



James Graham Maloney Jr.

MAY 8, 1933 - JAN 14, 2026



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James Graham Maloney Jr., age 92, navigated his final voyage and gained his angel wings on January 14, 2026. His final days were spent at home, surrounded by family and close friends.

James “Jim” Graham Maloney Jr., affectionately known as Captain Maloney, was born on May 8, 1933, in Wilmington, Delaware. A native of Delaware, he graduated from Dover High School in the Class of 1952. He was the last of a close-knit group affectionately known as the “Dover Boys”—Jack Richter, Fred Carey, Eugene Zartman, Ward Carson, and Bill Moore—friendships he cherished throughout his life.

Jim’s life was marked by unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and the many people and communities he served. His character embodied quiet strength, steady integrity, and a rare ability to make those around him feel supported, understood, and heard without judgment.

He attended the University of Delaware, where he played football for the Fighting Blue Hens. In 1955, he began his apprenticeship with the Pilots’ Association for the Delaware Bay and River, founded in 1896. Jim earned his pilot’s license in 1959, earning the respected title of Captain Maloney. As a river captain, his work demanded exceptional skill, sound judgment, and calm under pressure. In February 1964, Captain Maloney suffered a serious accident in high seas, but with remarkable determination he returned to duty the following year.

Throughout his decades of service, he mentored many young apprentices. He was also instrumental in opening the door for women to become apprentices, supporting the first female pilot to join the Association. Jim freely shared his expertise and his deep love and respect for the ocean. He demonstrated these qualities unfailingly throughout his maritime career, retiring in January 1999. Even after retirement, his pride in his career and the camaraderie he shared with fellow pilots endured. He organized monthly luncheons to help all pilots stay connected and often remarked that piloting “gets in your blood and never leaves.”



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Jim's commitment to public service extended beyond the water. In the early 1950s, he served as a Rehoboth Beach lifeguard, where he met the love of his life, Shirley Anne Collings, as she strolled the beach. They shared 57 years of marriage and a beautiful life together until her passing in 2017.

He devoted decades to the Town of Henlopen Acres, serving as Town Commissioner, Planning Commissioner, and Marina Commissioner. He was the driving force behind Henlopen Acres Marina, initiating the first dredging project and long-range efforts to ensure the continued success of the marina. His leadership helped shape the town's infrastructure, and his stewardship, responsibility, and long-range vision were of great importance to him. Jim was also a lifelong member of the Republican Party and remained continuously involved in political platforms throughout his life.

An Eagle Scout, Jim's commitment to scouting was deeply important to him. He served Boy Scout Troop 85 from the early 1970s through the late 1990s, mentoring hundreds of young men and supporting their families. He believed in teaching by example, instilling values of responsibility, integrity, and service to others. Troop 85 remains active today—a lasting reflection of the foundation he helped build and the countless lives he influenced.

Jim had many passions in his lifetime, especially making new friends. He was a constant compass of love and support for his children, grandchildren, and Mary Alice Chase. He enjoyed observing the wildlife in his backyard, from birds and woodpeckers to squirrels, deer, and foxes—especially the hummingbirds on his porch. In his younger years, he enjoyed crabbing, hunting, and fishing with the Dover Boys. He loved taking the road less traveled with Shirley, sipping champagne, and chasing sunsets. His love for animals of all kinds, particularly his dozens of standard poodles, was boundless.

Jim Maloney was far more than a son, brother, father, grandfather, friend, colleague, leader, and mentor—he was a source of reassurance and safety, leading by example with unwavering kindness.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 57 years, Shirley Anne (Collings) Maloney, and his youngest daughter, Darcey Gail Maloney; and his parents, Colonel James Graham Maloney, Sr., a decorated World War II veteran, and Eleanor Otten Maloney.



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He is survived by his son, Mark Graham Maloney; his daughter, Stacey Anne Maloney; his grandchildren: Matthew James Belvedere (Rin Swan Belvedere) and Natalie Anne Belvedere; his sister, Patricia Maloney Buckson; many nephews and nieces and friends.

A Celebration of Captain Maloney's life will be held Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium Atkins-Lodge Chapel located at 16961 Kings Hwy, Lewes, DE 19958. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the same location.

All those unable to attend the services are invited to join the service via livestreaming by visiting the following link:

<http://www.parsellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/12003725/LTWebcast>

All are welcome to attend his remembrance reception following the service at the Lewes Yacht Club, 2701 Cedar Street, Lewes, DE 19958.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests paying his life forward with random acts of kindness in any way you wish. Organizations dear to his heart included Alzheimer's, AIDS Awareness, cancer foundations, and humane animal rescues.

Please sign the tribute wall located on this website.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLOWERS DELIVERED ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026, BY 3PM. TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

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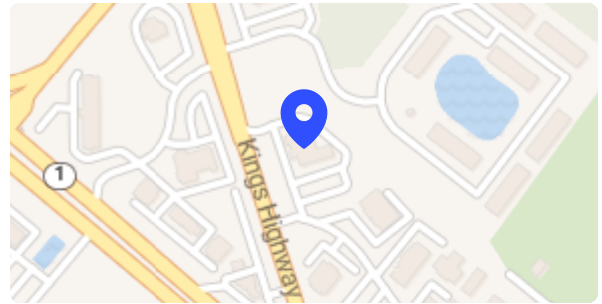
Visitation

 **Saturday**, February 7, 2026

 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



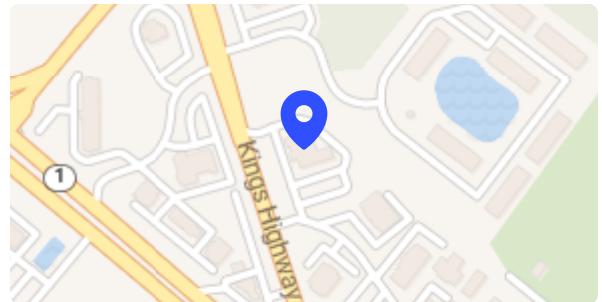
Celebration of life

 **Saturday**, February 7, 2026

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958





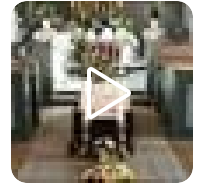
Tribute Wall

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a **Webcast Video**.



January 19 at 4:48 PM



Cynthia Belvedere posted:

Dear Stacey & Family, My sincere condolences and my prayers are with you that God guides you during this difficult time. Love, Cynthia Belvedere

February 11 at 8:54 AM



Anonymous sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Maloney family.



February 4 at 4:15 PM



Keith Misener And Troop 85 Alumni sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Maloney family.



February 2 at 6:55 PM



Diana Marowski sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Maloney family.



January 31 at 12:32 AM



Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Maloney family.



January 20 at 1:14 PM



Tribute Wall

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Louisa K posted:

The Captain will always hold a special place in our hearts. He was the epitome of kindness, joy, compassion and positivity. He always had a twinkle in his eye and was up for anything FUN! Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

January 20 at 12:05 AM



Louisa K. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.



January 19 at 11:59 PM



Rachel posted:

Deepest condolences Stacy and family. He was the sweetest man and his love shows in you ! Every year at the pet parade he was lined up in "his spot" right at the beginning of the boardwalk. He was always smiling and cheering!! He will be missed. Love, Rachel Webster and family Rachel Webster

January 19 at 10:14 PM



Ellen Dickson lit a candle in honor of James.

Stacey, Mark and Family, please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Sending love and hugs. Your Dad was a great man and fellow River Pilot with my Dad, Grandfather, 3 Uncles, Cousin and many Family Friends. Cherish all your amazing memories. May he RIP



January 19 at 9:51 PM



Ellen Dickson lit a candle in honor of James.

Stacey,Mark



January 19 at 9:48 PM



Tribute Wall

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Ellen Dickson lit a candle in honor of James.

January 19 at 9:47 PM



Ellen Dickson lit a candle in honor of James.

Stacey, Mark and Family, so very sorry for your great loss. Your Dad was a wonderful man and a fellow River Pilot like my Dad, Maternal Grandfather, 3 Uncles, Cousin and many Family Friends. Please accept my sincere condolences and may he RIP

January 19 at 9:47 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Solace Spray to the Maloney family.

January 19 at 9:46 PM



Mary Alice Chase planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.

January 19 at 9:46 PM



Meredith Baker lit a candle in honor of James.

My heart is at peace knowing that Jimmy is with his beautiful Shirley and Darcey. I have so many treasured memories of endless summer evenings on the Maloney's back porch. May our love and prayers help you through this difficult time

January 19 at 8:51 PM



Mark Marowski lit a candle in honor of James.

Thinking of you and Mark during this difficult time.

January 19 at 7:33 PM





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Sue Joseph lit a candle in honor of James.

Stacey, you have my deepest condolences. Obviously, he was a wonderful man. He was always so kind and friendly when we were neighbors. Love you, my friend ☐

January 19 at 7:15 PM



Darlene Soltes lit a candle in honor of James.

What a great man, may he rest in peace, love and prayers to all the family

January 19 at 6:28 PM



Keith Misener lit a candle in honor of James.

Great Scoutmaster of All Scouts, as we grieve the loss of James G. Maloney, Jr., help us to remember his involvement with Scouting. Show us how he lived by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We ask that you comfort the Maloney family and us as we will miss his friendship and fellowship. Rehoboth Beach Boy Scout Troop 85 Alumni

January 19 at 1:40 PM





Media

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a **Webcast Video**.

January 19 at 4:48 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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