



James A. Balzaretto

July 3, 1933 - December 6, 2013

James Alfred Balzaretto Born July 3, 1933 - Died December 1, 2013 Jim Balzaretto lived a full and generous life. He was a first generation Italian American, born in New York City, New York, to Giovanni and Maria. . He left the city after joining the Air Force and being stationed in Sacramento, California. He fell in love with the west coast and his first wife Mary Ball in 1960 with whom he had two daughters. Life circumstances and a career in Marketing and Public Relations took him across the country until he finally landed in Huntsville, Texas in 1974. He worked with the Texas Department of Corrections, eventually becoming the Director of Land and Mineral Rights, until his retirement. Most importantly were the gifts he gave to this world. He was a highly creative, successful, and award winning photographer, an avid reader, and a hidden poet (a fact no one knew until last year). He was community minded, working on many city projects in Huntsville with the Chamber of Commerce including, but certainly not limited to, the Sam Houston Statue and the recent renovation of the Huntsville Public Library. Jim was a primary founder of the Texas Prison Museum, helping to procure the land where the current site is located. He was active in creating and shaping the Hearts Veterans Museum, something he was exceptionally proud of and honored to do. In his lifetime, Jim participated in many Civic affairs, too many to enumerate on this page. He gave generously of his time and talents until his failing health did not allow him to participate actively. Because of these activities, he was blessed with an abundance of friends who he valued highly

and spoke of often. We will always remember that which is most wonderful about him – his love of culture, including theater, art, and music. He taught us to appreciate the finer things in life and to value beauty, style, class and grace. We have all benefited from this part of his life and from his generosity in instilling this love in our own lives. Although he was most certainly a complex man with many weaknesses, we choose only to remember those beautiful qualities that he brought to us. We will always remember dancing with him, listening to very loud opera with him, cooking for him, and loving him no matter what because he was our father, the Center of our Universe. We are glad that he is now in the arms of his family, who he adored, and we hope they are having a wonderful time eating, dancing, and being Italian – something he so dearly missed as he was the last of all his siblings. We will miss him beyond belief and know that our lives will not be the same without him. Jim is survived by his daughters, Mary Meier and Lisa Balzaretti and their husbands Eric Meier and Jim Webb, his son Steve Gedstadt, and his grandchildren, Jason, Merilee, Kaitlyn and Tyler, and his friends, too numerous to mention. We would also like to extend a special Thank You to his Most Excellent Caregivers: E Levin, Mia, Jackie and Sharon, who provided superb care and attention to him when it was most needed. Services will be held Friday, December 6, 2013, 11:00 a.m., at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, Texas with interment to follow in Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery, Huntsville. Family will receive friends Thursday, December 5, 2013, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Memorial donations may be made to: H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum 463 State Hwy 75 N, Huntsville Texas 77320. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *James A. Balzaretti*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Balzaretti family:*

I met Jim while volunteering with the group Soldier's Angels at the VA Medical Center While I didn't get the chance to know him in depth, I did enjoy his wisdom and insight to life.

As I read about his life, I am honored to have been able to call him a friend. The community of Huntsville has benefitted greatly by his vision and works.

My condolences to you.

Judy Johnson - April 10, 2014 at 08:57 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Jim has done so much for Huntsville. His death is a loss for Huntsville, but a gain for Heaven. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mellicent Sikes Wiley & Family - December 09, 2013 at 04:28 PM



“ *Thank you for buying my first piece of art from me here in Huntsville. I was shaken to part with it, but you appreciated it so. You have left footprints in the lives of many.*

Julia W. - December 08, 2013 at 04:40 PM

TF

“ Mary and Lisa, I was going to come to visitation tonight and I am now dealing with congestion and not feeling well. I would like to have been there to visit with you, but I suspect Jim and Dad are reunited, too. You are both in my heart and prayers as you journey with your dad now in your hearts. Jim did live a full and varied life and completed his cycle here on earth. God's blessings to you and your families.

Trudy Fuchs - December 05, 2013 at 06:37 PM

CE

“ I served with Jim on the Huntsville Veteran's Advisory Board and he will be missed. He was a vital part of our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.
Chuck and Judy Ellis

Chuck Ellis - December 05, 2013 at 05:11 PM

MB

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Jim when I worked at the Chamber of Commerce some years ago...there was never a dull moment when Jim was around and he always brought a smile to my face. Fortunately, through the Veterans Museum, I was able to keep up with Jim after leaving the Chamber. He will be missed by many and is loved by all. Thank you for your service Jim. Much love to his family~

Melissa Kimbrough Beardsley - December 05, 2013 at 01:28 PM

ML

“ I am so comforted by reading these wonderful testimonies about my dad. He was such a character. Interesting, talented, frustrating, generous, opinionated....dad was quite the study of contrasts. Thank you for your kind recollections and words of comfort. He was (and is) a pretty spiffy guy.

Mary Loraine - December 04, 2013 at 08:27 PM

ER

“ Well I caught you sleeping for the last time on Sunday. I will miss you. Huntsville wont be the same without you. Thank you so much for Mary.

Eric - December 04, 2013 at 08:23 PM

JJ

“ Jim will be deeply missed in the Huntsville community. He was a tireless volunteer. He was a good, kind man. May God be with you.

Jeannine Jacoby - December 04, 2013 at 07:11 PM

JR

“ Jim was a very special friend. We worked together at TDC and prayed together at St Thomas. Jim was always full of life and a joy to be around. May God bless his soul as he begins a new career in eternity.

Jim & Barbara Riley - December 04, 2013 at 01:29 PM

CL

“ Jimbo was such a part of my childhood and a person larger than life to me. I will always cherish our family dinners, music, laughs, watching Moonstruck, joke telling, him wearing a blue velvet tux to my wedding, and support he gave my family during our ups and downs. We love you Jim. Christina

Christina Pierce Leshner - December 04, 2013 at 12:50 PM

MT

“ I met Jim 25 years ago and we had a great friendship through out the years. Great conversation, stories and always lots of laughter. Bob also was a friend and always would say what a great man Jim was. We were blessed to have known him. Memories last forever. Bob and Mary Taylor

Mary Bitter Taylor - December 04, 2013 at 09:05 AM

RH

“ I have so many memories of Jim from our first time in Huntsville in the late 80s and then since returning in 2006 - good wine, good conversations, Friday night road trips to Hornet games with Buddy Aber, always including a good dinner...he will be missed.

Rich Heiland - December 04, 2013 at 08:26 AM

KW

“ Dear Mary and Lisa, may God comfort you and your families in this time of grief. It had been way too many years since I had seen your dad. We had a lot of laughs together, and I will always remember the kindness he showed my mom.

Kathy Walt - December 03, 2013 at 07:42 PM

GG

“ Jim was always a bright spot on the Huntsville scene. He will be missed - warm thoughts and prayers go out to his daughters.

Greg and Dani Gathright - December 03, 2013 at 07:41 PM

TL

“ We are so sorry for your loss . We loved your dad and loved working with him .

Teresa Lawson - December 03, 2013 at 07:13 PM

RJ

“ Mary, Lisa & Family. We extend our deepest sympathy upon the loss of your dad. He was a wonderfully civic minded person who tried to help his fellow human beings. He was a great role model for others to follow. His passing is a loss to our entire community, but we are blessed he passed our way. He will be missed. Make God Bless and keep you all in his loving care at this most difficulty time.

Robert & Ruverna Dunning, Robert Jr. - December 03, 2013 at 06:42 PM

BH

“ Mary and Lisa I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. I remember how close you two were to him. He was a very sweet man. My prayers go out to your families during this very sad time

Betty Henslee - December 03, 2013 at 05:11 PM

DE

“ Jim loved his community and loved life. His photos reflect the joy and spirit of his dear Huntsville and how he viewed our community. Just a dear fellow and will be missed.

Dana Eckles - December 03, 2013 at 10:05 AM

TH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jim always made everyone smile, and he will be missed by all of us.*

Love,

Tom and Lynda Henry

Tom and Lynda Henry - December 03, 2013 at 09:15 AM