James Murray Harrison

April 16, 1937 - October 20, 2017

James Murray Harrison - Age 80
formerly of St. Paul, the city he loved, recently of Shoreview

Jim passed away at home on Oct 20, 2017 from complications of pulmonary fibrosis.
Preceded in death by parents, Dr. P.W. and Caroline "Cottie" Harrison. Survived by wife of 56 years Sharon; children, Gretchen (Tim) Held and Guy Murray Harrison; grandchildren, Peter (Renee) Held, Joseph (Katelin) Held and Caroline Held; and great-granddaughter, Riley Held. Also survived by sister, Mary (Ken) Isaacson; mother-in-law, Clara Shoultz; brothers-in-law, Guy (Betty) Shoultz, Barry Shoultz and Ron (Lori) Shoultz; and sister-in-law, Heidi (Bob) Gilman; 13 nieces and nephews and their families; the Tran/Huynh family; and old friends, all of whom he loved dearly.
Jim grew up in Worthington, MN, graduated WHS class of '55. He attended Carleton College and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BA in journalism. After working for the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, Jim worked 32 years for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, most of the time as Executive Director. Jim was very civic minded and was a natural to serve on committees and governing boards such as Summit Hill Assn., Minnehaha Academy School Board, Minnesota Transportation Museum, St. Croix River Assn., Sand Lake Assn., to name a few.
Jim's life-long passion for steam trains and trolleys led Jim to membership in

both MN Transportation Museum and MN Trolley Museum, with many years as motorman on the Lake Harriet Trolley. He appreciated most genres of music, but he was a jazz man at heart. He enthusiastically supported the grandchildren's music lessons and concerts.

Above all, was his deep and abiding faith in his Lord Jesus Christ, Whom he is beholding face to face.

Visitation will be held on Friday, November 10, 2017 from 4-7 pm at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home, 515 Highway 96 W., Shoreview, MN 55126.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00 am at Bethlehem Baptist Church - North Campus, 5151 Program Ave., Mounds View, MN 55112. Luncheon will follow the service.Memorials are preferred to:

The St. Croix River Association, P.O. Box 655, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
https://www.stcroixriverassociation.org/honorarium-or-memorial/

or

Friends of the Mississippi River, 360 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101
https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1442731

Tribute Wall

DW

I will miss Jim's palpable love of the St. Croix River and the many, many stories he held about the river and the history of efforts to protect it for future generations.

Dan Willius - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DN

Jim was a humble person and man of great faith. Over all these years, since we probably first met in kindergarten, we always had great conversations about many things including past, now, and future. But the nicest thing was whenever we had been apart--- whether for an hour, a day or years--- the conversation seemed to just "pick up" where we had left off. Of course there are all the memories of family, friends and fellowship... and the music and railroads. and the reunions. We will miss you, dear friend, but pray and only wish for peace and blessings to your memory and to all of those you have left for this time.

Duane Noerenberg - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JH

A gentle giant in the environmental movement. Without him there likely would not have been a St. Croix National Park. Future generations will owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

john and diane herman - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PN

Jim was a great friend. We shared many stories of growing up in Worthington, railroad history and water stewardship, but most especially our faith in Jesus, particularly through our years of study in Bible Study Fellowship. Jim''s friendship and warmth will be missed.

Paul Nordell - November 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JH

We are blessed to have known Jim. Praise God he is beholding Him face to face.

Jay and Paige Hamernick - November 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TI

We are so, so saddened by the news. In Paul's words ".. to live is Christ, to die is gain"! Jim has lived well because he loved well. He so desires God and we know that God would so welcome him with open arms. We will miss him! We love you. Take good care! Shalom from all of us: Vicky, Tiong, Joel, Jamin, Cherlyn, Jeremy and Faith.

Tiong - November 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BM

Best wishes, Sharon and family. We had good times and will again.

Buck Malick - October 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DR

Jim was very smart, civically engaged, and a true statesman, who in some many ways enriched millions of peoples lives. I count him as one of most kind, thoughtful humans I've ever known. Be at peace Jim.

Deb Ryun - October 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JE

I had the pleasure of meeting Jim and seeing him at many meetings and conferences during the recent 10 years through work on the St Croix. Just the sight of him always brought a smile to my face and in my heart. Jim was a prince of a man, a humble gentleman.

John Erdmann - October 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LR

We will miss Jim as a neighbor and friend. He was such a blessing to the Sand Lake Association offering his expertise and love of the environment as a model for all of us. His faith in God and love of missions was an important part of his life and we enjoyed many conversations along those lines. Our prayers go out to Sharon and the family.

Larry Refsland - October 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

To the Family of Jim: Jim holds a special place in my heart for his kindness, his smile he so warmly greeted people, the stories of pride he shared about his wife Sharon, son Murray and daughter Gretchen. I worked with Jim at the MN-WI Boundary Area Commission. I learned much from Jim about being responsible stewards of the St Croix and Mississippi Rivers. Jim indeed was a great man of devotion and Faith....I grief the loss of him on this Earth too, but I know I will think of him being an Eternal part of the flow of the St Croix and Mississippi Rivers.

Jessie Meschievitz - October 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CL

Will miss you Jim. RIP good friend

Chuck Lursen - October 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MC

HI JIM I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR PASSING. THE EMAIL I SHOW IS MY VALID EMAIL ADDRESS

MARGUERITE CRUIT - October 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JC

Jim was in Sunday school class and Wednesday church school with me along with all of our highschool classes. Always pleasant with a keen sense of humor.

Joan Engelhardt catlett - October 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LA

Sorry for your loss. James was a busy man who served his community well. I have traveled the St Croix Valley and must say it is beautiful area to visit. Would it have been without folks like him committed to conservation? Job well done sir and life well lived.

Larry - October 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GT

Jim lived next door to me growing up in Worthngton MN. He's the one who has known me the longest! I will miss his smile & his humble being. Our love & sympathies to his family

Gretchen Tjossem - October 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JH

My deep condolences to Sharon and Jim's full family. He was a good person, thoughtful and kind. His love of the St. Croix river knew no bounds. I served in the same Army reserve unit with Jim during the Vietnam war conflict. And got to know him even better as we worked on environmental issues; he with the Boundary Area Commission and me with the legislature. It always was a pleasure to see him and he will be missed. RIP, Jim.

John Helland - October 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was one of my favorite St. Paul people, and his years of volunteering with Summit Hill Association were of great benefit to the community. We had many good talks and he was always thoughtful and insightful. Yet he kept a sense of humor, which is often needed in community work. You are all in my thoughts.

Jane McClure - October 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SJ

So sorry o hear of Jim's passing, but he's gone to a better place. One of the great voices for protection of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

Stee Johnson - October 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM