



James McCarthy

October 8, 1957 - October 22, 2015

Rye- On Thursday, October 22nd, two very special friends of James W. McCarthy saw a shooting star cross the sky. Flying over the ocean in the clear night, the star—following a very unusual path-- covered the entire horizon. Jim had taken his last breath that morning, and they smiled because they knew they had just seen Jim.

Jim loved to fly—whether it was across the water at the helm of a catamaran or through the clouds in the plane he owned with his good friend. He didn't grow up with any of the luxuries that these avocations represented, but he was determined to excel at them once they were within his reach. Jim's sailing skill was something to behold. He competed in the 2002 Olympic sailing trials, but you had to know him a long time before he would tell you that. When his son, Nicolas W. McCarthy, announced that he would learn to fly, Jim was filled with pride.

Jim grew up facing more challenges than most. It was second nature to him to turn each of those challenges into a goal and then each of those goals into an accomplishment. His greatest attribute may have been his perseverance. Jim always knew his way around the word "no". To him it was just an invitation to become more creative.

Though he endured pain from years of back issues, he decided in his mid-fifties to drink the Kool-aide at Cross Fit Portsmouth and compete with men and women twenty years his junior. Like everything else, he embraced the adventure, made new friends....and occasionally nursed a pulled muscle.

Jim had a huge heart. He understood what it meant to go without and, as he achieved success in his business life, he generously gave back. His community involvement revealed where his passions lay: Cross Roads House, Piscataqua Sailing Association, and Abenaqui Country Club. He rode in the Pan Mass Challenge for years—not knowing he himself might need the help of Dana Farber one day.

A man of integrity, he was a fiercely loyal friend, an advocate for his clients, and

sometimes just a big sentimental mush. He adored his wife and business partner, Monica McCarthy (formerly Ness), and she him. He was the love of her life. Some family members believe he managed to fight off cancer as long as he did so he could make it to their wedding date just last month.

Alongside Monica and Nicolas, Jim will be sorely missed by his daughter-in-law, Kelly McCarthy, daughter, Tanya M. McCarthy, mother, Carole A. McCarthy, siblings Bonnie McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, and Heather McKay, his four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

His optimism and positive approach to life endured to the end. Most friends never really knew how sick he was. His bravery was palpable, and it was easy to believe him when he said he would beat his cancer. He had researched every possible treatment in his determination to do so. Had there been answer, he would have found it.

Services will be limited to family and friends. In lieu of flowers and in honor of Jim's community involvement, gifts to Cross Roads House, 600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801 or Families First Health and Support Center, c/o Development Department, 100 Campus Drive, Suite 12, Portsmouth, NH 03801 would be greatly appreciated.

Comments



“ Bonnie McCarthy lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Bonnie McCarthy - June 07, 2017 at 09:18 AM



“ Thinking of you today.... <3

Bonnie - June 07, 2017 at 09:19 AM



“ Caroline Levine lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Caroline Levine - November 05, 2015 at 07:38 PM



“ Nick, I am so sorry for your loss. my thoughts and prayers are with you my friend
Richard Papa jr.

RICHARD PAPA - November 05, 2015 at 03:58 PM



“ I wish that I had seen that shooting star ... but I felt your passing on that morning, Jim.

Met you at Shearson Lehman Hutton, and I believe that it was 1988. I worked for another broker, plus a few others. I admired your work ethic and your focus. I knew that you would be successful without a doubt. You took me up in your plane one time to see the foliage. I was scared to death, as I was never in a small plane, but I loved it. (In actuality, I had only flown twice in my life). Doug and I went to a New year's party at your home, and I met Nicolas and Tanya. You came to my 50th Birthday party. I left the firm before you did, but we would bump into each other occasionally; as I still worked in Manchester, and you would occasionally call me to wish me a happy birthday. I also did the same. This year you called again to wish me a Happy Birthday. You shared the fact that you were not well. My husband also had the same disease, but it was caught very quickly. He never had to go through what you had to go through. Met you at Dunkin Donuts in March for a cup of coffee, as you called and said you'd be in Manchester that day.

I came up to see you at the end of June and brought you homemade strawberry pie. You looked good, although had had the "pump" put in at that time. You showed me around your beautiful home and we sat out on the deck and talked and looked out at the ocean. How beautiful and peaceful. The perfect place for you ... right on the water where you loved to be ... it was so peaceful ... but then again the water could be rough, and a big challenge (which you also welcomed). Also saw and learned about the bee hives.

You and Monica were invited to Doug's and my 50th Wedding Anniversary Party; which, unfortunately, turned out to be the same day that you and Monica were to be married (September 18, 2015). You spoke very highly of Monica when I saw you in June. I had actually seen a picture of you both in The NH Magazine a few years ago. I could tell that you were "together". You told me that she was smarter than you, and I could tell that you loved her deeply. I asked if she sailed with you, and you said that she did. Jim, I'm so glad that you finally met the perfect person for you. Very much hope to meet you, Monica.

We have kept in touch through Face Book since June, so I have been privileged that you allowed me to go on this last journey with you. Only hope that I was able to help you in some way, prayers and support and love. were sent to you and your family. Last 8 days were agony, as you no longer communicated. Rest in peace, my very dear friend.

I miss you already and send love to your family.

Patricia Shoals - November 01, 2015 at 08:36 PM



“ Shirley & Dennis Gillispie lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



shirley & dennis gillispie - November 01, 2015 at 08:14 PM



“ Patricia Shoals lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Patricia Shoals - November 01, 2015 at 07:28 PM



“ Millie Anderson lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Millie Anderson - October 31, 2015 at 09:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Christmas '12



Maile Buker - October 31, 2015 at 12:47 PM



“ Melodye Mueller lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Melodye Mueller - October 31, 2015 at 12:33 PM



“ Maile Buker lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Maile Buker - October 31, 2015 at 12:32 PM



“ Greg Mahanna And Deb Kajander lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Greg Mahanna and Deb Kajander - October 31, 2015 at 06:56 AM



“ Mark Jacobsohn lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Mark Jacobsohn - October 31, 2015 at 06:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Vanda Moore - October 31, 2015 at 06:12 AM



“ Although I haven't seen Jim in years, I know what a good person and loyal friend he was. Racing against each other on catamarans was a high point in my life. I am sorry for your loss.



Jim McCarthy - October 31, 2015 at 02:23 AM



“ There is so much of Jim in my home. He was so very generous to me and my family. I wish I had a chance to say goodbye. I will always, jim, hold on to the great memories of our 18yr friendship.
Mournfully, Kelly

Kelly Jennings - October 30, 2015 at 11:46 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you ...Jim was a running friend of mine back in the Windham days....I will miss him dearly...an amazing man...I am grateful to have known him



lusann - October 30, 2015 at 10:44 PM



“ Maureen Sullivan lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



maureen sullivan - October 30, 2015 at 10:22 PM



“ The last time I saw Jim was in the late spring at a 100 Club Member Social. I too had walked the cancer journey having lost my dad to lung cancer. Jim knew this. We shared stories about the illness but more importantly, we shared stories about people. Cancer has a way of putting things into perspective. People either step up to help or step away out of fear and lack of understanding. Jim shared with me how he felt so blessed to have had so many people step up. Most especially, he shared with me how wonderful Monica had been. She was the light to his days. He drew strength from her. He described himself as "so lucky to have been blessed with someone so amazing"...He twinkled as he spoke of her. He thanked me for sharing my stories and for reaching out. I thanked him for sharing his stories and for making me smile hearing him talk about Monica. He will be missed

Roberta Cote - October 30, 2015 at 02:19 PM



“ Neil P. Hosford lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Neil P. Hosford - October 29, 2015 at 11:51 PM



“

Dear Jim,

It seems like yesterday we were running through the woods with our stick bows protecting the world from viscous beasts, paddling our skiff through the reeds catching turtles, or fishing off the wooden footbridge on the pond. You were always my big brother, for better or worse. You could always be counted on to give a hand, or Indian sunburn, or wedgie.

While highly talented, you had a spark, a drive that moved you. I got to see it burn and grow and for that I am blessed. That Spark made you a sports star in high school. A natural at baseball, you could play any position with ease. In hockey your power and intensity made you unstoppable. Many times in football, teams would double and triple team you in vain attempts to stop you. You were magic on the field. You mentored me in sports, letting me be your tackle dummy or honing my goalie skills trying to stop your full force charging slap-shot. You made me better and taught me so much. You never let me give up. As a result, I would always be picked to be part of the team by you older boys. Thank you.

I miss our misty morning marches on the marshes to duck hunt with dad, shivering in the smelt shack on the bay, and drinking cocoa at deer camp. I miss riding horses, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles and having you jump over me on all of those. Competing with you only made me better and if I thought I was too good, you would teach me humility. Somehow you had an endless well of skills to draw from, an uncanny way of moving things up a level.

Time and miles separated our later life. I know that spark must have been great to propel you to your apex. You did so much and grew to unforeseeable heights. You founded a fantastic business, helping and an inspiring all that knew you. Your life was surely epic. I am blessed to have witnessed your wedding to an amazing woman. You gave me a niece and nephew to be proud of. Our renewed relationship, like our conversations, was far too short. I am touched and thankful for those that shared your life and fiercely call you friend... for they are legion.

You always were my big brother, mentor, and friend. You taught me the race is not always to the swift, or the strongest, or the biggest. Often the race belongs to the one with the most heart. In all your victories large or small, it was always you with the most heart.

On October 22 2015 that great heart gave out.

I love and will miss you,
your little brother,
Mike

Michael McCarthy - October 29, 2015 at 01:01 PM



“ Wow.

Carol O'Leary - November 01, 2015 at 05:41 PM



“ Great sentiments Michael! He truly did have a big heart, excelled on any playing field and ran circles around most!

One proud sister right here!

Bonnie McCarthy

Bonnie McCarthy - November 01, 2015 at 07:08 PM



“ Michael, this tribute to Jimmy (as I knew him) is amazing, heartfelt and very fitting. We wish you, and your family peac at Jim's passing. Margaret Miller. God Bless

margaret miller - December 20, 2015 at 07:57 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Michael McCarthy - October 29, 2015 at 12:53 PM



“ Charles Riopel lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Charles Riopel - October 29, 2015 at 09:53 AM



“ The Riopel Family lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



The Riopel Family - October 29, 2015 at 09:52 AM



“ Kristen Hanley lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Kristen Hanley - October 29, 2015 at 08:09 AM



“ Marge Cronin lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Marge Cronin - October 29, 2015 at 01:16 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Kelly - October 28, 2015 at 04:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carol O'Leary - October 28, 2015 at 03:29 PM



“ Jim, you will be the wind at our backs as we ride through the dunes in to Provincetown in the 2016 PMC. Smooth sailing. And rest easy. You fought an epic battle.

Carol O'Leary - November 01, 2015 at 05:39 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



David Van Patten - October 28, 2015 at 02:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Monica McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 01:44 PM



“ Perfection at last !!! <3

Patricia Shoals - October 28, 2015 at 03:42 PM



“ I love you Jimmie, and I know you are in a better place now, but it still hurts to say good bye. I am so glad that we got to have the conversation that we did on Oct 10th. I asked you, "Do you have any regrets"? Your answer to me was, "No, I did the best that I could and I can't ask for more than that. What about you, do you have any regrets"? "Yes", I said. " I regret that over the years, we have not spent more time together". You told me that it is different with brothers and sisters....we can go 20 yrs never seeing one another, and when we do, nothing has changed, like all that time never happened. I do wish jimmie, that we had spent more time together, but like you told me, "you had to move 1500 miles away.....but you did the best you could". I lit this candle in a memory of US, as kids. The color is called Periwinkle (know where I'm going with this? haha!) I think this may have been the start of your love of the ocean! The weekends that we spent, up at the crack of dawn, to go down to the clam flats, clamming with basket and fork.....and the big yellow plastic 5lb peanut butter pails that we used to pick periwinkles from between the rocks! Okay, I probably did more of the periwinkle picking than you, but then we would take them home, steam them up and use toothpicks to pick out the periwinkle and eat it! How many have experienced that! haha! Sometimes, it is the little things that are remembered and cherished the most! Fly high big brother, and please watch over me. Til we meet again.....I love you. Bonnie

Bonnie McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 11:05 AM



“ Michelle Cahill lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Michelle Cahill - October 28, 2015 at 10:39 AM



“ Bonnie McCarthy lit a candle in memory of James McCarthy



Bonnie McCarthy - October 28, 2015 at 10:31 AM



“ We have known Jim for the past 30 years and considered him not only the best and most honorable financial advisor but also a dear friend. Maureen and I can only imagine the heartache all of you are experiencing. It will be some time before all of us can absorb the impact of his loss. Again, we feel that we have lost more than our financial angel but a dear friend.

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Jim's family and everyone at Seascope.

Maureen and Michael Gauthier

Michael Gauthier - October 28, 2015 at 08:34 PM



“ Monica,

As you well know, we have known Jim for ever so many years and he has brought much to our lives over the years. As both a close friend and as our financial guru we remember him as an absolute straight shooter and never afraid to follow his instincts. As we note and remember from some of the foregoing photos, Jim had a real passion for life and fortunately he was able to enjoy many of those pursuits, thanks to his incredible financial insight. Sailing and flying with him was always a real thrill and there was once a time when we talked of doing a round-the-world catamaran sail. That would have been a world-class blast but the harsh master of business on both his and our parts eventually took precedence. That was Jim...bigger than life and a bona-fide risk taker. Having known you for several recent years, it became obvious that Jim had found a very capable business partner as well as a good match for his temperament. You two worked so well together and Jim always spoke very highly of you. And the culmination of those feelings with the marriage of you two made for what should have become a happily-ever-after result. But fate can be a cruel master with no regard for personal goals or wishes. And in this case, the taking of Jim altogether too soon was among the harshest result. We will miss him dearly, but believe that his determination and skill will continue to live on in you. We wish you the very best in your recovery from the grief of this loss and in your efforts to move forward.

Bruce and Audrey Mueller

Bruce and Audrey Mueller - November 07, 2015 at 12:33 PM