



## James N. Drawbridge Jr.

December 13, 1943 - January 7, 2019

BARRE — James N. Drawbridge, Jr. passed away at home on Monday, January 7, 2019 after a three-month battle with cancer. He leaves his wife of 29 years, Cynthia Payne; a son, Peter Drawbridge of Worcester; a brother, Neil Drawbridge of Vashon, WA; a sister-in-law, Elaine Drawbridge of Holden; a stepbrother, George Warren Jr. of Greenville, SC; two nieces, Teagan Drawbridge Quealy of Scituate and Dara Drawbridge Neville of Holden; three nephews, Yaran Drawbridge of North Providence, RI, Tanner Drawbridge of Worcester and Nathan Drawbridge of Barre; and a gallery of relatives and friends who were much-loved by him, and who regarded him in turn as fondly as those to whom he was bonded by blood and marriage. A brother, Stephen Drawbridge of Holden predeceased him in 2002.

He was born in Holden, son of James N., Sr. and Dorothy Staples Drawbridge and graduated from Wachusett Regional High School in 1961 and Hillsdale College, MI in 1966.

Jim's first position out of college was as a third grade teacher in Litchfield, MI, a brief but indelible experience that left a lasting impression on both he and his students, many of whom he stayed in contact with throughout the course of his life. Even as he moved into fundraising as a professional vocation, his time spent as an educator instilled in him an enduring desire to mentor, coach, and encourage young people he met along the way. Jim's genuine interest in people was one his purest qualities.

In his professional life, Jim served as Director of Development for Hillsdale College, Rhode Island School of Design, Worcester Art Museum and New England College, among others. From 1998-2014 he served as Vice President, Strategic Fundraising for the Ruffalo-Cody organization in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In later years, he consulted for several non-profit organizations.

Jim's personal life was filled with a variety of diverse interests. He was a voracious reader who loved words and a dedicated dad to many dogs, cats and other furry critters. With

Cynthia, he loved to travel, counting several memorable trips to Italy with friends and family among their many pursuits. At various points in his life, he was an avid runner, cyclist and golfer. A Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots fan, he always preferred a good college game when he could find it, and if there was one game he preferred above all others, it was hockey.

Jim's passion for hockey began at a young age and never dimmed. After starting the hockey team at Wachusett Regional High School in 1961, Jim enrolled at Hillsdale College, where the hockey club he put together in 1962 eventually attained varsity status. Jim coached the Hillsdale hockey team from 1962-1963, and again from 1966-1974. A scholarship fund was later created in his honor and Jim was inducted into the Hillsdale College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

All reports indicate that ice conditions were perfect on Monday as Jim skated past St. Peter to join his brother Stephen at center ice. Play was delayed several minutes as a menagerie of beloved family pets charged across the Rainbow Bridge and over the boards, skittering across the blue line with delirious joy as Jim went to his knees and swept them into his arms.

To know him was to love him. He will be dearly missed.

A memorial service will be held at Val's Restaurant in Holden on Wednesday, January 16th at 1 pm. Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main St., Holden is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made through the Jim Drawbridge Scholarship fund c/o Hillsdale College (<https://secured.hillsdale.edu/hillsdale/jim-drawbridge-scholarship/>)

To share a memory or an online condolence please visit the "Tribute Wall" on this page.

# Events

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JAN	Memorial Service	01:00PM
16	<hr/>	
	Val's Restaurant	
	75 Reservoir Street, Holden, MA, US, 01520	

# Comments

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“ Jim and I met in 1st grade at Rice School in Holden in 1950. I will always remember his upbeat personality and competitiveness. We were out of touch for many years, seeing each other occasionally Class of 1961 reunions. Several years ago we would golf together in local tournaments, like the WRHS Alumni Association. My most vivid recent memory was shortly after the first time we golfed together, Jim reminded me that I broke up his potential " no hitter" in Little League; he emphasized that he told his Dad ( the coach) that he wanted to internationally walk me, but his Dad make him pitch to me. He said he never forgave his Dad, who coached his Holden Little League team.

Jim would always light a room with his friendly , outgoing, upbeat personality.

He will be remember and missed bu all.

Dave Lionett

Dave Lionett - January 15 at 01:15 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James N. Drawbridge Jr..



January 15 at 07:25 AM

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“ Jim was a fantastic mentor for me when he took me under his wing as I was entering the fundraising world on the East coast. Jim was always there with an encouraging word and great advice. He taught me so much more than just his fundraising acumen. He was very worldly and helped show me the hot spots around the greater Boston area for restaurants and drinks. Jim had such a great outlook on life, always finding the positive and it was infectious. I'm brokenhearted to hear he passed but so happy that we stayed in touch over the years. I will definitely miss him. Rest easy Jim. I'll have a stinger for ya!

Joshua Spiegelhoff - January 14 at 11:33 AM

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“ We are deeply saddened by the news of Jim's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Joe and Michelle Quinn

Joe and Michelle Quinn - January 14 at 09:16 AM

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“ It was my pleasure, privilege and sheer fun adventure to work with Jim through the entire year of 2012 when he and I were involved in a major-gifts campaign for the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg & Leominster --- he as advancement director for the Club and I as fund-raising counsel for the campaign.

Jim was a true "gentleman and scholar," as the old saying goes, but the good fortune for all of us who knew him is that he was a genuine, one-of-a-kind character and so much fun to be around, even if it was only for an hour, a day, or for a whole year!

I much-appreciated my short, working relationship with Jim, because he was a great guy, but also because he was a skilled, honest and supportive colleague. He and I had lived similar professional lives, so it was easy for us to appreciate each other's working habits and our shared perspectives, values and concerns. Jim was a wonderful, generous resource to me as counsel for the Boys & Girls Club campaign, and he never looked for the credit for being the primary force behind the Club's effort, even though he deserved it.

In the years following 2012, I tried to stay in touch with Jim, but there was little response from him over the past few years. Now I know why, and I'm really saddened to learn that we've not only lost him, but that the final few years of his life were made so difficult by health issues.

To Cynthia, his children, and all of Jim's family, I send my sincerest condolences. To Jim, I send a three-minute warning for the next heavenly hockey game. Gloves on; mask down; get ready, Drawbridge!

Rest in peace, my friend.

Ray Mitchell

Raymond J. Mitchell - January 13 at 05:22 PM

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“ Neil,  
Sorry to here about your brother.

Bob Nanof

Bob Nanof - January 13 at 12:23 PM

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“ Jim and I corresponded for the last ten years about the class reunion. I send out the e-mails to let the class know when a classmate has passed. I have received many responses that was a great tribute to him. He made everyone feel important when he was interacting with them. Unfortunately, I will not be in Ma to attend his Celebration of Life. Just know that I have a sad heart and feel I have lost a dear friend. May you rest in peace Jim and play a round of golf with my dad, Jim and Kevin.

Joan Reidy Bartosiewicz - January 13 at 11:14 AM

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“ Jim always had a kind word to say and was genuinely interested in what you had to say. He will always be remembered for his contribution to Wachusett hockey and as Steve's and Neil's big brother. I was able to attend the tribute to Jim at the Wachusett hockey game but was disappointed that Jim was unable to come. I will be unable to attend the celebration of Jim's life at Val's, but I will keep him in my prayers.

Kevin Anderson - January 12 at 05:29 PM

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“ Brian, Brittany, and James Jumonville purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of James N. Drawbridge Jr..



Brian, Brittany, and James Jumonville - January 12 at 01:52 PM

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“ I'm so glad that I got to run into Jim a few times over the decades on South Rd in Holden. He was one of a kind, and I know everyone from his world will miss him greatly! “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”

Lynn Drawbridge - January 12 at 11:04 AM

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“ Jim, how could we forget four hockey games in three days. Our butts kicked at Norte Dame as we opened their complex. Oh the memories, and all because of your persistence to keep a hockey program alive. We owe you so much my friend. You I'll always be in our hearts.

Chis Pton - January 11 at 09:13 PM

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“ Oh, Jim. So many people are missing you already. All those trade show dinners we had had with our vendor friends. The hockey! Bless you, my friend.  
Dan Milliman



Dan Milliman - January 11 at 07:29 PM

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“ Jim was more than a colleague, he was a lifetime friend right from the moment you met him. He left his mark on this world and in our hearts. He will be missed.

Laura Abney - January 11 at 02:31 PM

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“ I have have known Jim for 24 years & kept in touch on a regular basis. Jim was and will always be like my brother, father, crazy uncle, colleague & great friend. He is referred to from my kids as Papa New England. He wanted to break 80 on the golf course & he never believed me when I told him he would. Just keep trying & sneak off and practice I told him. Then, he finally shot a 79 a few years ago. He called me on the course to let me know what he did right away. Yes, James introduced me to Bombay Sapphire, a 3 pound Maine lobster & a fine cigar. He taught me how to pronounce all of the town names in New England correctly & put an "R" on everything. Of which I still do and I actually still have a New England accent, at times. Ben, my son, has 2 favorite teams sports teams. The NE Patriots & Red Sox, because of Jim. Most importantly he taught me how important it is to hug & kiss, especially with your father & son/daughter. I do that every time I see him & everyday with my kids. Jim was my rock when I lost my first son & was able to make his memorial service in person. WHAT MAN & I will miss our conversations. Thank you for everything & I mean everything!

Salute & I will have a Bombay Sapphire tonight. I love you man!  
Ronnie

**Ronnie Blocklinger** - January 11 at 02:07 PM

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“ Jim and I were brothers from different mothers. His passing will leave a hole in my heart forever. This quote from Susan Gale applies so well.....”Beautiful memories are like old friends. They may not always be on your mind, but they are forever in you heart”. Goodbye dear friend. I pray I will see you again.

**Paul W. Mercer** - January 11 at 02:02 PM

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“ Jim was a wonderful mentor and friend to me in my early career and life. He always has a smile and a great story to tell. He also introduced me to the joys a Bombay Sapphire Gin - neat. Peace be with you.

**Jason** - January 11 at 11:41 AM

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“ I met Jim when I was a freshman at Hillsdale. It was an instant and mutual "like" that lasted all of these many years. Jim always managed to take a detour from his career travels to find us if he was within 100 miles, always to my delight. 5-star memories will last the rest of my life. Fair winds, my dear friend.

**Ginny Sawkins** - January 11 at 11:02 AM

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“ Dan and Jenny Fontaine purchased the Cheryl's Classic Gift Bundle for the family of James N. Drawbridge Jr..



**Jennifer Lozier-Fontaine** - January 11 at 08:37 AM

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“ Jim was so special and a delight to have around. Our critters Huck, Goldie, Teddy & Peanut miss him very much, and so do we! Our condolences to the family and friends of Jim. He will be greatly missed.  
-Dan & Jenny (Lozier) Fontaine





“ An addition to Jim of course I tried to edit

Diane and Brad Perry - January 10 at 05:59 PM

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“ Jim was a very special person. Extremely personable and loving Brad remembers trying to play hockey on Parker's pond with Stephen , the Granger boys , the Benson's , the Harvey's .Great memories I remember how kind a person he was. Loved him! So very sorry to his family. Our sympathy and prayers

Diane and Brad Perry - January 10 at 05:55 PM