



James Robillard

July 20, 2003

Robillard James G., age 66 of Mtka, died tragically in a plane crash 7/16/03. Survived by his wife of 42 years, Jorun; sons, Daniel (Trudie) and Mark (Shelby) Robillard; daughter, Tracy (Tom) Kruse; grandsons, Ciaran and Connor Robillard; granddaughter, Samantha Kruse; sister, Joan (Gunter) Hiller; and several nieces and nephews. Jim was retired from the Hopkins School District where he taught for over 30 years. A master craftsman, carpenter, and builder, James excelled at all endeavors. An avid aviator for over 30 years, he instructed hundreds of student pilots. He loved to fly. He will be greatly missed by family, friends, and the general aviation community. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the Civil Air Patrol. Memorial service 6 PM Monday, July 21st at Ascension Lutheran Church, 6719 S. Cedar Lake Rd., St. Louis Park. Visitation Sunday (TODAY) from 4-7 PM at: Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel W. 50th St. & Hwy 100 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall



“ *I love you* ”

~

Jorun

February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Thank you to all of you who left messages for our family in the guest book. Thanks to Bernie for letting me know it existed so I could check it on a regular basis. But most of all, thanks for your prayers, support, and for your friendship. Jim will be greatly missed by many, many people.

Jorun

~

Jorun Robillard,

Minnetonka, Minnesota

Contact Me

Jorun Robillard - August 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

“ Dear Jorun and family, our sincere condolences. Jim will be greatly missed...he was such a special person to so many people. I know my Dad treasured his friendship. I believe that my Dad and Jim have slipped the bonds of earth and are soaring together in a beautiful, peaceful place. They have been set free...

This poem is dedicated to the memory of Jim and his copilot George.

"High Flight"

composed by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. at 30-thousand feet over England in 1941.

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth

And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings:

Sunward I 've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth

Of sun-split clouds — and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung

High in the sunlit silence: hov'ring there,

I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung

My eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, the long, delirious burning blue

I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace

Where never lark, or even eagle flew --

And, while the silent lifting mind I've trod

The high untrespassed sanctity of space,

Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

John Magee was 19 when he wrote this magic poem. While serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force, before the U-S got into the war. He died shortly afterward.

~

Peggy LePage,

Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Contact Me

Peggy LePage - August 04, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Jorun, My wife Lori and I met you two years ago when Jim flew us all to dinner in his C-175, which I was about to buy. Jim wanted to make sure that Lori liked the plane before he sold it to us. Classic Jim. It was my first plane. It was probably just one of many that Jim owned. And that plane and Jim's instruction and mentoring has served me well. Not doubt, it's why I've had good experiences in the nearly three years since taking up flying. When Jim became my flight instructor, I was near 50. I had practical reasons for wanting to fly. But that all changed. Now, it's the hobby I never thought I'd find. And it's made me feel that I can still learn complicated things at my age. Jim restored that confidence, though I'm sure not without frustrations. Since getting my license, I've thought of Jim frequently. Often, to prompt my early learning in a situation where his advice would make a difference. "What would Jim do", is a common thought for me when flying. It still helps today.

In short, Jim was one of my favorite persons. He was one of the best teachers of my life. He was inspiring and motivated me to be a better pilot. And he always reinforced the lessons of life or the lessons about doing the right thing. It's rare to find people who understand these things, these days.

As I just learned of Jim's passing yesterday, I'm still in shock. I've even questioned whether I should be flying. I'm not sure that issue is resolved yet but I do know that Jim would encourage me to go on. I hope I can.

Jorun, please accept my deepest sympathies. You were blessed to have such person in your lives; as a husband, father and teacher. Of course, you know that. I only wish I could do something to help ease the pain. We pray for you and your family.

*Most Sincerely,
Jim Farmer*

~

Jim Farmer,

Minnetonka, Minnesota

Contact Me

Jim Farmer - July 25, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Jim Robillard Family:*

Our condolences to your family. His hanger was near ours at MIC and we both received our last two BFRs from him. An excellent teacher, friend and truly nice man. We will miss him.

~

Jan & Dick Pickering,

Big Lake, Minnesota

Jan & Dick Pickering - July 23, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dear Jimmy Robillard Family. So Sorry for your loss. I was a neighbor of James and have a photo of him with other neighbor kids. We were 9 years old and in the 4th grade. Will e-mail to you if you let me know.

~

Jack Deutsch,

Lakeville, Minnesota

Contact Me

Jack Deutsch - July 23, 2003 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Dear Jorun;

I'm so sorry to hear of your husband's death. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family! God Bless You!

~

Gayle Balster,

Minot, North Dakota

Gayle Balster - July 23, 2003 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ *Jim Robillard Family:*

I heard about Jim's accident on the news.

We were in the same Navy preflight class in 1958. I lost track of him as time went on in our careers.

I spent my entire career as a Navy, & Northwest pilot.

Sure wish I had known Jim was in the area, I would have looked him up.

We had some great times together as Aviation Cadets, (NAVCADS).

My condolences to the family at this time of loss.

Vic Kleinsteuber

Navy & NWA (Ret. pilot)

~

Victor Kleinsteuber,

Monticello, Minnesota

Victor Kleinsteuber - July 22, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *To the Robillard Family:*

I was very sorry to learn of Jim's death. He taught me to fly tail-draggers ten years ago and has given me my BFR ever since.

I considered Jim a friend. He was always there when my flying confidence needed a boost. I will miss him as will many others around Skyways and the Crystal Airport.

~

Dick Reinke,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Dick Reinke - July 22, 2003 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ TO THE ROBILLARD FAMILY, WE ARE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF YOUR HUSBAND AND FATHER JIM.YOUR FAMILY IS IN OUR PRAYERS, GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU. P.S JORUN YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS MY AUNT MARGARET DYSLYN. ERNIE & GINGER AHLERS

~

ernie ahlers,

sartell, Minnesota

Contact Me

ernie ahlers - July 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Jorun, I wish to express my condolence in the lose of your husband Jim. I sent out a prayer request to our Emaus prayer warriors for you and your family. Jorun, just remember FROG... Fully Rely On God.

Sincerely,
Beverly

~

Beverly Mierzejewski,

Mound, Minnesota

Contact Me

Beverly Mierzejewski - July 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ *Jorun - I am so sorry to hear about Jim's untimely death. May there be some small comfort from knowing that your friends are thinking of you in this time of sorrow. Jane*

~

Jane VanderWilt,

Mound, Minnesota

Contact Me

Jane VanderWilt - July 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Hi Dan/Robillard famly. I was sorry to hear about Jim. It was really ironic that I was opening a fed ex box w three control line airplanes sun a.m. when My wife read me Jims obituary. regards Paul Simonette

~

Paul Simonette,

Maple lake, Minnesota

Contact Me

Paul Simonette - July 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ *Dear Journ,
My heart breaks to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are
with you and your family.*

~

Theresa Tongco,

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Contact Me

Theresa Tongco - July 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Jorun,
I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. You and your family are in
my thoughts and prayers.
Jan Brick*

~

Jan Brick,

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Contact Me

Jan Brick - July 21, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Jim's untimely death. Jim worked with me to get me ready to finish my pilot's license several years ago. I had just spoke with him the evening before about going out flying with him. He was an outstanding pilot, instructor, and, most of all, a friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

~

Dave Finley,

Shoreview, Minnesota

Contact Me

Dave Finley - July 20, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *To The Robillard Family,
I am so sorry to hear about your loss, Jim and I were class mates in
high school and he was a very nice person I know he will be
missed.*

Marianne Parsons Grunwald

~

Marianne Grunwald,

Hillman, Minnesota

Marianne Grunwald - July 19, 2003 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Dear Jorun, Dan, Mark and Tracy, It was such a shock to hear the news and I wanted to express my deepest sympathy in this difficult time. It has been ages since I last saw all of you at Ascension. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Linda Schmidt Damm

~

Linda (Schmidt) Damm,

Stewart, Minnesota

Contact Me

Linda (Schmidt) Damm - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MQ

“ Robillard Family:

I was so sorry to hear about Jim's death. I spent a lot of time with Jim (in a very small space) from the time he gave me my first lesson, on Dec. 27th, 1997, until he signed me off to take my check ride, March 23, 1999. During our time together, we talked about a lot of things, family, Ireland, walking to stay in shape, Mama Mia's restaraunt. He even introduced me to a great fly-in place to eat in Chetek. I am honored to have known him, and am a better pilot for having had Jim as an instructor.

Mike Quealy

~

Mike Quealy,

Plymouth, Minnesota

Mike Quealy - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Dear Robillard Family-

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Jim. As a young man I enjoyed many interesting flights with Jim and my grandfather, George Davis. During those flights I grew to appreciate their love of, and dedication to, flying. A seed was planted during those many hours I spent listening to weather reports, control tower chatter and hanger humor at Crystal Skyways with my Grandfather and Jim. Those days spent with them helped fuel my eternal interest in airplanes, the art of flying and the exhilaration of soaring birdlike in a deep blue Minnesota sky. I recently build a home in Blaine where the planes, on those days when the wind blows from the South and West, grumble overhead on final approach to Janes Field. Since my grandfathers death last year I can't help but look up every time and remember those days with a mix of sadness and joy. The flights in those Cessna's, like the ones on approach overhead, were the times we were the closest. And now, when I look up at those planes, I will think of Jim in the pilot seat with his co pilot George at his side.

God be with you during this time of loss.

~

Scott LePage,

Blaine, Minnesota

Scott LePage - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ *Dear Jorun,
I am so sorry to hear about Jim.
My prayers are with you during this difficult time.
Jayne*

~

Jayne Zwakman,

Minnetonka, Minnesota

Contact Me

Jayne Zwakman - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ To Jorun, Dan, Mark and Tracy, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. My heart goes out to you. I liked Jim. I will remember him as a funny man who was nice to us kids when we hung out at your house during the summer.

~

KrisAnne Engberg/Romain,

Shakopee, Minnesota

KrisAnne Engberg/Romain - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Robillard Family- I am so sorry to hear of Mr Robillards death. I had him as a teacher at West Junior High during the years of 1990-1993. He was a great teacher and a smiling addition to the day. God decided that is was time for him to be in heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time.

~

Melinda Mason,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Melinda Mason - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Jorun, I am so very sorry to hear about Jim. It's hard to imagine how you must feel right now, but I know that time, faith, friends & family, and wonderful memories will help you to heal. My thoughts are with you. Cathi Schooley

~

Cathi Schooley,

Minnesota

Contact Me

Cathi Schooley - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM