



James Francis "Jim" Kramer

NOV 25, 1960 - SEP 16, 2018



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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James Francis ("Jim") Kramer, 57, of Tucson, passed away at his home September 16, 2018.

Born November 25, 1960 in Jersey City, New Jersey, Jim was the son of John M. Kramer, Jr. and Katherine Anne Stanton Kramer. Jim was raised in South Orange, New Jersey and was a graduate of Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey. He had attended Hofstra University and the University of Arizona.

In the early 1980's, Jim moved to Tucson, AZ. He initially worked in the securities and exchange industry but found his calling in corporate retail sales. He held sales positions with Silo Electronics and Circuit City before working for 15 years for AT&T. While a store manager for AT&T Wireless, Jim received several management awards. Jim had many hobbies, including motorcycle riding, hiking, reading, movies, listening to music, following his favorite sports teams, and fast cars. But his real passion was collecting first edition and other collectible books and original theatrical release movie posters. In 2012, Jim founded "Bound by Books" to buy and sell books and movie posters, while still working at AT&T. In 2016, he retired from AT&T to work fulltime in his business.

Jim found great joy in this work. He was committed to what he called "unparalleled customer service" and possessed extraordinary talent and drive. He had become well-respected in the industry and by his customers, treating them with fairness and integrity. He worked tirelessly to find a broad range of book genres and original movie posters from the 1930's to the present. He was particularly adept at securing signed copies of first edition books.

The most important part of Jim's life, however, was his family and friends. Writes good friend Will Sivilli, "Every person Jimmy touched, and especially if you were lucky enough to become a friend, knew they were meeting a very special 'Dude.' He was a 'larger than life' person and filled up a room, but never in an annoying way.



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Rather the opposite, Jimmy could and would talk to anyone he met about anything and everything. He was as easy talking to a CEO as he was to a homeless person or a person in need. His heart was as big as his adopted State's Grand Canyon.

"His generosity and kindness were as genuine as he was. One of his passions was to pick a family in need every Christmas and buy tons of gifts for the entire family, especially the kids, and deliver them personally on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, a planned dinner with Jimmy meant waiting for him to arrive, but it was always worth the wait. He was loved by all his family and close friends, and we are all missing him, and always will. He was the kindest and most gentle soul I have ever known. With the utmost admiration, respect and love we wish you, our dear brother and friend, a Buen Viaje and Salud and Adios Hermano!"

Jim is survived by brother Reginald (Reg) Kramer and wife Marj; sister Deirdre Kramer and husband Jamie Richart; three nieces and one great-niece; and a large, loving extended family.

Jim was preceded in death by his brother Michael Kramer and by his parents.

A private memorial gathering will take place.

Donations in Jim's memory, donations may be made to Interfaith Community Services, 2820 West Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741.

Evergreen Mortuary and Cemetery is assisting with arrangements.



Tribute Wall

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BR

Brenda Rodriguez lit a candle in honor of James.

I knew this kind, generous and lovely soul as Jim. I am deeply saddened to learn of his passing. Jim had such a great spirit and energy. Whenever he came to The Loft Cinema, whether to see a movie or excitedly search the poster sale piles, he truly brightened my day. We touched base monthly and I will miss the infectious burst of energy transferred to me.



November 17 at 10:21 AM

CD

Cynthia Drew posted:

I'm so very saddened and shocked to learn this news. I remember Jim just as this wonderfully composed tribute reads, an engaging enthusiastic person of high intellect and integrity, gone much too soon. I knew Jim many years ago freshman year at Hofstra and reconnected a few years ago on Facebook. I reached out to two Hofstra friends last night, who did not know, and are also very saddened by this news. In recent years we had considerable lively discussion on important world affairs as well as our hobbies and passions. I love that Jim was fully engaged in his passion around books. I also recall a terrific photo from freshman year that Jim posted on FB. I'm trying to recall when that was and if I could even find it. God Speed my friend! We will always remember you!

October 30 at 3:55 AM

DD

Dan Danbom posted:

What a wonderful tribute to Jim. I enjoyed calling him out of the blue -- and getting similar calls from him -- to talk about the nuances of the book world, about movies he'd seen and his assessment of the Oakland Raiders. When he was in Denver once, we went out to dinner, and Jim took a photo of his meal and posted it on Facebook. He was prone to do that, meaning I always knew what and where he was eating, and that I would soon be hungry. I have thought of him every day since his passing and will miss hearing his voice. -- Dan Danbom

October 13 at 4:41 AM

GQ

Gail Quinnan lit a candle in honor of James.



October 4 at 1:18 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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