



## James Walter Klein

April 30, 1940 - January 12, 2023

James Walter Klein

April 30, 1940 – January 12, 2023

James was born on April 30, 1940 in Appleton, WI where he grew up surrounded by a loving family including his parents, George and Josephine and his two sisters Barbara and Mary Sue. James graduated from Appleton West High School where he played football and spent his free time avoiding class and generally causing trouble. However, this did not stop him from progressing to college where he graduated from the University of Minnesota with an undergraduate degree in Forestry and a master's degree in business. He went on to the military and was stationed in Germany as a Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his time in Germany he and his wife Mary F. Klein had two daughters, Kathleen and Jennifer and eventually repatriated to Virginia and had a third child, Jeffrey. Mary and Jim remained married for 50 years until her death from Cancer in 2012.

Jim got his start in the paper industry in Chicago, IL with Clevepak Corporation and was promoted and moved his family to Irving, TX. He left Texas in 1976 for an opportunity in Milwaukee, WI as President of Wisconsin Paperboard where he took a new paper mill from start up to fully operational with two paper machines and over 300 employees. After moving into a leadership position in the Paper Mill Division for The Newark Group, his next

challenge was growing the Recycled Fibers Division throughout the United States. He remained in this role until he retired from the paper industry in the year 2000. He was remembered by many of his former employees and as a tough boss but also a caring, fair person.

Jim and Mary lived in Mequon, WI for 25 years during his professional career. While he spent many days and nights working at his career, he always made time for his family. He coached his sons and daughters' sports teams, took the family on regular vacations, including many camping trips, and made sure to balance family life with work. Jim spent weekends at the family lake house, boating, fishing, eating bratwurst and enjoying the outdoors with extended family. As a lifelong Packer fan, he could be found on Sundays watching and attending the games with his family and friends. Jim loved spending time outdoors and enjoyed camping, fishing and hunting and continued these activities throughout his life. He took regular fishing and hunting trips with his son and later taught his grandson to enjoy hunting and fishing on these trips as well. He could always be found doing projects at his house as well as helping his daughter Jennifer renovate her home in Denver. Jim was baptized in the Catholic Church, an altar boy growing up and remained active throughout his life, never missing a Sunday service.

Jim lived with his daughter Kathy in Fort Collins, Colorado and remained active until his death. His family visited regularly in his last year while his mind and body were failing him. He did not want to spend his last days in other's care and ultimately passed away in his sleep. There were only more difficult times ahead for him and he is now in a better place. Jim is survived by his children, Kathleen Klein of Fort Collins, Jennifer Klein of Denver and Jeffrey Klein and wife Kristi and their children, Hunter, Chloe and Karina of Ladera Ranch, California as well as his sister Barbara Hirn of Neenah, Wisconsin.

Jim loved his dogs and his grandson has Type 1 diabetes. His family requests

in lieu of flowers, please donate to one of the following charities – Humane Society or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

JDRF

[https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?px=1905174&pg=personal&fr\\_id=8892&et=n\\_11Mk52s414sQGLe1NcFEpWCGJhTOw3WmfKBZJWGNr5KaInM2ZGWA&s\\_tafId=1138125&s\\_src=P2PParticipantCenter&s\\_subsrc=Email](https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?px=1905174&pg=personal&fr_id=8892&et=n_11Mk52s414sQGLe1NcFEpWCGJhTOw3WmfKBZJWGNr5KaInM2ZGWA&s_tafId=1138125&s_src=P2PParticipantCenter&s_subsrc=Email)

Humane Society

[https://secured.humanesociety.org/page/83528/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=ad\\_gg\\_slink\\_gift\\_donation&en\\_txn10=ad\\_gg\\_cpc\\_237076442\\_17383383962\\_634206280276\\_animal%20charities&en\\_og\\_source=ad\\_gg\\_fndr\\_gd\\_83528\\_hsus&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&gclid=Cj0KCQiA\\_bieBhDSARIsADU4zLciC1i7PkBruL-AcmtI8MMj7V6RAmUY9zBiLe8kXgj7VmEv6o9oMnsaAId9EALw\\_wcB](https://secured.humanesociety.org/page/83528/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=ad_gg_slink_gift_donation&en_txn10=ad_gg_cpc_237076442_17383383962_634206280276_animal%20charities&en_og_source=ad_gg_fndr_gd_83528_hsus&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&gclid=Cj0KCQiA_bieBhDSARIsADU4zLciC1i7PkBruL-AcmtI8MMj7V6RAmUY9zBiLe8kXgj7VmEv6o9oMnsaAId9EALw_wcB)

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Mountain Ave., Fort Collins, CO at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
300 W Mountain Ave  
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

# Tribute Wall



“ *Just seeing this...thank you for being there all those years ago. You were a special friend.*

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**Gina Herbrand** - April 27, 2023 at 10:40 PM

AS

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Jeff, Jennifer, Kathy and the entire family during this difficult time. I am so very sorry for your loss.*

*I first met Jim & Mary at Jeff's Wedding (he married my best friend, Kristi❤️) and I remember how spirited, quick witted and fun loving they both were. They shared so many great stories about their life in Wisconsin (Packers Games in below freezing temps....brrrr/ Mary's tanning bed 😊/ family hunting excursions / vacations / etc)....but what stood out the most was the love & devotion they had for their children ....and as their family grew, their grandchildren as well). I remember their trips to California in the big RV with dogs in tow....I always loved catching up with them and watching Jim play with the Grandkids....he always had a big grin on his face whenever he was around Hunter, Chloe and Karina. 😊. Truly larger than life, I know that Jim will live in your hearts forever....Mary as well. 🙏❤️*

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**Amy Sheals** - February 13, 2023 at 04:16 PM

CC

“ Jim Klein...what can be said about this unique individual. Detailed oriented, organized & yes, tough. Indeed, we had some spirited conversations. I loved working for the man! He was open to out of the box ideas at the time which was invigorating. He had a lot of faith in those who worked for him & hopefully we returned that faith in kind. He was a sports fan as am I & did we ever have great conversations regarding sports. Just as he gave women opportunities, the same was the case with me as a person of color. I will forever be grateful to Jim!!!

Crawford Carpenter

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**Crawford Carpenter** - January 25, 2023 at 06:31 PM

LH

“ My name is Lynn Herro. Back in 1995, Jim gave me a chance at a management position within Recycled Fibers and relocated me and my family from Ohio to New Jersey. In those times, it was not the standard to recognize women as equals but he always did. I credit his family for that character trait!!! That move created a long career in the recycled paper industry!!! Thank you Jim Klein!! Love and miss you always!

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**lynn herro** - January 24, 2023 at 08:32 PM

SS

My name is SaSerrano, I started working with Jim in Milwaukee Wisconsin back in 1977 . I was just 19 years old when Jim gave me the opportunity to run the Newly created Converting Department in the Mill Division. Jim was my Mentor a father figure who taught me people and managerial skills and much more. Me and my wife Linda stayed in touch for over 46 years! We miss you and will always keep you in our hearts and prayers.

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**sal Serrano** - June 23, 2023 at 01:52 PM



“ *Reported to Jim and we spent so many good years together working and also having fun. He was a terrific guy , tough as nails and we accomplished a lot. He will be missed and I will never ever forget him*

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**Johnny Gold** - January 24, 2023 at 08:01 PM



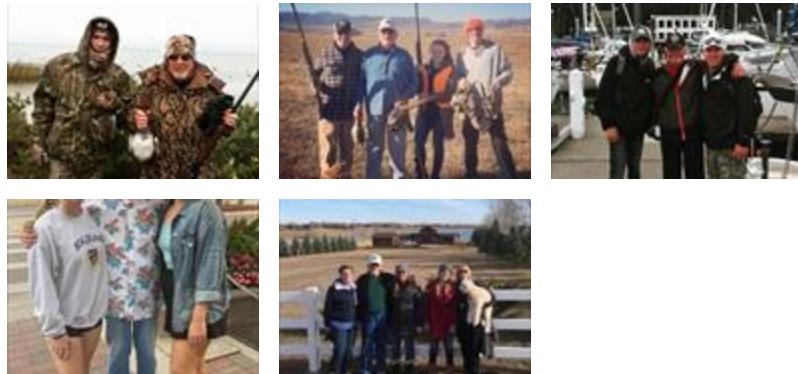
“ *Loved Jim. He taught me well in the recycling business! I worked, drank, ate, hunted and laughed with this man, what else could one want!!*



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**Kevin Kodzis** - January 23, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *7 files added to the album Family photos Album*



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**Bohlender Funeral Chapel** - January 23, 2023 at 10:24 AM