



James Ulland

June 30, 1942 - November 29, 2024

James Edward Ulland

Jim Ulland, beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend and gifted lawmaker, educator, entrepreneur, mentor and adviser, died November 29 in the embrace of his family. Jim, 82, continued to live an intentional and active life even after a cancer diagnosis just over one year ago.

Born to Oscar and Charlotte (Mattson) Ulland in Duluth, Jim was shaped by his family, his community and the nature that surrounded him. He was proud of his Norwegian heritage and, as a boy, would go door-to-door selling the herring caught by North Shore relatives-his first but not his last entrepreneurial effort.

A graduate of Duluth East High School, he received a B.A. in economics from Carleton College and an M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance, where he was on the Dean's List.

While living on and running a tree farm, teaching corporate finance at the University of Minnesota-Duluth School of Business and Economics and coaching college hockey, Jim was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives at 27, representing St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties from 1969 to 1976. Jim was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1976, where he

ultimately served as minority leader during his nine-year tenure. As a lawmaker, he was known for his intelligence, quick wit, good sense of humor and ability to connect with others on both sides of the aisle. He was passionate about his commitment to the environment, individual freedoms, energy and housing and business growth.

Jim left elective office in 1985 to become a senior vice president for First Bank Systems and, later, was tapped by Governor Arne Carlson to become Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. After a short stint with a private investment firm, in 1997 Jim founded Ulland Investment Advisors: a boutique investment advisory firm.

Jim married Kristin Royer in 1994 becoming a proud and active father to Olivia and Matias. Jim always supported their children's academic and artistic endeavors. Annual vacations to the island of Eleuthera, Bahamas became a family tradition, where they spent time spearfishing and exploring for over 30 years. Jim and Kris were avid supporters of the arts locally and beyond, and enjoyed multiple trips to the Sundance Film Festival, New York City and Europe. They were active hikers and visited local parks wherever they traveled.

Jim also was a gifted athlete throughout his life; in addition to being a hockey goalie, he was a competitive runner who maintained a passion for long runs and, later, competed against himself on his well-used Peloton machine.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Charlotte; his sister Mary Perabo, who passed nine days before him, niece Kimberlin Ulland and grand-niece Anna Ulland.

Jim is survived by his wife, Kris; his children Olivia (Farris Hussain) Argañaraz and Matias (Hayley Jones) Argañaraz; brother Bill (Ann Glumac) Ulland and

his children Randy (Jackie) Ulland and Galen Ulland; sister Jana Ulland and her daughter Nora (Tom) Ziburski; brother-in-law George Perabo and his children, Piper (Stephen) Kay, Noah (Meredith) Perabo and Adam (Victoria Cowie) Perabo; in-laws Henry and Ann Royer; brother-in-law Henry (Cathy) Royer; numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews; AFS brother Klaus (Christl) Schuebel of Dusseldorf, Germany.

A celebration of life will be held in June.

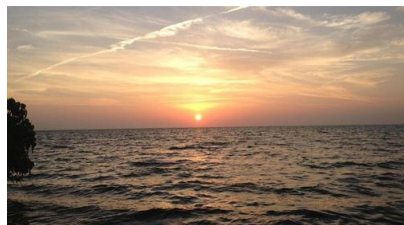
Those who desire to honor Jim's life may do so with a donation to Minneapolis Parks Foundation.

<https://mplsparksfoundation.org/support-parks/donate/>

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service in memory of James Ulland



Washburn-McReavy - June 20, 2025 at 06:28 PM

WA

“ Jim was the first hockey coach to show confidence in my goaltending ability. I was an unknown rink player at Portman and Jim asked me to be a back-up goalie for the Pee-Wee All-Stars at a big tournament in Coleraine. Here the team was in all green and I stuck out like a sore thumb in my bright yellow Portman jersey. I was awe-struck being on a team with so many superstars and Jim just reassured me I belonged. He worked with me throughout the years to improve and out of the blue helped me when it came time to find a college team to play on after high school. I rented my first apartment from Jim (a basement in a big corner house somewhere around 17th Ave. in Duluth). Jim genuinely cared about people, was a compassionate and kind person. The world is a better place because of his contributions, accomplishments and efforts. So sorry to hear of his passing and my thoughts and prayers to the family.
----Walt Aufderheide

Walt Aufderheide - January 19, 2025 at 05:20 PM

RB

“ While I am not a client, Mr Ulland and I connected in December 1976 while I was the chief meteorologist at what was KDAL TV. A fishing boat was missing in Lake Superior and he called from the Minnesota House chambers asking if I could figure out where it might have drifted based on the weathermaps that I plotted and analyzed every 2 or 3 hours. I came up with an estimate of a location near the Apostle Islands. The Coast Guard was looking on the north shore. He had a plane flown out, and the vessel was right there (the Apostle Islands), and the fisherman was ok (I can't remember if he was a family relation or friend of the family.

I was so sorry to learn of his passing. He was a treat to his community and the folks that he has served in so many capacities over the years.

Sincerely,

Richard “Heatwave” Berler, CBM#18
Chief Meteorologist
KGNS TV
Laredo, Texas

Richard Berler - December 19, 2024 at 05:33 PM

JO

Thanks for sharing that Richard! That was my brother who was rescued, Jim's nephew. So interesting to hear Jim's behind the scenes action. We all knew your part but I wasn't aware that Jim requested you and sent a plane to rescue Clint! Thank you for your part in that operation! Our family is forever grateful!

Jana Olson - December 27, 2024 at 09:11 AM

DS

“ Jim Ulland was on the same floor with me at Carleton College in our freshman year. More recently, we both served on the Carleton Alumni Annual Fund Committee, soliciting contributions from our classmates. He was frequently the author of the written solicitations and he was very good at it. We on the committee will miss him a lot.
David Sanborn



David Sanborn - December 18, 2024 at 01:45 PM

BD

“ I was privileged to serve with Jim for two sessions in the Minnesota House. He was one of our assistant minority leaders, and during my freshman year, he gave me much sage advice. When he moved to the Senate we worked together on several bills. In 1982, when I decided to retire from legislative service, Jim urged me to consider running for the State Senate. Although I decided not to do so, I always considered it a compliment that he wanted me to join his caucus. He was a good friend, and I admired his work both in and out of public life. He had a wonderful sense of humor in a Scandinavian sort of way. I remember that when he was in the House, when asked what his vocation was, he would often answer, "hockey goalie." One time he came to the House floor dressed as a goalie, including bringing his hockey stick.

Bill Dean - December 10, 2024 at 12:53 PM

GR

“ Jim was a steadfast advisor to my wife and i throughout the 25 year journey of building our retirement funds together. But he was so much more sharing his love of architecture and we exchanged often the future outlook for the construction and design professions as I was always amazed by his insights and authentic enthusiasms for design and innovation. I graced me professionally with entrusting me and my firm’s talents to remodel his Kenwood home and his IDS business offices, and never failed to compliment me for how much both enriched his and his wonderful family’s lives. For me, Jim will always be a true patron for all that is good and right in the world.

Garth Rockcastle - December 08, 2024 at 04:36 AM

YP

“ Jim - I’m truly grateful for everything you’ve done for me. You are a true mentor to many of us and gave us opportunities that are otherwise inaccessible to us. I know very little about finance and investment before working for you. Thank you for having faith in me and teaching me so much. Thank you for helping me with my MBA applications. I owe you a big thank you.

You set a great example for me and I will pay it forward and help others. You motivate me and inspired me to be a hardworking, kind person, a mentor to others, and a humble learner. I miss you Jim and I’m truly thankful for everything you’ve done for me. I wish you all the best.

Y Pang - December 07, 2024 at 01:29 AM

BG

“ I’m heartbroken to hear this news. Jim was always so healthy, witty, and charming. The last time I saw him we shared lunch in the IDS Building dining room where Ulland Financial was located in Minneapolis. It was a couple of years ago.

I met Jim in the 1960’s when my father Earl and Jim were both members of the Minnesota House. When I was an incumbent from 1981-85, I carpooled every Monday morning with Jim and Sam Solon to the State Capitol. We would stop at Cassidy’s in Hinckley for breakfast and Jim would always treat.

Jim was one of the most intelligent and interesting colleagues I had ever encountered during my 40+ years in politics, healthcare, and financial services. He will always be remembered as a truly remarkable and inspirational man. 🙏❤️

Ben Gustafson - December 06, 2024 at 12:45 PM

PE

“ I met Jim in the last few years as part of a Carleton alumni business roundtable. I’ll dearly remember listening to his unique stories that he would always tie back to fundamental life lessons. I also loved hearing him brag about his workouts on the Peloton!

Peter Everett - December 06, 2024 at 11:06 AM

IN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Info - December 05, 2024 at 05:34 PM

PB

“ Dear Kris and Family, Sincere condolences in this loss of such a remarkable person, Jim. I worked with him when he was the Commissioner of Insurance and he was a "dream commissioner".... smart, accessible, creative and kind. Sending you lots of love and prayers. Warmly, Peg Birk

Peg Birk - December 05, 2024 at 09:12 AM