



James Richard Benson-Valdes

March 26, 1960 - January 20, 2019

James Richard Benson-Valdes, 58, of Kissimmee, Florida passed away on January 20, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by his husband, Diego Benson-Valdes of Kissimmee, Florida, his four children— Amanda Converse (Jeremy) of Lincoln, Nebraska, Adam Benson (Megan) of Chandler, Arizona, Allyson Myers (Dustin) of Chandler, Arizona, and Alyssa Benson-Valdes of Kissimmee, Florida, his six grandchildren—Jadyn, Trey, Evan, Rhen, Madelyn, and Hudson, and his sisters, Patricia Benson (Krista) of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Angela Benson of Lucerne, California. He is preceded in death by his parents, Betty Benson, and his brother, Robert Anderson.

James (Jim) was born on March 26, 1960 in Renton, Washington. His family moved to Lakeport, California, where Jim spent his childhood and adolescence attending the local schools. He graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1978. Jim was a brilliant and educated man. He attended the University of Arizona, receiving his Bachelor in the Science of Nursing. Later, he attended the University of Phoenix and received his Masters in Nursing and a Masters in Business Administration. Years later, he attended Graceland University and received his Masters in Family Nurse Practitioner. He practiced as a Nurse Practitioner. He was deeply loved and respected by his colleagues and regarded as the best in his field.

Jim was a dreamer. He loved big ideas. Traveling and seeing the world was always on his bucket list but never fulfilled. Instead, he travelled the world at Epcot, taking in the World's Showcase on his annual passport. Jim was a man of style. He was always well dressed and put together. His grandchildren could identify anything that came from him purely based on scent. He loved children, and his children were his joy in life. He is remembered as a dad for tickling, dancing everywhere, and singing completely off key at the top of his lungs to early 90s pop music. He was a great father! Jim was a fabulous cook and loved food. He could throw completely random ingredients in a pan and make it taste like he belonged on Master Chef. He taught his two oldest daughters to cook, and for that, they

will never starve or torture their families. Though, he never loved any food more than cookies and cream ice cream.

Jim loved to be outdoors. In his younger days, he was known for taking his children for spontaneous trips hiking, spending the days in woods or near streams, skiing and playing in snow. He loved having his own swimming pool, and laying out to burn. He tanned red. He loved gardening and landscaping. Home improvement was a hobby Jim enjoyed, his taste equivalent of a Home and Gardens magazine cover.

Jim loved life and everything it had to offer. He wanted more time— time to live, time to love, time to make more memories. His family wanted more time too. Jim did not want a public viewing. Cancer made him unrecognizable, and Jim wanted everyone to remember him before cancer stole his life. Jim will be cremated and taken to Nebraska, per his wishes.

Comments



“ We were the best of friends for a while in school. He was always thoughtful and considerate of others and their feelings. He was creative and ingenious. My memories of him are filled with fun and happiness. Jim my friend you will be missed but never forgotten. You made it to heaven first and I will see you again in paradise. Say hello to your mom for me because she was so good to me and a lot of other needy and hungry kids.

Forrest Garrett - January 27 at 08:56 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Richard Benson-Valdes.



January 25 at 08:11 PM



“ I was fortunate to work with Mr. Benson at North Country Healthcare in Showlow Arizona. He always treated the staff and patients with the upmost respect and dignity. He will be missed considerably. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

With respect,
David Altman, USN

David Altman - January 25 at 08:20 AM



“ Jim was a truly amazing brother. He attended nursing school and high school at the same time. He wasn't old enough to drive, so our Mom loaded us all into her station wagon and drove to Ukiah for his classes. He loved medicine and learning so much. He always will be in my heart. I love you big brother.

Angela Benson (Jim's sister) - January 24 at 03:56 PM



“ Please find comfort in knowing that your loved one touched the lives of so many others and gave them the gift of many happy memories and touching the lives of others with kindness and compassion. We hope that those wonderful memories give you strength.

Our deepest and most sincere condolences,

Cynthia Kuhnert on behalf of the Walgreens Healthcare Clinic

Cynthia Kuhnert - January 23 at 11:53 AM