



## James E. Ryder

May 30, 1933 - April 19, 2020

James (Jim) Ryder of Nashua, NH entered into eternal life on April 19, 2020 at his home surrounded by family. He was born on May 30, 1933 in Pawtucket, RI, son of the late John Patrick and Virginia Loretta (Nadeau) Ryder. He was predeceased by his brothers, Austin, and Bernard Ryder.

Jim was the Exec. Dir. of Rochester, NY Assn. for the Blind, 1965-71; Exec. Dir. of Pressley Ridge Sch., Pgh., PA, 1971-75; Exec. Dir. Mass. Assn. for the Blind, Brookline, MA, 1975-80; Treas., RZR Inc., MA, 1980-2015; Partner, Ryder, Zimmerman & Ryder, 1979-2016; Pres., RZR of NH Inc., 1985-2015; Pres., RZR Co/RZR Hardware, ME, 1987 to 2017. He received the Newell Perry Award, Natl Fed of the Blind, 1980 and served on the Mass Bd of Library Commrs., 1978-83.

After graduating from St. Raphael's Academy in 1951, Maryknoll College in 1955, and serving in the US Army in Germany for two years, Jim married Rosaria Pagano in 1957. He has an M.S.W., Boston College, 1959 and an M.B.A., Univ. of Rochester, 1971. Over their 62-year marriage, Jim & Ro lived in Dorchester, MA; Scotia, Owego and Rochester, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; Concord, MA; Jefferson, ME; and Nashua, NH. In each place, Jim touched the lives of many, always wanting to help people reach their full potential despite any limitations they may have. He had a great sense of humor, a strong faith, a great love for his family, valued his independence, liked to play tennis, and take long walks. One of his favorite sayings was "Problems are always opportunities".

Jim will be dearly missed by his wife, Rosaria (Pagano) Ryder; his children Patricia Ryder Waggoner and her husband Kevin, Steven James Ryder and his wife Lucy, Kathleen (Ryder) Cogswell and her husband Fred, Michael Ryder, Jeanne (Ryder) McBrien and her husband Mike, Cynthia Ryder; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; several nieces and nephews; several grandnieces and nephews; and their beloved business partner of forty years, Ruth Zimmerman.

A private service will be held in the DUMONT-SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME IN HUDSON,

NH with interment to follow in Holy Cross Cemetery in Hudson, NH.

# Comments

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“ Dear Ro, Steven, Patty, Kathy, Michael, Jeannie, and Cynthia - I was so saddened to learn of Jim's passing and yet so grateful that we got to see him and many of you last summer in NH. What a special time of visiting and catching up. Growing up next to you all was such a treasure! I will never forget his jokes and fun-loving spirit! Remember when he wanted to experience what life was really like for people who can't see or hear or speak!? Of course you do! I can still picture him with the glasses and hearing protectors on! He was a remarkable man and I was blessed to know him. My heart goes out to all of you, and I mourn but also rejoice that he is dancing in heaven with our Savior! Love, Kim (Barnes) Hinson

Kim Hinson - May 27 at 04:05 PM

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“ Dear Ro, Mike, Jeanne, Cynthia, Pat, Steven & Kathy,

We were so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. We know only too well the pain you are feeling.

May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you all now & in the days ahead.

With Deepest Sympathy,  
Mary Jane, Scott, Wendy & Todd Nichols

Mary Jane Nichols - May 02 at 10:29 AM

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“ Julia Lalonde lit a candle in memory of James E. Ryder



Julia Lalonde - April 28 at 01:49 PM

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“ My hearts go out to Ro, all the Ryder family and Ruth during this time of grief, especially today as you officially say "goodbye." It is not a forever goodbye, as we of faith know. May we always remember that Jim will be with us in spirit and may his spark of living life to its fullest be an inspiration to all of us.

The last time I had the honor of sharing time with Jim was several summers ago on a visit to Nashua to visit Cynthia after a fun trip to Maine visiting Jeanne & Mike. My

children and I were welcomed into Ro and Jim's home with open arms. No different than the 38+ years I've known the Ryders. When living in Concord, MA it was always a highlight of my teenage years to hang out at the Ryder's house. It was a house full of energy whether people were swimming in the pool, Jim and Ro were playing tennis in the backyard, us girls playing boardgames in the basement or simply being goofy teenagers. All were accepted even if each of us was different in our own way. It was as if Jim and Ro welcomed us as part of their extended family. I specifically remember when RZR had a summer BBQ party with their clients and thinking, "Wow, this guy and his partners are truly loving and caring people. They are special. Who else does what they are doing?" What made the family and the company special?  
James E. Ryder.

Going back to my last memory in the summer of 2000-something in Nashua, it was Jim (a.k.a. "dad #2" to me) that stood out to me. We sat at the dining room table, the living room sofa or wherever we could gather to hear his stories. His life stories. What made this amazing, God and family loving man so incredible is that he could laugh at even the most difficult of circumstances. Whether he was talking about his younger years with his brothers, getting into trouble in the military days (for minor things of course!), breaking this bone or another, or whatever it was that happened in his life, he told the stories with enthusiasm. I am so happy that I have the most beautiful memories of Jim and to have seen him in his element telling stories that summer is the "icing on the cake." To me, he lived his life to the fullest and embraced the challenges along the way with both wisdom, balance and laughter too. Oh, what a contagious belly laugh he had! That no one can ever forget!! I'm sure the angels are cracking up in Heaven right now!! Jim followed God's calling in his life and he sure did an excellent job. He loved and he was and will always be loved. - Julie Lalonde

**Julia Lalonde** - April 28 at 01:47 PM



“ Hi Julie,

Thank you for sharing your fond memories of our wonderful father James - your words are very comforting.

Sincerely,  
Michael Ryder

**Michael** - April 29 at 09:37 AM



“ Steve,

We want to express our sympathy and let you know that our thoughts are with you and your family. May your memories give you peace and comfort. When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

Your True North Networks Team

**TNN Team** - April 27 at 10:00 AM



“ So extremely sorry to hear about Jim's passing. Had not seen him around. I enjoyed seeing him working in the yard. He enjoyed it so much. I always enjoyed chatting with him. I will miss my neighbor. I am thinking of you Ro and family and your in my prayers'

**Lorrie Clark** - April 25 at 07:25 PM

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“ Patty, I am so very sad to hear this. Please know I am sending so much love and healing to you and your family. Hold tight to those memories. xoxo

**Sharon Tower** - April 21 at 08:24 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. He was a great man, with a great sense of humor. Very kind hearted

**Kevin Laukka** - April 21 at 06:12 AM

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“ Gretchen Sharry & Family lit a candle in memory of James E. Ryder



**Gretchen Sharry & family** - April 20 at 07:15 PM



“ Please accept our deepest sympathy in your loss. His memory will be kept alive in your hearts.

Love, Gretchen, Tom, and family

**Gretchen Sharry** - April 20 at 07:18 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. May his memory always be a blessing to your family. With love  
Deb Horvath

**Debra Horvath** - April 20 at 09:47 PM

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“ What an awesome, kind man.  
He will be missed.  
My sympathy to the whole beautiful family.  
Darryl Fink

Darryl Fink - April 20 at 02:16 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Ryder - April 20 at 02:04 PM



“ Our prayers to the family. What a great family.  
Deborah and Andy Severson - April 20 at 04:53 PM