



## James William Stone, II

July 18, 1952 - March 10, 2026

### A Life Remembered

Jim Stone passed away in Fort Collins, Colorado on March 10, 2026. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1952, the youngest of three children to James and Marion Stone. He grew up with a love for sports and education that shaped his life's path. Jim is survived by sisters, Monica and Johanna. He attended Battle Creek Central High School in Michigan, where his athletic achievements earned him a place in the school's Hall of Fame. He played basketball for his father at Kellogg Community College during the 1971–1972 season. He then attended Ball State University, where he discovered his passion for volleyball and was named an All-American at the NCAA Championships in 1974.

With both parents being educators, Jim gravitated to a career in education. He earned a master's degree in education from Bowling Green University in 1977. Jim began an extraordinary coaching career spanning four decades. He first served as an Instructor in Education at the University of Wyoming in 1978 and later became the head volleyball coach there from 1979 to 1981. In 1982, He then joined The Ohio State University as Head Volleyball Coach, a position he held with distinction until 2007. From 2007 to 2019, Jim continued to share his expertise and mentorship as a coach for USA Volleyball's Girls Youth National Team, winning the FIVB World Championship in 2019. While with

USA Volleyball, Jim started “Volleyball Training Solutions,” an online coaching education and consulting business designed to elevate coaches' expertise in working with players of all ages. He also authored the book “A Game Plan for Better Practices,” which focused on coach education. He was named to The Ohio State Athletic Hall of Fame and designated as an “All-Time Great Coach” by USA Volleyball.

His dedication, leadership, and love of the game left an enduring mark on everyone he worked with and inspired.

A Viewing will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, from 9 am to 10 am, followed by a Funeral Service at 10 am, both at Bohlander Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins CO 80524. Feel free to dress casually. Jim's service will be live-streamed. Copy this link, which will activate about 15 minutes prior to the service, <https://www.bohlanderfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/james-stone-59/#!/TributeWall>. If there is a problem with the internet, the service is also being recorded and will be uploaded to the Tribute Wall on Jim's obituary page the day after the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pathways Hospice, <https://pathways-care.org/give-now/>

# Previous Events

## Viewing

MAR 17. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel  
121 W. Olive Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

## Funeral Service

MAR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel  
121 W. Olive Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bohlander Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of James William Stone, II*



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**Bohlander Funeral Chapel** - March 17 at 10:39 AM

JM

“ *Rest peacefully, Jim. You were my coach, my mentor, and my friend. I modeled my long coaching career after the lessons and wisdom that I learned from you. Thank you for helping to mold me as a young woman and shape me as an adult. I miss you already.*

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**Jenny Collins Morris** - March 17 at 12:55 PM

MS

“ Jim recruited me to the University of Wyoming out of Thornton HS in Thornton, CO in 1980. I was a 3 sport athlete and Jim convinced me that, "volleyball is the sport for you and you need to play at Wyoming." Little did I know, that 40+ years down the road, the lessons I learned from Jim in Laramie, Wyoming are still with me in my every day life to this day. Although his time in Laramie was short, the impact he had on all who played for him, knew him and loved him continues to this day. He saw talent and skills in us that we didn't see in ourselves. Our team, especially me, was devastated when he left to pursue his, what turned out to be, a legendary career at Ohio State. As I look back on that time, what a gift I was given to learn from Jim and know that he was the reason I developed the skills to succeed as a player. Jim and I maintained a friendship until his final days. I already miss him dearly and I will thank him forever for taking a chance on this girl from Thornton, CO. The decision to go to the Univ. of Wyoming and end up playing for the greatest VB coach in history was one of the best decision in my life. RIP, my special friend.



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**Mary Shea** - March 13 at 02:49 AM

HB

“ Jim was an amazing coach and had a big influence on my life. I am forever grateful for the lessons he taught and the values he instilled in me. I know he has touched the lives of many players and this is a devastating loss. Sending my prayers to his family. We love you coach Stone!

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**Hannah Braun** - March 12 at 11:40 PM

CP

“ Jim was an outstanding coach, teaching the game from the ground up. Not just drills and skills but true court sense. The University of Wyoming's volleyball program flourished under his leadership, taking a team of athletes and turning us into a top ranking team. You created a solid foundation for the program over 45 years ago and it still reaps the benefits of your coaching. Thank you for everything, Jim. May God bless you with eternal peace.

Cathy (Olenchuk) Poston - March 11 at 12:29 PM



“ Coach Stone was (hands down) the most influential coach I have ever had. He helped me through some of the hardest times in my life. And one of the biggest reasons he helped me through was because he never lost belief in me. He was a coach that never told you good job unless he meant it, or when he got on you it was because he cared. But he always put a lot of effort into me and always believed in me. He was more than just a coach. He was such an incredible human being that cared on and off the court and that's rare to find. Everything he taught me on and off the court will stay with me, my entire life. Thank you Coach Stone. You are so loved and you will be missed.



Natalie Passeck - March 10 at 09:29 PM

RD

“ Ruchelle Dunwoody lit a candle in memory of James William Stone, II



Ruchelle Dunwoody - March 10 at 03:15 PM