



Dr. James Frederick Wahl Jr.

December 13, 1933 - January 6, 2024

Dr. James Frederick Wahl, Jr. DDS, “Jim,” passed away January 6, 2024 with his wife, Judy, by his side.

Jim was born December 13, 1933 in Anna, IL to James Wahl, Sr. and Francis Wahl. The third of three children, he was preceded in death by his parents and by his two sisters Jeanne (Don) West and Norma (Russ) Armstrong.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 46 years, Judy, currently of Petersburg, IL; daughters, Kathy Wahl and Karen (Steve) Ard, both of Champaign, IL, Julie (Gary) Sullivan of Springfield, IL, and Jill (Tom) Kress of Plainfield, IL; sons, Tim Wahl of Portageville, MO and Steven (Christine) Triezenberg of Indianapolis, IN; eight grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Jim graduated from Washington University School of Dentistry in 1958. He was part of the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1957-1961, attaining rank of Captain.

Jim practiced dentistry in Champaign from 1961-1993. A life-long Illini fan; “Murray, Sampson, & Wahl, DDS” made many of the mouth pieces for the Illini football and basketball players. After selling his part of the practice, Jim returned to dentistry as a full-time clinical dentist in both Edgar and

Champaign Counties from 2003-2014.

Jim was a member of the Illinois State Dental Society from 1961 until after his retirement. There he served as a member of the executive council.

Additionally, he served in all of the offices of the Illini Dental Society. He was a clinical instructor at two nearby colleges in their dental hygiene programs and at Indiana University School of Dentistry.

Jim and Judy had a passion for sailing. During his first retirement interim, they bought a house in Pentwater, MI. where they were very involved in the Pentwater Yacht Club, Jim was named Commodore for the year of said yacht club in 1998. Eventually seeking warmer climates and embracing their love of Disney, Jim and Judy moved to the Orlando, FL area in the late 1990s. He spent four years working at Walt Disney World. "Captain Jim" was one of his favorite jobs, captaining a boat that ferried passengers to and from Disney resorts and what's now known as Disney Springs. During his tenure at Disney Jim was awarded the "Partners in Excellence", an award given to less than 3% of Disney cast members.

Known as Poppie to some of the most important people in his life; he loved building sandcastles, riding rides at Disney and any and every adventure that awaited with his wife, children, and grandchildren. During his kids' early years, he coached baseball teams, was active in scouts and loved water skiing and family ski trips to Colorado. He and Judy enjoyed snow skiing and traveling well into his late 70s. He helped with Eagle Scout projects and was always there to support those he loved in their many talents. Additionally, he was an animal lover and shared his heart with his many four-legged children, over the years.

Words can never sum up this amazing man. He was an expert woodworker, creating the cribs that cradled his grandchildren and gorgeous rocking horses

for them to play on. He built birdhouses and loved nature. He picked at guitars, and adored classical music. He delighted in his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments. In later years, he became an accomplished potter, sculpting many pots and teapots, providing a creative outlet and a place to practice ongoing movement as he battled Parkinson's disease. He gave so much more than he ever received and he will be loved and missed for all of our days.

Cremation rites were accorded by Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. Please visit hurleyfh.com to view Jim's online obituary and share memories and condolences with his family.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Judy, I am so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. Susan Schmall

susan Ross - January 13, 2024 at 06:03 PM

CC

“ Judy and Family, I have no words to express my sadness. I could write a book on all our adventures, fun, laughter and work. He was always a sharp-witted man, He could say some zingers at times.....was I to laugh or cry?? My years with him as his assistant were some of the best years of my working. He always brought donuts from Ye Old Donut Shoppe, he always Rember'd my favorite!! I'm beyond sad for you Judy, It's been a long journey, it will be another adjustment no one wants to make. Gods comfort and His peace be your strength. Wish I could give you a hug! Carol Schaede Carter

Carol F Carter - January 12, 2024 at 11:47 AM

PG

“ Please, accept our condolences for the passing of Poppy. He was in my ceramic class at Parkland. I loved his teapots..he was the teapot master in class. He showed me his clay tools and amongst them were a few dental tools that worked perfectly for his clay making. His perseverance and mastery made a lasting impression on me.

Pat Guthrie - January 12, 2024 at 08:43 AM

SN

“ Kathy (and family),

Your dad was a very kind man and a superb dentist! I have never understood why other people are so afraid of going to the dentist-- he made it such an easy experience.

Sally Adkisson Nathan

Sally Nathan - January 12, 2024 at 07:03 AM

GW

“ Judy,

Although our interactions were rare, I well remember seeing you two at Lake Sara and your kind invitation to your home for dinner when I was a student at the U of I

George Wenthe

George Wenthe - January 11, 2024 at 10:55 AM

LH

“ Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of James Wahl



Larry and Mary Hundt - January 10, 2024 at 08:37 AM

CM

“ So sorry for your loss, he was a very nice person 🙏

carole mohn - January 09, 2024 at 10:03 PM

TR

“ *Jim was a wonderful guy. He was a true gentleman. I will miss him dearly.* ”

Tricia Ruppel - January 09, 2024 at 06:38 PM