated from The University of Iowa in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. He discovered his love for the law after a history professor suggested he take a prelaw class while at Iowa. He took the LSAT (scoring in the 95th percentile) and obtained his Juris Doctor Degree in 1972 from the University of Virginia (UVa) in Charlottesville.

Anyone who knew Jim knew he remained a devoted 'WaHoo' the rest of his life. He showered his children and grandchildren with more UVa paraphernalia than any self-respecting Iowa-born kid knew what to do with. The number of UVa t-shirts and hats in Jim's own collection only grew over the years as UVa teams, in any sport, proved their competitive worth. To say he was over-the-moon excited when UVa won the 2019 NCAA Basketball Championship was an understatement – he bought a piece of the hardwood floor where the championship was played.

Jim was a respected jurist and member of the Iowa legal community practicing first in Des Moines and then for over 20 years in Oskaloosa. His career achievements and honors were vast, but he was especially honored to be a member of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Both organizations require personal invitation, a unanimous vote for acceptance along with the accomplishment of rigorous

admittance criteria such as the completion of fifty or more civil and/or felony jury trials.

In 1998, he was appointed Judge for the 8th Judicial District of Iowa by then Governor Terry Brandstad. Jim was appointed to be the district's Chief Judge in 2001, and was reappointed every two years thereafter until his retirement from the bench in December 2012. To date, he has been the only Judge from Mahaska County to serve as Chief in the 8th District.

His family is fond of saying he failed retirement as his first retirement lasted all of 30 days. After leaving the bench he returned to private practice for two years. He then retired from private practice a second time when he was asked to accept an appointment as Mahaska County Attorney in 2015. He served in that role until his final retirement in December 2018.

While there is no doubt Jim loved his legal career, it paled in comparison to his love for his family. He was a devoted husband for 33 years to Pamela Jo and it was evident to all who saw them how very much he loved her. He was a dear friend to his children and he knew that sometimes it was better just to listen than to offer fatherly advice. That being said, he was very good at comforting but didn't believe in sugarcoating.

He was an engaged parent and grandparent who always wanted his children and grandchildren to choose the path that was right for them, advising them to always "do what's fair and right" (followed with "and don't forget to wear your seatbelt"). He was known to cut out newspaper clippings on any number of topics, which he'd then send to his children following engaged conversations about said topics. He would not send the articles however before highlighting in yellow, or underlining in blue, the pertinent facts supporting his position.

Jim was always ready to go on one of daughter Kate's culinary adventures. He coached his son Jim's little league team and, as Jim got older, spent countless hours with him hunting and fishing. He developed a new appreciation for choral music by attending innumerable choir concerts for daughters Shannon and Ryan. And he was the first person Shannon told when she was accepted into law school.

He loved to attend the many events of his grandchildren: Quinton, Coty, Hunter, Maddy, Joshua, Matthew, Paige, and William. He enjoyed watching them play sports, talking to them about their passions and activities, showing them around Oskaloosa, fishing and hunting with them, and playing card games and board games with them whenever they would visit.

Jim loved the outdoors and loved to fish and hunt. He and his wife, Pam, fished Alaska's Kenai River for King Salmon numerous times. Stories exist about the salmon that took both Jim and Pam's lure, the first king Jim reeled in (33 lbs.), and one of the last Kings Pam landed (63 lbs.). His hunting expeditions included Alaska black bear, antelope, mule deer, elk, whitetail deer, Canada geese, pheasant, quail, and turkey – all hunts resulting in successful harvests.

It was during his final adventure – hunting mountain caribou in Canada's Northwest Territories – that Jim left this world for one even more majestic. Through this tragedy, the family finds a breath of comfort in knowing he was doing what he loved. His final earthly vision was that of the 'substantial' Caribou he had harvested – the trophy he envisioned during three years of planning – a hunting adventure culminating in one final success.

He touched so many lives, and the world is better because he was in it. His laugh, his words of wisdom, his kind face – beard and all – will be greatly missed.

Jim is survived by his wife, Pamela Jo; daughter Kate Blomgren (Alastair Bullett) of Chicago, IL; son James Blomgren (Katy) of Cumming, Iowa; daughter Shannon Gausman (Carl) of West Des Moines, IA; daughter Ryan Goemaat (Jesse) of Hamilton, IA; sister Carol Roever (Jim) of St. Joseph, MO; sister Barbara Miller of Dayton, OH; grandchildren Hunter and Maddy Blomgren, Quinton Goemaat (Caitlin Peterson), Coty Goemaat, and Joshua, Matthew, Paige, and William Gausman; niece Lynsey Douglas (Brian) of Kansas City, Mo; nephew Nate Miller (Maya Steinitz), of Chicago, IL; niece Lena White (Tim) of Dayton, OH; his mother-in-law Bessie Young of Cedar Rapids, IA; five great-nephews, one great-niece, and one great-granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law James W. Young, and a brother-in-law Dan Miller.

A visitation will be held Sunday, October 6th from 1:00 to 4:00 at Bates Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa. Funeral services will be held Monday, October 7th at 1:00 at Gateway Nazarene Church in Oskaloosa with interment to follow at Forest Cemetery in Oskaloosa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the capital campaign for the new YMCA in Oskaloosa (checks can be made out to the Mahaska County YMCA Capital Campaign) or to Mahaska County Pheasants Forever.

Cemetery

Forest Cemetery

634 North 9th Street
Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Events

OCT 7 **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

7

Gateway Church of the Nazarene
140 Gateway Drive, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ Richard & Cindy Mott-Brown lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Richard & Cindy Mott-Brown - October 09, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ Blomgren Family:
sorry to hear of your loss. All of you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Nancy (Stapp) McCurdy



Nancy McCurdy - October 07, 2019 at 04:53 PM



“ I was very saddened to hear about Jim passing too soon.
I have known him since we were 4 years old. We played organized football games starting in 2nd grade. We played in an alumni high school football game in 1978. We also played golf together in the 45th class re-union. As a kid we used to play sensational catch and we also played knee football inside on the carpet. Rest in peace old friend. Greg Eastman

Greg Eastman - October 07, 2019 at 04:48 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to Pam and the Blomgren family. What a lose to the community. My heart aches for all of you.

Betsy Smith

Betsy Smith - October 06, 2019 at 06:33 PM



“ 4 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - October 06, 2019 at 12:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - October 05, 2019 at 03:45 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Q Blomgren.



October 05, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ 206 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - October 04, 2019 at 06:41 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Barbara Bach - October 04, 2019 at 12:46 PM



“ Judge Blomgren was a good man and gave me some sage advice when I first became Director of the 8th Judicial DCS, I always enjoyed our meetings. You could tell he cared about the entire criminal justice system and his community. Rest in Peace Sir.
~ Daniel T. Fell

Dan Fell - October 04, 2019 at 12:25 PM



“ Stale and AnnMarie Rustad purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Q Blomgren.



Stale and AnnMarie Rustad - October 04, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ Jim&Carol Roever, Lynsey&Brian,Matthew Douglas purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of James "Jim" Q Blomgren.



Jim&Carol Roever, Lynsey&Brian,Matthew Douglas - October 04, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Barb was in my class and Jim in my sisters. Jim served on the Iowa Supreme Court Improvement Project. I so looked forward to seeing him at those meetings. I had such respect for him. He was so knowledgeable, respectful to those around him, and a true professional in all that he did. He will be missed.

Lynhon Stout - October 04, 2019 at 09:33 AM



“ To Barb and all of Jim's family and loved ones. I am so sorry to hear this. He brought a special grace to everything he did. My thoughts and love to you all.

Carole Kelderman - October 03, 2019 at 10:26 PM



“ To my classmate Barb and family, I would like to send sincere sympathy and heartfelt thoughts and prayers. May wonderful memories sustain you.

Jill Van Weelden - October 03, 2019 at 09:16 PM



“ To Pam and the entire family...I am so sorry and express my sympathy. Jim was a professional in everything he did, yet a friend to so many. I enjoyed seeing him at the Courthouse during my years of working there. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Cindy Drost - October 03, 2019 at 08:31 PM



“ I had the pleasure of serving on City Council with Jim thorough and fair....always. Rest in peace Jim.

Rick Bryan - October 03, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ Beverly Clipperton lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Beverly Clipperton - October 03, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ Howard And Mary Gay lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Howard and Mary Gay - October 03, 2019 at 03:26 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to you at this time!!

Howard and Mary Gay - October 03, 2019 at 03:27 PM



“ My heart breaks for Pam and the rest of Jim's family. I only met Jim a couple of times, but he was such a nice, sociable person when I did. John had a lot of respect for him as a judge. Know that your whole family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Debbie Doty - October 03, 2019 at 01:47 PM



“ Judge was a respected member of the bench and the entire legal community. He lead by example as a fair jurist and an encouraging person. My deepest sympathies to all of you.

Laura Roan

Laura M. Roan - October 03, 2019 at 01:44 PM



“ What an awesome story you have to tell of the legacy Jim has left behind! Troy was quite fond of Jim, working with him for many, many years! Our thoughts & prayers are with you.

Christy Boston - October 03, 2019 at 01:19 PM



“ Irene M Young purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of James "Jim" Q Blomgren.



Irene M Young - October 03, 2019 at 01:00 PM



“ Barb, Nate, Lena, and Families purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of James "Jim" Q Blomgren.



Barb, Nate, Lena, and Families - October 03, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ Lorraine Sinnott lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Lorraine Sinnott - October 03, 2019 at 09:01 AM



“ Cheryl Benson lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Cheryl Benson - October 02, 2019 at 06:16 PM



“ Jim was a special person. Rich and I enjoyed the talks and stories Shared with a Jim in our store. He always asked about our family and took special care to ask about our adopted grandchildren. I'm sure partially due to his past role as a Judge. But also because he had such a big heart for the "success stories".
Rich and I are praying for Pam, the kids and grandkids as they grieve the loss of Jim.

melissa adams - October 02, 2019 at 03:19 PM



“ Barb and family, So very sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers being sent your way. May your brother rest in peace.

Emily Wallace - October 02, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ To Pam, their children, grandchildren, and to Jim's sisters, Carol & Barb and their families who share the deep sorrow of Jim's loss, we extend our most heartfelt condolences.
Jim belonged to that rare breed of truly extraordinary gentlemen whose life reflected an outstanding character that touched countless others with his friendly kindness, easy-going warmth, quiet dignity & humble grace.
To those of us who knew him from childhood as "Jimmy", we watched him become an accomplished man of substance and high honor...and most importantly, a beloved son of proud parents, a loving husband & father, caring brother & faithful, trusted friend of many.
Jim has been and will always be deeply cherished by all who have enjoyed the gift and privilege of knowing and loving him.

Guy and Carrie VanderLinden share your family's painful grief and pray that God comfort your hearts through the tender words of sympathy and tribute from all who have been touched by Jim.

Guy & Carrie - October 02, 2019 at 12:44 AM



“ Praying for peace for everyone...

Theresa Grahek - October 01, 2019 at 10:20 PM



“ Dennis And Bonita lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Dennis and Bonita - October 01, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Pam, and family.

Dennis and Bonita - October 01, 2019 at 09:22 PM



“ Bill and Carrie Bainbridge light a candle. Our thoughts and prayers to Pam and family. Jim was always a great one to share a story with at Wiggs



Carrie bainbridge - October 01, 2019 at 09:11 PM



“ I have known Jim since 1963 when I was an exchange student at OSHS living with him and his family in Oskaloosa. Jim and I quickly became good friends and «brothers», he introduced me to his friends, got me interested in US sports and made my year in the US a fantastic one. Since that time we have kept in touch and also met on several occasions.

I am very grateful to have known Jim and am so sorry for your loss. My deepest condolences to Pam, to Jim's children and grandchildren, to his sisters and their families.

Ståle Rustad, Oslo, Norway

Ståle Rustad - October 01, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ Renee Briggs lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Renee Briggs - October 01, 2019 at 04:13 PM



“ Cindy Albright lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Cindy Albright - October 01, 2019 at 01:12 PM



“ Jeff & Jill Ferguson lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Jeff & Jill Ferguson - October 01, 2019 at 10:24 AM



“ Shannon - Sharon and I are so sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you and the family during these trying days. Andy





“ Love and prayers Pam and family💎♥Jim touched so many lives.



Mary Sandholdt - October 01, 2019 at 12:57 AM



“ Larry& Judy Lewis lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Larry& Judy Lewis - September 30, 2019 at 11:12 PM



“ Carri VandeRee lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Q Blomgren



Carri VandeRee - September 30, 2019 at 09:55 PM



“ RIP my friend. Condolences to the family.

Steve Muhl - October 03, 2019 at 11:49 PM



“ One of the finest men I've ever known and had the privilege to call my friend. You will be missed my many, James Q. My thoughts and prayers are with Pam and the family.

Patti Hernandez - September 30, 2019 at 07:34 PM



“ Jim wore many hats in the profession. Regardless of his role---first litigator, then judge, then mediator, finally county attorney---he always exhibited intelligence, integrity and skill. I am so sorry for your loss, and hope that you take some comfort in the fine legacy that he left.

Don Charnetski, Attorney, Grinnell

Donald J. Charnetski - September 30, 2019 at 05:38 PM