



James L. Vadeboncoeur

January 9, 1934 - May 10, 2013

Hampton Falls – James L. Vadeboncoeur, 79, of Hampton Falls passed away peacefully on Friday, May 10, 2013 at Watson Fields Assisted Living in Dover. He was the loving husband of Lois (Branch) Vadeboncoeur.

James was born on January 9, 1934, in Haverhill, MA and was the son of the late Lucien L. and H. Marion (Dacey) Vadeboncoeur.

James was raised in Haverhill and was a graduate of Haverhill High School Class of 1951. He received his Bachelor's Degree in accounting from New Hampshire College. James served with the United States Air Force and later the Air Force Reserves as a pilot from 1953 through his retirement as a Major in 1976. He proudly served in the Vietnam War. In 1965, James was awarded The Air Medal from the United States Air Force for his meritorious achievement and devotion to his country. He also served in the Air National Guard of New Hampshire from 1967 through 1972. James had a 23 year long career as a pilot, first flying for Northeast Airlines, which later merged with Delta Airlines.

He was a founding member of the Seacoast Indoor Tennis Club in North Hampton, was an accomplished pianist, an avid golfer, tennis player, and Red Sox fan. He coached Little League Baseball in North Hampton and Hampton when his boys were young. He enjoyed summers at Squam Lake, warm

winters in Florida, and loved his home in Hampton Falls. James wrote a song for each of his five grandchildren that he would often play on the piano at family gatherings. He also enjoyed creating funny nicknames for his family members. He was lovingly known as "Smiling Jim." We will remember Jim for his vibrant personality and devotion to helping others through the numerous charities he held dear to his heart.

James is survived by his loving wife, Lois, of 45 years, as well as his four sons; James L. and his wife, Elle; John H. and his wife, Kirsten; Gary P.; and Michael L. and his wife, Sue. James is also survived by his grandchildren, Tori, Jake, Emily, Evan and Shauna, as well as his sisters, Paula Vadeboncoeur, Diane Tremblay and Priscilla Swanson. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Lorna Antkowiak, and his first wife, Phyllis A. (Steiner) Vadeboncoeur.

A celebration of James' life will be held on Saturday June 8, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. in the Remick and Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH, followed by a brief service at The Oak Lawn Cemetery in Hampton Falls.

If desired, donations may be made in James' name to the Jimmy Fund / Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 or the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701-9376.

Cemetery Details

Oak Lawn Cemetery

Nason Road
Hampton Falls, NH 03844

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *James L. Vadeboncoeur*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

GJ

“ hi, Dear vadeboncouer family

i write this many years after Jim's passing, and on the 3rd anniversary of my mom's passing.

I truly hope that all these good people have special places in heaven, safe in the arms of a loving God who graced us all with the Creation of talented, decent, giving souls who cannot be replaced

I remember the kindness and good humor of Jim i had such a crush on him during my years in jr high (!) Lois was my basketball coach >> i was not a terribly good Bball player, but i sure did love it when Jim would come to HAJH to watch our team play.

:)

in the fall/spring/summer, I would ride my bike up into glen hill and sometimes make surprise "stops" at 21 Seavey St for spontaneous visits to lois it was always a special day when Jim was home from Delta flights.....

at one point in my own family's evolution, Jim helped one of my brothers land a job at Delta's reservations center in boston.....

it is now many, many years since my childhood in Hampton but i have warm memories of Jim .. thinking of him puts a smile on my face.

reading the beautiful tributes to him also reminds me of the special

*talents, humility, and wonders of this man a Life Well
Lived.....*

thank you for sharing him with me !

*Grace E Jackson MD
sedona AZ*

grace jackson - September 12, 2021 at 05:05 PM

“ An Ode to My Dad

The world recently lost one of the true good-guys, a man of integrity, a man of honor, a man of pride and strong family values, a family man, my Dad. One can never truly be prepared for a loss like this; I know I wasn't ready for it. However, I find myself strangely closer to you now due to the experience of opening up 43 years of memories viewing old and recent photos, and having conversations with family and friends - hearing different perspectives on the person you were. Here are some of the large and small things that will always remind me of you, here is the person you were to me:

- *Playing a game of catch in the yard – & letting me pitch to you. You always drew an imaginary circle with your finger on your chest: “Aim right for the target!”*
- *Coaching the Hampton Indians Little League Baseball Team, My Team*
- *Skips Drive-In, Merrimac, MA – a Cheeseburger Special & Chocolate Frappe*
- *Playing the Beetle Game on the way to Boston, (searching for the old VW Bugs) “Eyes Flashing” you would say!*
- *Red Sox Games – watching Schilling pitch in Game 2 of the 2004 World Series with you*
- *Talking on the phone right after the Bruins won the Stanley Cup in 2011, and also right after the Red Sox finally beat the curse of the Bambino in 2004, and then again in 2007! And of course after the Patriots won three Superbowls ...*
- *Gin Rummy, War, Go Fish... Trivial Pursuit*
- *Hearing stories about your childhood in Haverhill and your flying days in the military*
- *UNH Hockey Games – Snively Arena & seeing the Wildcats win the ECAC Championship in 1979 at Boston Garden*
- *You diving into the water at Squam Lake – as I watched you disappear in the depths, only to re-surface about 30 yards away in Cotton Cove*
- *Some of the projects we did together recently: building the kids*

*swing set, working on my
deck re-build in Exeter, putting the basketball hoop together for
Jake's birthday present
during a thunder storm*

- Hershey Bars with Almonds & Lindt Chocolate; Friday Night Dinners at the Galley Hatch*
- Coca Cola, and then later Dr. Pepper were your favorites*
- Macadamia Nuts, Moon Pies, Granny Smith Apples with a sprinkle of salt*
- Roast Beef, Onions & Mayonnaise at Santoro's Sub Shop on the way to the Sox Games*
- Peanut butter jars & coffee tins full of nuts, bolts, screws, nails, you name it-in your workshop*
- Celery Salt on Hot Dogs of course; Granite State Potato Chips*
- Timing the steaks & burgers on the grill, the master chef*
- Trips to St. Croix, Disney World, 6 Flags Over Georgia, and even Hawaii*
- Canobie Lake Park & our rides on The Yankee Cannonball*
- Visiting Shaheen's Fun Park at Salisbury Beach*
- Extended Family gatherings at 21 Seavey Street – swimming in the pool & the fireworks show we would put on that night*
- Family football at the annual Thanksgiving gathering in York at Ed & Doonie's house*
- Family volleyball at Squam Lake & in our backyard in Hampton Falls*
- Listening to you play the piano, it always seemed to calm you, it was your escape*
- Carving the Thanksgiving & Christmas Turkeys, and sometimes pumpkins too*
- Nature's Valley Cinnamon Granola Bars, Consumer Reports Magazine, Sports Illustrated*
- Peanut Butter & Banana Sandwiches, Pistachios*
- Advice on Investing – thanks for helping me be smart with my savings*
- The Boston Globe Sports Page – Dan Shaughnessy, Peter Gammons, Bob Ryan, Jackie McMullen*
- Ted Williams, Yaz, Johnny Pesky, Johnny Bucyk, Bobby Orr*

- *Seeing the Patriots play at the new Gillette Stadium with you & Mum just a few years back*
- *The Buick Skylark Convertible, man you could get that car going on Storrow Drive after Red Sox Games: 70-80-90 mph?*
- *Mock Turtle Neck Shirts & Electric razors of many kinds*
- *GPS devices and the Weather Channel was somehow on your TV, you always knew the forecast!*
- *Frank Sinatra, Chuck Mangione, Natalie Cole, Joni Mitchell to name a few*
- *Jazz & Blues Music on the piano of course*
- *Going to the Barnum & Bailey Circus in Boston with you as a kid, and later as an adult with your grandchildren*
- *Chaperoning my 4th grade field trip to Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth*

Michael Vadeboncoeur - June 27, 2013 at 10:14 PM

EV

“ Dear Vadeboncoeur Family,

I want to send my condolences from another Vadeboncoeur family. My dad Paul was Jim's cousin and although he passed away 4 years ago I remember him speaking of his cousin Jimmy fondly. Jim sent a very nice card to my mom Marie upon my dad's passing and she was surely touched. I am not sure if I ever met him in person but feel that I know a bit of him through my dad. I am sure he will be missed.

Sincerely,

Elaine & Marie Vadeboncoeur, Saco, Maine (my mom Marie lives with me up here now)

Marc Vadeboncoeur, Raymond, NH

Carol Vadeboncoeur Rosinski, Leominster, MA

Elaine Vadeboncoeur - June 12, 2013 at 11:09 AM

AH

*Dear Mrs. Vadeboncouer,
I am so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. I met and worked with him
many years ago when we were checking out in some new airplane with
Delta. I can't remember which airplane but do remember what a
pleasure it was to train with him. You have my deepest sympathy.
Sincerely, Aubrey Hair MD-11 Capt. rt 1996*

Aubrey Hair - June 20, 2013 at 06:33 PM

“ My earliest memories of Uncle Jim are of a young, vibrant man who loved life! My siblings and I, as the first four of our generation born to one of Lucien and Marion Vadeboncoeur's five (adult) children, were fortunate to have him as our "Unca Jim". He was unabashed about being silly and playing with us kids; his Donald Duck imitation was the best, always sending us into peals of childish laughter! A visit from Uncle Jim was one we always awaited eagerly because we knew it meant FUN and sometimes, the coolest presents ever - often from the exotic lands he visited as a young Air Force Officer. Anyone who observed him interacting with us, nieces and nephews, knew he would be a wonderful father. It wasn't long before he and lovely Aunt Phyllis became the proud parents of three handsome boys.

Life wasn't always kind to this kind man though, and after Auntie Phyllis died (far too young), our mother helped care for his three boys for a brief time while he continued serving his country. Uncle Jim came through this difficult time with flying colors and was blessed once again when he met and then, married Lois. As a twelve year old girl, I remember standing in the reception line at their wedding and looking at Lois with awe because she was so beautiful! Lois became a wonderful mother to Jim's three boys and of course, their son Michael. Like Uncle Jim, Lois is fun too and I always felt welcome whenever I visited them during the passing years.

As an adult, I've enjoyed time spent with Jim and Lois, whether at their home in NH or Florida. When Stephen, my English husband, first met Jim, he said that Jim impressed him as being "the quintessential American". During one of our winter visits to Florida, Jim and Lois invited us to stay with them while Stephen's parents were visiting my parents, who lived just a few minutes away. It was then that Jim introduced Stephen to golf, teaching him how to swing, always demonstrating humor, patience and encouragement. In 2009, I stayed with Jim and Lois for a time while working at the Haverhill Public Library. I will cherish this time always. Jim and I

would stay up late, watching the Sox and chatting about this and that; mostly, Jim shared many thoughts and memories with me about his life and our extended family. Accordingly, I came to have a deeper understanding, appreciation and love for my Uncle Jim. Tomorrow, as family and friends come together to honor him and celebrate his life, Stephen and I will be there in spirit, as will he. If Jim were with us still, I know he would be watching the French Open! Thank you, Jim Vadeboncoeur, for being the best Uncle ever and for your generous joie de vivre. - Karen Metcalfe

Karen L. A. Metcalfe - June 07, 2013 at 08:22 PM

TT

“ I cannot write enough about Uncle Jim as a role model, as a mentor, as a genuine influence in my life, and above all as a friend.

Back in the mid-sixties, Uncle Jim actually joined forces with my mother, following the tragedy in his life, to take care of my siblings and me (along with his own children) for an extended stretch of months when my father was in Vietnam. Memorable from those days was Uncle Jim’s broad and frequent smile, a smile that always seemed to lighten the mood. His laughter was infectious, too, and for all seven kids Uncle Jim was just plain fun to be around. I also remember the caring, concerned role he served as a parent and uncle. Knowing what children enjoyed, he gave his time generously to us, talking and listening with undivided attention.

As I grew up and we would visit the Vadeboncoeurs, Uncle Jim exerted that same positive aura and that same generosity of spirit. It was clear that he was a good husband and family man. He was, as well, an excellent pilot, an accomplished pianist, something of a financial and investing connoisseur, an avid sportsman, a man who wanted to pass on that love of sports to his children and, of course, a first-rate Red Sox fan. A lasting memory will always be seeing, at Uncle Jim’s invitation and with his sons, the 1999 All-Star Game at Fenway Park (with nominees from the All-Century team and the great Ted Williams!). One of Uncle Jim’s most remarkable qualities was his in-depth knowledge, not only about baseball and sports but also a wide range of subjects, from current events to history and societal culture; most notably for me, he was a true jazz aficionado, and he told me who was worth listening to among the jazz greats.

I was always close to Uncle Jim, but never more than as an adult. Uncle Jim and Aunt Lois were always good to me, inviting me (back in the early nineties, when on vacation) to their New Hampshire and Florida homes, and extending the same invitation more recently to my family. They were both hospitable, friendly and interesting, good conversationalists, and great with kids.

In later years, Uncle Jim and I became quite close through our mutual passion for the game of golf, playing many, many rounds together, seemingly all over the place: in Florida, in Connecticut, but most often at the White Mountain Club in Ashland, New Hampshire. Uncle Jim nearly always chose to play golf courses like this because they were mercifully free, in his estimation, from those elements of snobbery and a general show of “money” that poisons many country clubs.

The ideal golfing partner, Uncle Jim could blend camaraderie and good sportsmanship with a forcible intensity for the game, or could mix competitiveness in a match-play situation with his free-spirited joking and laughter. What he loved about the game, which reflects, I think, squarely on his character, is the importance it places on self-discipline and honesty, and how it places a premium on self-improvement through hard work. It became easy for me to understand why Uncle Jim was, earlier in life, a tennis champion, and I enjoyed listening to his occasional wise words (he was never boastful or overbearing, but quite modest) on molding one’s skills and competing under pressure. Given his illnesses, it has been some ten years since I have set foot on a golf course with Uncle Jim as a playing partner, and I badly miss his presence. Without him around, White Mountain has felt at times a lesser place—somehow fading a bit into its mountain mists. Yet every time I walk toward the eighteenth green, it seems, I see him, in my mind’s eye, swinging a golf club, or hear his ringing laughter.

--Tom Tremblay

Thomas J. Tremblay - June 06, 2013 at 08:13 PM

TB

“*Jim was truly someone special, and always a great guy to fly with. My sincere sympathy to Lois and all of Jim's family.*

Tom Barron

Tom Barron - June 04, 2013 at 11:58 AM

CL

“ *To the Vadeboncoeur family:
Jim was a great guy who I flew with in the NH Guard as his F/E and also happened to wind up in the same Northeast new hire pilot class in 1968. He was always smiling and was liked by everyone. It was an honor and pleasure to know him I am sure he will be sorely missed by all he came in contact with.
My sincere condolences to the family
Carl Larson*

Carl Larson - June 03, 2013 at 07:02 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of James L. Vadeboncoeur.*



June 03, 2013 at 11:24 AM

GC

“ Dear Lois, John, Jimmy, Gary, Mike and your extended family;

I cant recall ever seeing Jim or any photos of him when he did not have his trademark broad, beaming smile. I can see that smile now coming up the driveway at the lake in his convertible with the boys or the grand children.

He was a warm and caring person who always made us feel as if we were part of the family and we will always remember him with the fond wish that we may emulate him. Our only regrets are that every time we thought and spoke of him and the family and said that we would call or visit, we did not follow through.

It has been a tough year for the Vadeboncoeur family and our thoughts and prayers are for you all.

All our love,

Gerry and Dona Collins

Gerry & Dona Collins - June 03, 2013 at 07:00 AM

JG

“ Jim Goode lit a candle in memory of James L. Vadeboncoeur



Jim Goode - June 03, 2013 at 05:46 AM

BB

“ *Thinking of you Lois, Jimmy, John. Gary and Michael.
I was so sad to hear of Jim's passing today. What an amazing spirit
he had. I remember playing tennis indoors with him...he was a great
competitor and always appreciated the opposition! But mostly he
was such a bright, happy guy -- lots of laughter and interesting
conversation with Jim.
Love Beth Bye*

Beth Bye - May 28, 2013 at 08:23 PM

PV

“ *Lois, Jimmy, John, Gary and Michael*

Jim was your loving, caring husband and father, and he was also the beloved, only son of his proud parents. He frequently recalled his growing-up years as the happiest time he could have wanted or hoped for as a boy. Even during his busy life raising four sons, Jim regularly visited Haverhill to make sure his parents had all their wants and needs met, even seeing Mum's dream of visiting Ireland fulfilled. In the difficult periods before their deaths, Jim was there supporting each parent during those painful times.

Gradually, distances had separated the adult siblings, but Jim loyally kept in touch with his loving sisters about their lives and his nine nieces and nephews. Eventually, fortunately, Thanksgiving celebrations in York became the traditional highlight everyone eagerly anticipated and participated in, with Jim an enthusiastic ringmaster of the extended family.

For his four sisters, especially during the later years, nothing pleased us more than Jim's personal concerts, when he played for us individually, remembering our favorite songs and composers, sharing his impeccable taste and appreciation of Bill Evans, Eddie Higgins, Bill Charlap and especially his favorite, Sam.

We were deeply grateful to have had one special brother-friend, for one like Jim was more than enough; we did not want/need another.

*With loving memories,
Paula*

Paula Vadeboncoeur - May 24, 2013 at 01:07 PM

RB

“ My condolences. I still remember the netted goals that he would deliver in the back of a pick-up so that we could play street hockey - Glen Hill vs Thompson Road. What a great guy. Sorry for your loss.

Rick Bushway

rick bushway - May 24, 2013 at 10:25 AM

SH

“ My sincere condolences to the entire Vadeboncoeur family. My favorite memory of Mr. Vadeboncoeur was in 1988 when I went to Germany to visit John. Mr. Vadeboncoeur had piloted a flight with a layover in Frankfurt during my visit. He took John and I to dinner at a great German restaurant. We ate and drank well that night, and told plenty of (mostly true) stories. Rest in peace Mr. Vadeboncoeur. Thank you for raising such great sons, especially my buddy John.
Steve Harrold

Steve Harrold - May 24, 2013 at 08:35 AM

RH

“ Dear Mrs. Vadeboncoeur, Jimmy, John, Gary and Mike, My thoughts are with you all. Mr. Vadeboncoeur was the kindest and most supportive man I knew growing up. What a great guy. Well remembered and sorely missed. Warmly, Ron

Ron Hammond - May 24, 2013 at 07:34 AM

MH

“ We are sorry for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers are with the family. Bob & Marylou Harrold

Marylou Harrold - May 24, 2013 at 07:33 AM

MC

“ Dear Jim, John & Gary, Thinking of you all at this sad time & all the fun we had as youngsters with your Dad. May he rest in Peace. God Bless Margo Maillargeon Collins

Margo Baillargeon Collins - May 24, 2013 at 07:33 AM

 Ryan Fischer

“ I have many fond memories of my great uncle, Jim. I will never forget his unique, kind of crackly voice asking if I wanted to go water skiing, go for a ride in his big green convertible, or have a cookie. As a little kid, I started my rock climbing career on the boulder in his front yard, and look up to him this day, as the model family man and father. Our love and condolences to all the Vadeboncoeur family.

*Ryan Fischer and Jordan Heguy
Boulder, CO*

Ryan Fischer - May 23, 2013 at 10:51 AM

JV

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



John Vadeboncoeur - May 22, 2013 at 09:25 PM

PS

“ Melrose, MA

Priscilla Swanson - May 22, 2013 at 06:51 PM

DS

“ Jim and I enjoyed many days on the golf course together. He was the perfect partner: never got angry over a bad shot, greatly enjoyed a good shot ("I love my lob wedge!"), and was always aware of how lucky we were to be playing a game in a glorious environment. When his health began to fail, he refused to yield to self-pity, anger or blame. He kept smiling that great smile of his even when he knew the end was not far off. I'll miss you, partner.
Dave

Dave Sandberg - May 22, 2013 at 06:50 PM

MC

“ Dear Jim, John & Gary, Thinking of you all at this sad time & all the fun we had as youngsters with your Dad. May he rest in Peace. God Bless Margo Maillargeon Collins

Margo Baillargeon Collins - May 22, 2013 at 06:49 PM

MH

“ We are sorry for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers are with the family. Bob & Marylou Harrold

Marylou Harrold - May 22, 2013 at 06:48 PM

RH

“ Dear Mrs. Vadeboncoeur, Jimmy, John, Gary and Mike, My thoughts are with you all. Mr. Vadeboncoeur was the kindest and most supportive man I knew growing up. What a great guy. Well remembered and sorely missed. Warmly, Ron

From: Dublin, New Hampshire

Ron Hammond - May 22, 2013 at 06:47 PM

MC

Jim was one great guy to fly with and just to know---very professional and caring. Maurice (Mike) Cloutier

Mike Cloutier - June 02, 2013 at 07:16 PM

JF

Jim was a true American. A great person to know and fly with. John Fraser.

John Fraser - June 03, 2013 at 05:56 PM

PR

It's impossible to think of Jim without that smile. What a wonderful man. My condolences to his family. Peter Roberts

Peter Roberts - June 12, 2013 at 07:19 AM