



James John Kiernan Jr.

FEB 20, 1946 - APR 2, 2018



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James J. Kiernan Jr., 72, of Rehoboth Beach passed away Monday April 2, 2018. He was born in Flushing, New York, on February 20, 1946, son of James J. and Kathlyn A. Kiernan.

Jim grew up as a young boy in Flushing, New York attending St. Kevin's Catholic School to be followed by one year in Xavier Academy before his family moved to Bayside, New York in 1961 and he finished his education at Bayside High School. After graduation and before he even reached the age of 18, he committed to joining the Air Force in 1963. He started his military career in Texas completing basic training, followed by skilled shooting training in Oklahoma for a brief time. Jim completed his four years of military service in West Dover, Massachusetts.

After his four years of service, he worked for Cerro Wire and Cable as a wire salesman. On November 27th 1969 he met the love of his life, Veronica Keefe, at the Neck Inn, a popular pub in Throg's Neck, New York. They married June 27th, 1970 and began their life journey of happiness, family and fulfillment.

Starting in Annapolis, Maryland Jim began his career in marketing for Volkswagon of America. Promotions up the corporate ladder led him to several moves including Richmond, Virginia; Columbus, Ohio; and Denver, Colorado where as Vice President he took charge of eight states, a role requiring numerous flights and days away from his wife and four daughters. Before long, they decided he should accept an offer to move to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware a long time favorite vacation destination, to manage Rehoboth Resort Realty. In 1983, he successfully signed on with Coldwell Banker to make Rehoboth Resort Realty an independently owned and operated franchise location. Jim soon became a partner in the firm. Over the next several decades he grew the firm to its current four locations in Rehoboth, Lewes, Seaford and Milford. Through those years, he represented and developed many single family homes, townhomes and residential communities throughout Rehoboth, Dewey, Lewes and Georgetown. Jim had a passion for designing new construction and loved the opportunity it presented to work with buyers and investors.



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In 1986, Jim and Ronnie along with two Wilmington based couples opened a little Irish Pub named Irish Eyes on Wilmington, Avenue in Rehoboth. Under Jim's leadership Irish Eyes would continue to grow to locations in Lewes, Middletown and Milton. Over the years, the partners changed but Jim remained active in his role as managing member. His business acumen and conservative leadership led Irish Eyes to remain a successful, 30 plus year business in an industry known for turnover and failures.

In 2005, Jim embarked on a new venture and joined several area business men and women as a founding director of Community Bank Delaware. Again his conservative nature and careful business planning helped lead this group to establish what is today a successful local community bank in Rehoboth and Lewes.

Throughout Jim's life his true passion was philanthropic work, leading by example and lending a hand to anyone in need whenever possible. In 2004, he spearheaded a group to build an "Autism House", a home built with all donated labor and materials sold at market value with all proceeds going to Autism Delaware. This effort raised almost \$400,000 for Autism Delaware. He was an integral part of the "Beebe Vision 2005" fundraising drive to raise money for the expansion of Beebe Hospital. By 2006, a record \$12.5 million had been raised, a Beebe record at the time. He supported, both financially and with his time volunteering, organizations such as the American Red Cross; hosting and participating as a committee member for 27 years in the Annual Nouveau Beaujolais Wine Tasting, Toys for Tots, the Lewes Police Department K9 Unit, the Boys and Girls Club of Rehoboth, the Cape Henlopen School District, Bagel Bombers Baseball, Boardwalk Buddy Walk, Lewes Fire Department, Milton Fire Department, Rehoboth Fire Department and the Sussex County Association of Realtors Annual Needy Children's Auction. In 2010, Jim and Ronnie Kiernan were named as the Honorary Chairs of the 21st Annual Best of the Beach Art Auction for their strong multiple year support of Beebe Medical Center.

Professionally, Jim was recognized in 2006 for the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sussex County Association of Realtors. That same year he was honored by the Rehoboth Beach - Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce with the annual Mae Hall McCabe Award for outstanding contributions to the community.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Veronica; his daughters and their spouses: Jennifer and Jay Bastian, Kathy and Michael Newcomb, Maryellen Kiernan, Amy Kiernan; a special niece Carla Dolan; his five grandchildren: Molly Bastian, Jake



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Bastian, Quint Bastian, Matthew Newcomb and Morgan Newcomb; his sister and her husband Leslie and Hank Giles; nephews: Keith and Kevin Kunst and their families; as well as countless other family members, friends and business associates.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Monday April 9th at 1:00 PM at St Edmond's Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 11:00 AM. A reception to celebrate Jim's life and accomplishments will be held following the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Jim's name to the Cape Community Fund: P.O. Box 110. Lewes, DE 19958, or The Boys and Girls Club of Rehoboth Beach: 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3PM SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

James John Kiernan Jr.

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Visitation



Monday, April 9, 2018

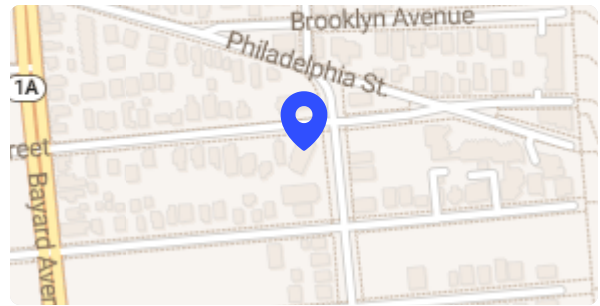


11:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET



St. Edmond Catholic Church

409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach DE
19971



Mass of Christian Burial



Monday, April 9, 2018

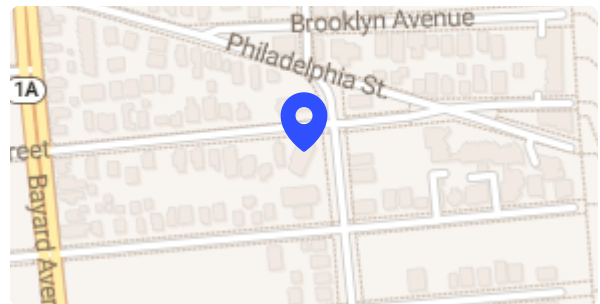


1:00 PM ET



St. Edmond Catholic Church

409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach DE
19971





Tribute Wall

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Ed Kiernan posted:

I remember going deep sea fishing off of Long Island with my cousin Jim. We went with our boss from Cerro Wire. We ran out of gas to the bosses chagrin and got stuck in choppy waters as we didn't realize that Small Craft warnings had bee posted. But it was a memorable experience.Ed Kiernan

April 21 at 7:14 PM



Robert Hackett lit a candle in honor of James.



April 12 at 7:41 AM



Robert Hackett April 12 at 7:45 AM

Jim was both a joy and inspiration to all of us who worked and socialized, with him and Ronnie, during his time in Rehoboth. He will be greatly missed.



D.J. Hughes posted:

To the Kiernan family: Thoughts and prayers are with you all for the passing of Mr. Kiernan. He surely will be missed by not only you all but many more. The Milton community is privileged to have Irish Eyes and the Irish Eyes family as a mainstay in downtown Milton. Ever since adding the Milton location, Irish Eyes has helped to rejuvenate the downtown area and has been a fixture in Milton. Mr. Kiernan's leadership and philanthropy truly are a lasting legacy in Milton. Whether it be the Lucky Leprechaun 5k, St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Saez family fundraiser, or the many other things they do, Irish Eyes and their staff have been great to the Milton community. As fundraising chair for the Milton Fire Dept., Inc., I cannot thank Irish Eyes enough for everything they have done under Mr. Kiernan's leadership. They have been by far the biggest benefactor for Station 85 since adding the Milton location.The Hughes Family

April 9 at 7:51 AM



Barbara Johnson lit a candle in honor of James.



April 8 at 10:55 AM



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John And Janet Macklin posted:

Jim .. you were and will remain in our hearts as our friend and customer.. our friend first and always.. I will treasure our talks and laughs always., I will remember all your words of wisdom and I shall never forget the Faith you had in me.. you will truly be missed and always remembered. Your family has lost a great person and John and I are very very sorry for their loss.. John and Janet Macklin

April 7 at 7:49 PM



Betty Mann-Beebe lit a candle in honor of James.

Dear Ronnie: Everyone at the office sends their prayers to you and your family. I have fond memories of Jim's years in Real Estate. Working with him was always a pleasure. Betty Mann-Beebe

April 7 at 10:38 AM



Celia And Paul Moore lit a candle in honor of James.

April 7 at 6:01 AM



Vickie Killion lit a candle in honor of James.

April 6 at 11:25 AM



Shirley Kalvinsky lit a candle in honor of James.

Kathy: My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I only met your Dad a few times but he was always smiling and had good words of advice.

April 6 at 9:50 AM



Tricia Sulecki lit a candle in honor of James.

April 6 at 9:26 AM





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DP

Doris Person lit a candle in honor of James.



April 5 at 5:50 PM

KK

Kathleen Keefe posted:

Dear Ronnie and family, We are all keeping you in our thoughts and prayers in this time of great loss. May God's mercy envelop you and sustain you in the knowledge that Jim has seen the face of God and is at peace. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen. Love and prayers, especially to the girls, Kathleen and all the Keefes

April 5 at 7:46 AM

LP

Lisa Parse posted:

Ronnie, Jennifer, Kathy, Mary Ellen and Amy, I have such fond memories of your family from our times together in Columbus when we were kids. Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers this week. Love to you all, Lisa (Cook) Parse

April 5 at 7:45 AM



Anonymous sent a Sapphire Skies Bouquet to the Kiernan family.



April 5 at 6:24 AM

LM

Lynda Messick posted:

Jim was a warm and wonderful man. Smart, kind, generous to a fault. He epitomizes what a friend should be. I can't tell you how many times over the years he talked me down from a ledge or convinced me not to do violence to someone...all with a twinkle in his eye and a shot of Jameson's to seal the deal. He introduced me to Jameson's (and Redbreast- "an angel's tears") during a working lunch with Linda Betts whereupon we had to stay at the restaurant almost until dinner time in order to be sober enough to drive. We loved every minute. We laughed so hard our ribs ached. I do treasure every minute I spent with Jim and only regret not spending time with him in the last two years. Jim had the soul of a true Irishman and the world is richer for his time here and poorer for his passing.

April 5 at 6:18 AM



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KS

Karen Shaud posted:

If everyone whom Jim helped during his life wrote something on this wall, it would crash! He was truly a generous and unfailing friend to many. When the baby I adopted from China in 1998 was diagnosed with autism, Jim jumped into the confusing world of that condition with unlimited dedication, time, inspiration and energy to help our family and those of others affected by autism in the state. Thanks in part to his efforts, we now have an active office of Autism Delaware in Lewes which is providing many services to families throughout the area. He was a true friend to many.

April 4 at 4:17 PM

GH

Ginny Hysock lit a candle in honor of James.

My sincere condolences to the Kiernan family on your loss. Jim was a highly respected and very nice man to everyone. May he Rest In Peace.

April 4 at 1:03 PM



NC

Nancy Cummings lit a candle in honor of James.

To Roxie and the family, Please accept my condolences on Jim's passing. I was shocked when I saw his picture online. I have fond memories of working at Coldwell Banker as well as helping Jim with the auctions for the Red Cross. He made his mark on the community with his generosity and shared that value with his family. He was an example that we should all follow. May he Rest in Peace and May Perpetual Light shine upon him. Nancy Cummings, Davenport, Florida

April 4 at 9:23 AM



CD

Carla Dolan posted:

Correction to previous entry *Embarking*

April 4 at 8:57 AM



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Carla Dolan posted:

Words cannot begin to describe how James Kiernan, aka Harry, changed my life for the better. Thank you Harry for the love that you & Roxie gave me as a young woman embarking on a new journey over 2 decades ago...(thanks Aunt Nellie)! You were a second Dad to many of us who either lost our Dads, or maybe needed encouragement, advice, & laughter along the way. Thanks to you & Rox, I gained 4 sisters in Jen, Kathy, Mare, & Amy...(as well as many other sisters throughout the fun filled summers in Rehoboth Beach...you know who you are!) Thank you Harry from my amazing Mom Ana, my wonderful Brothers Frank & Matthew, & from my Dad David & Nana Helen. You looked out for me every day, & I will honor your memory by doing what I can to help others in this life!

April 4 at 8:52 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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