



James William Alexander

September 3, 1932 - November 7, 2023

James William Alexander, Sr.

09/03/1932 - 11/07/2023

Jim Alexander, age 91, died peacefully in his sleep in St. Paul, Minnesota, on 7 November. Jim was born in Harmony, MN, and raised in Owatonna, MN. Jim developed an early love and talent for photography, chemistry, and playing the drums in various school bands. After graduating from Owatonna High School in 1950, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, where he completed his B.Sc. Pharmacy, and was certified as a Pharmacist by the State of Minnesota Board of Pharmacy in 1954. Jim served in the US Army Enlisted Reserve Corps from 1955-1957, assigned to the Surgical Research Unit, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX at Fort Sam Houston. During his service Jim was part of a team working on recovery treatments for serious burns, and also research on development of an artificial kidney. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1957, and then continued in the Army Reserves Corp. While Jim was serving in San Antonio, he met and would later marry Barbara Troup in 1957, before they moved to Minneapolis.

Jim worked as a drugstore Pharmacist (Gregg's 50th & France; Pennhurst 54th & Penn), Barbara worked as a hospital nurse, and they began raising a family; first Jim Jr. born in 1958, Robert born in 1961, and Mark born in 1964. Jim believed strongly in service to and with others, beginning that life-long commitment serving as Secretary to the MN

Pharmacy Assoc. (1961-1965), and then as Vice President of the American Pharmaceutical Association (1965-1966).

Sadly, Jim's wife Barbara died in her sleep on 4 July 1966, leaving Jim to raise his 3 young boys, later with the assistance of a live-in housekeeper while Jim continued working as a drugstore pharmacist. In 1967, Jim met Barbara Lindsley of

Slayton, MN and they were married in 1969. When Fairview Southdale Hospital opened later in 1969, Jim joined the pharmacy staff there until he retired in 1994. Jim loved his church and parish, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, sang in the choir, and he also served in the Vestry there for several years. In addition to Jim's life-long love of photography, classical and jazz music, he also loved crossword puzzles (always in pen!), studying maps, camping, and traveling with his family, taking annual summer camping trips with the family to numerous western states and many national parks.

In 1977, Jim started his sobriety with the help of many others, and in turn, spent the rest of his life committed to helping tens of others with their sobriety, including fellow pharmacists via the Pharmacy Recovery Network which he helped to form with the support of the MN State Board of Pharmacy. In recognition of his efforts and commitment, Jim was invited to become a guest lecturer at the University of MN College of Pharmacy and the University of Utah programs in chemical dependency and recovery. In addition to Jim's work with chemical dependency care and recovery, Jim joined a group of physicians and helped to form the International Health Service in 1982 focused on rural Honduras. He added his pharmacy skills to the team, solicited supply and drug donations from corporations, recruited numerous medical and dental professionals to join IHS as volunteers on medical trips, coordinated shipping supplies and equipment, provided Ham Radio communications among the teams while in rural Honduras, ran the central supply, and participated in trips to rural villages in Honduras for 24 years. For his service in all these efforts, Jim received several awards from many of these institutions, and the respect of the various communities he has served

over the years. One of his proudest accomplishments was receiving a "Good Neighbor" award from WCCO Radio in 1989 for his community service.

Jim suffered a stroke in December of 2021 which resulted in his need for physical care provided with grace and comfort by the professional staffs at Fairview Southdale Hospital, M Health Fairview Acute Rehabilitation Center, and finally at Episcopal Homes where he passed away. Jim is succeeded in life by his wife Barbara, his three sons and their spouses, Jim & Cindy, Rob & Becky, and Mark & Suzy, three grandchildren, Desi, Petra, and Elizabeth, and his sister and brother inlaw Ann & Doug Berglund of Las Vegas, NV. His spirit lives on strongly in the hearts and minds of so many

Cemetery Details

Hillside Crematory

2610 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

VF

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the boys. I was a babysitter and next door neighbor. I spent a lot of time with the boys right after their mother died. Good people. Jim and Rob might remember me but mark was an infant. Love Gypsy Feidt

Virginia Feidt - September 10, 2025 at 09:32 AM

AG

“ I met Jim and Barb at the APhA annual conference in Miami in March 1998. I attended a section meeting of international pharmacists anonymous (IPA) and there they were! This led me to attend the UTAH school the following summer and also in 1999. Jim and Barb and Anna and myself became dear friends and it was like we had known each other always. They visited us in Iceland in 1999 and we visited with with them whenever we landed in MSP on our travels. We had wonderful moments with Jim in August when we were on our way from Canada back home to Iceland. For me, Jim and Barb were life savers and for sure they had a great positive impact on a great number of people.



Almar Grimsson - November 19, 2023 at 05:55 AM

JS

“ I met Jim at my first U of U experience in 2009. I was informed by my licensing board that I would be attending the conference if I wanted to keep my license, so I sat sullenly by myself in the back of the room. Not surprisingly, the dinosaurs had other plans for me.

My fondest memory of Jim comes from that year. We were in a session where the presenter instructed us to count to 3 and turn to the person next to us and give them the biggest smile we could muster. I counted to 3 and turned - and there was Jim, with the biggest, silliest grin on his face. We both dissolved into laughter. He sent me a birthday card the next year, and I felt so loved and seen.

Jim was a vital member of my recovery community and I am so grateful to have known him. His expansive heart always had room for another member of the family.

May his memory be for a blessing in the lives of all those he touched - and there are so so many of us.

Jenny Smith - November 17, 2023 at 05:11 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album *Jim Photos*



Doug Haskins - November 17, 2023 at 07:40 AM

DH

I met Jim and Barb in Utah in 2003 and every year after it was always a pleasure to see them both. He was a staple at the institution and helped steer the way for many a pharmacist and student who continue to meet in Utah each June. He gave up so many fathers days to be in Utah and I hope his kids and grandkids know he was doing important work all those fathers day weeks in Salt Lake City.

Doug Haskins - November 17, 2023 at 07:46 AM



“ *Those photos are fantastic! Thank you for sharing Jim with us here at The Gardens at Episcopal Homes of Minnesota. We greatly miss him in our discussion group activities. He always offered so much wisdom to our groups. We were lucky to get him out on the Trishaw twice this summer for rides. He participated in our "Donuts with Dad" the day after Father's Day this year and also was willing to participate in my "Back to school advice".*



Karren McRae - November 15, 2023 at 05:31 PM

JS

“ *Jim was a wonderful Pharmacist. We had lots of conversations and laughs working together on Sta 88 at Fairview Southdale Hospital for close to 20 years.*

June D Schatz - November 14, 2023 at 08:56 PM

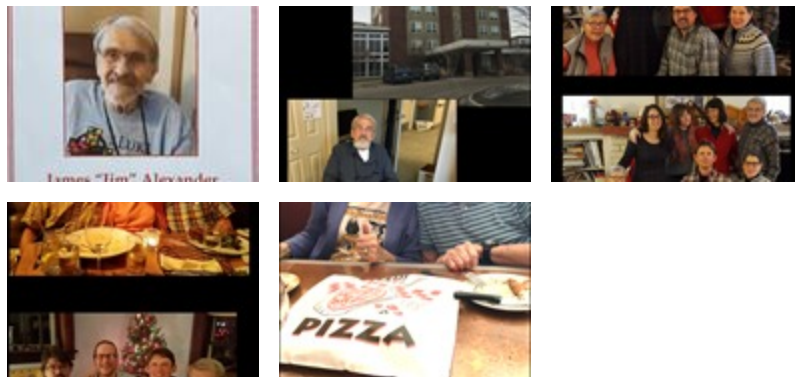
CB

“ *The best pharmacist I ever worked with! Even though he did NOT appreciate the cups of jello we put in the drawers of his pharmacy cart. He found them...melted. It took him a while to find humor in that, but eventually did. RIP Jim. Chris Berg*

Chris Berg - November 12, 2023 at 02:13 PM

RA

“ *30 files added to the album Jim Photos*



Robert J Alexander - November 12, 2023 at 12:40 PM

TC

Thank you for sharing your wonderful memories ❤️ he will be greatly missed. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Theresa Lindsley Canfield - December 08, 2023 at 10:00 PM

VS

We were so sad to see Jim had passed. Wonderful Uncle to us and he gave such reassurance to us during my father's time with dementia. Prayers go out for your family in this time of loss. Vickie Schultz

vickie Schultz - December 09, 2023 at 08:52 PM

DV

“ Jim was a member of our Cursillo Renew Group for over 40 years. I joined in the '90s and had the privilege of seeing him every Saturday. We continued over Zoom during the pandemic. His knowledge of all things medicinal, his deep insights and his humor made each meeting a joy. He has been missed since his stroke made attendance impossible.

DANIEL F VOGEL - November 12, 2023 at 10:22 AM