



## James Joseph Cronin

October 13, 1938 - February 10, 2021

James J. Cronin, Age 82 of Minnetonka, MN passed away peacefully on February 10, 2021 surrounded by his loving family after ongoing health struggles related to a stroke. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, John and Dorothy Cronin; Uncle and Aunt, Bob and Marion Strube; Brothers, Jack and Tommy; Son-in-law, Kevin Mangle; and Nephew, Jeffrey Cronin. He is survived by daughters, Sandy Mangle, Pam (Terry) Enstad, Christina (John) Lucas, and Elizabeth Cronin. He is also survived by his five grandchildren: Tim (Erica), Jenna (Tyler), Danny, Mason, and Ryan as well as many special nieces, nephews, cousins, and treasured friends.

Jim was born in the South Side of Chicago (and was proud to have grown up on 61st and Rockwell). He valued education, hard work, and caring for others. He took pride in his Irish heritage and his Chicago roots. After graduating from Leo High School in Chicago, he went on to attend Saint Mary's University in Winona, MN where he earned a BA in English. He then attended Georgetown University Law School in Washington D.C. and supported his young family by working as a member of the Capitol Police Force. After earning his law degree from Georgetown, he specialized in labor law and moved back to Chicago with his family. For several years, Jim practiced law as a field attorney with the Labor Board.

Jim and his family then moved to Minnesota for a new job opportunity with the

Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon & Vogt law firm. This is where Jim practiced labor law for the rest of his career, and he and his family resided in Corcoran, MN. Jim valued special time with his four daughters, whether it was watching early morning Saturday cartoons, going on family vacations, taking long walks in the woods, or shooting baskets at the local elementary school.

Jim semi-retired and spent ten years in Naples, FL. While there, he found his most meaningful work yet, which was serving as a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem, representing vulnerable children. Following this, Jim returned home to Minnesota to be closer to his family and volunteered teaching English to adult immigrants from all over the world. He also used his legal skills to help refugees who had fled persecution. Jim was a champion of social justice and supported underserved communities his whole life.

He never tired of sharing his love and engaging in deep and heartfelt conversations with his family and friends. He loved sharing his life stories and humble beginnings, and received joy from giving support and encouragement to anyone that was facing a challenge. He enjoyed reading, music, running and good food.

Most of all, he will be remembered and treasured as someone that never let his family forget how much he unconditionally loved them. He taught many the importance of saying "I love you" and he will forever be cherished.

A private funeral service has been held. Memorials are preferred to the Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Program.