



## James Lee Dooney

July 1, 1924 - November 23, 2011

James Lee Dooney of Fort Collins passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at Poudre Valley Hospital from heart failure. Jim was 87 years old. Jim was born July 1, 1924 in Elroy, Wisconsin to the parents of Floyd and Violet Dooney. An only child, Jim and his family grew up poor during the depression. His mother passed away when he was 15 and at 17, he volunteered to join the USMC during WWII and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at 19, serving in Japan and the Pacific Islands from 1942 to 1944. He returned to Wisconsin after the war and married his sweetheart, Marion Lucille Dooney in 1948. Jim graduated from Marquette University and Marion and he moved to Colorado where Jim finished his Master's degree in Sociology at Denver University and worked at the VA Hospital in Denver. Mary and Jim had their only child, Robert in 1959. In 1961 he accepted a new position to develop the Department of Mental Health for Larimer County and moved to Fort Collins. He remained the Director of the Mental Health Dept. for over 30 years until his retirement in 1984. Jim had a strong love of music and was somehow involved with the art most of his life; playing drums in school jazz bands in his youth, barbershop music, vocal groups and guitar for over 50 years with several bluegrass and folk bands. He always loved to "perform" for others, playing the songs they wanted to hear, putting a smile on the listener's face and making them laugh was his #1 goal. His wife, Marion suddenly passed away in 1985 and although remaining very sociable, he never remarried. Jim was usually surrounded by many friends...Both from people he knew through his

professional career, his long time neighbors, new friends at his new home and his vast array of musical relationships. Jim is survived by his son, Robert James Dooney of Denver and his grandchildren Christopher James and Patrick Robert Dooney of Fort Collins. Jim's Celebration of Life with Military Honors by the Fort Collins All Veterans Honor Guard will be held at Bohlender Funeral Chapel in Fort Collins Saturday, December 3rd at 11:00 a.m. A Reception / Wake will be held at Avogadro's Number in Fort Collins immediately following the service. He will be missed.

# Tribute Wall

BD

“ Jim has been my favorite Soap Troupe performer for many years. I loved to hear and watch him sing and play the guitar and could tell that he loved performing. I will miss him very much.

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**Betsy Davis-Noland** - December 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ My experiences with Mr. Dooney were having him as the coach of my first two seasons of organized sports , 4th grade JAA basketball , and 5th grade JAA football Lions . I believe it was 1974 & 1975 , and I attended O'Dea Elementary School . He coached along with his son , Bob . They were great with the kids , I always think of the Dooneys when I drive past City Park , many fond memories of Saturday morning football games , and Jim Dooney !

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**Tim Elliott** - December 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ A tear came to my eye in remembrance of the good times, the music, laughter, and the kindness in your heart. A hero and mentor to many. It was at a backyard summer party at your house when I first met you and will always remember the magic that seemed to surround you. You made this world a better place. Miss you Jim.  
Scott

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**Scott Catalano** - December 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I am very sorry to hear about your loss. We thank him for his service in the military and contributions to the community in Fort Collins.

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**Kurt Faulkner** - December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I will always be grateful to Jim for hiring me in 1969, making it possible for us to move here. We had some great times when it was the mental health clinic. Jim and Marion were always great hosts. This seems like the end of an era.

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**Jack Reid** - December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Bobby, I am so sorry to hear about your father passing away. Remember me? I used to be your babysitter. It's so hard to lose a parent, they're such a huge part of your life. He was always a good friend of our family and Jim and my Dad, Randy Jones had a great time performing for many people in the Feedlot Four. I hope Milo is still alive and Jay Rosson, too. Jim Shamer was the fourth guy. I don't know anything about him either. I just lost my brother, Roger Jones, in October in Texas in a horrendous car wreck involving an unlicensed, uninsured illegal Mexican doing 100 miles per hour. I miss him very much, too. I know that your Dad is in a better place and having a blast learning all about heaven and singing praises. I bet he is so happy to see everyone that he has lost, too. I hope that he enjoyed his life and did everything that he wanted to. I hope you do, too. Bless you and your family. I hope that God sends you peace.

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**Judy Holley** - December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ We enjoyed Jim's positive energy and the musical performances at Busch Court get-togethers, especially "Homegrown tomatoes". We have fond memories of him in the brown chair with the band in the rain on the Hick's back stage. May he rest in peace.

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**Jamie, Julie & Lila Gormley** - December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Mr. Dooney was a close professional colleague of my mother and among the truest friends of the Hermann and Marti Meyer family. He quickly became one of the most cherished friendships for my parents, but I always felt that I had a great adult friend in Mr. Dooney growing up. The Dooney family was a huge part of our lives in Fort Collins. Throughout my childhood in Fort Collins, Mr. Dooney took personal interest in my activities and was tons of fun to be around. In the best of times and the hardest of times, the Dooney family supported us in ways we will never forget – with wonderful music, jokes, and laughter. We lived and worked in a wonderful friendship with the Dooney family. Where Jim was, there was fun, respect, challenges, hard work, dedication and celebrations. We will miss Jim in our hearts and our thoughts and prayers go to the Dooney family. With loving thoughts, The Meyer Family - Hermann & Marti, and Corina, Steffen, and Regula.

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**Steffen Meyer** - November 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Coach Dooney was the first coach I ever had for JAA 5th grade football and he made an extremely positive impression on me around hard work, competitiveness and toughness. Hard to believe that after 35 years it still brings fresh and positive memories and long lasting lessons. I'm thankful for his brief but important role in my life.

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**Clayton Reid** - November 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CR

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**Clayton Reid** - November 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Jim was a much-appreciated musical force in Ft. Collins. He will be missed!

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**Allison Horn** - November 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ If only it could be said of each of us that we left a piece of our souls behind to make people smile. Jim was a voice of delight to those of us fortunate enough to witness his performances, vocal and with his guitar. His sense of humor and his wit and his talent will live within us, and we will remember Jim with warmth and joy, always. The Heavenly Choir will ring with laughter when he sings. What a blessing he was to us who knew him. He has earned a forever standing ovation!

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**Rachel & Joe Cassidy** - November 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I was fortunate enough to meet "Dad" through loving his son Bob..I traveled to Canada with them and it was one of the most fascinating trips ever! I will never forget our conversations, laughter and daily "Happy Hours" So fun, so many memories..the joy waking up every morning singing and playing guitar for me...I was so lucky and will never forget that time in my life! I will love you forever and never forget those beautiful blue twinkling eyes and that Big Smile....Love and Miss you! My Love and Sympathies to Bob,Pat and Chris.... Your Daughter....Cheryl, Makaella King and Gladys Hunnicutt

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**CHERYL COX** - November 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM