



## James Hughes Bastian Jr.

July 14, 1940 - January 3, 2022

Memorial Services for Jim have now been scheduled for Saturday April 16, 2022 at 11 AM at the Bethel United Methodist Church, w 4th street, Lewes, DE where friends may visit beginning at 10 AM. Military Honors will be rendered at the conclusion of the services. LIVE STREAM OF SERVICES AVAILABLE BY GOING TO THE FOLLOWING LINK- [https://youtu.be/cjxdMiu\\_c9Y](https://youtu.be/cjxdMiu_c9Y)

James H. Bastian Jr., Marine Corps Veteran

James "Jim" Bastian of Lewes, DE, passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family on Monday, January 3, 2022, due to complications from a fall. He was born in Dover, DE in 1940 to the late Helen and James H. Bastian Sr.

Jim led a full life as a Major in the United States Marine Corps, a local business owner, an avid outdoorsman, and a community servant, but his highest priority was always spending time with his family.

A graduate of Dover High School (Class of 1958), Jim earned a bachelor of science degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1962. The following year he married the love of his life, Charlotte Adkins, while serving active duty in the Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune, NC. After serving the country he loved dearly for four years active duty, he continued his service for six more years in the reserves.

Jim worked as a supervisor for Leeds Luggage before opening Bastian Auto Parts in Lewes in 1971. Charlotte and Jim operated that business for 25 years.

As a wildlife enthusiast, Jim managed his Maryland property with a sharp focus on preserving and propagating a healthy environment for the vast array of birds, deer, and other wildlife that called the parcel of land home. Jim taught his entire family a profound appreciation for the beauty of Lewes Beach. He never missed an opportunity to fish, swim, walk along the seashore, pull the seining net, or explore the sandbar with his

grandchildren.

For almost three decades Jim proudly served on the Lewes Planning Commission, with over 20 years as its chairman. He truly loved Lewes and enjoyed working with colleagues to maintain and preserve its historic and unique integrity. Jim also served on numerous committees for Bethel United Methodist Church over many years.

Jim loved playing football, and ran the Make-A-Wish Triathlon and several Marine Corps Marathons. But no matter what his children and grandchildren's interests were, he was always the proudest fan at any of their sporting events or performances.

Jim is lovingly survived by his wife of 58 years, Charlotte Bastian; his children: Cathy and her husband, Andy McCollough of McLean, VA; Christine and her husband, Dave Gillan of Lewes; and Jay and his wife, Jennifer of Burbank, CA. "Pop Pop" was adored by his ten grandchildren: Taylor and her husband, Nate Marketich, Grant and Ross Gillan, Summer, Easton, Rachel and Vaughn McCollough, and Molly, Jake, and Quint Bastian. Jim is also survived by his brother-in-law James and his wife, Karin Adkins of Harbeson and his aunt and uncle, Bette and James Taylor of Salisbury; as well as his nephews: Drew and Jamin Adkins; and niece, Kaitlyn Sepesy.

Friends were an important part of Jim's life, and he always had a smile to share and a sincere interest in their lives. He greatly valued his lifelong friendships, which included Carolie and Bill Holden, Carole and Ted Palmer, Barbara and Donnie Wiggins, Marlys Cowan, Ann B. Moore, fellow Marine Thomas Hinkle, and the Young family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Bethel United Methodist Church, 129 West 4th Street, Lewes, DE.

Please sign Jim's virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

# Previous Events

## Flowers

APR 15. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway  
Lewes, DE 19958

## Visitation

APR 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church  
129 West 4th Street  
Lewes, DE

## Memorial Service with Military Honors

APR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church  
129 West 4th Street  
Lewes, DE

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ Jim was truly one of the kindest souls you will find. Never lost an opportunity to walk across the driveway and talk about the day, the town, family or politics . And always there to lend a helping hand. Our children have such fond memories of “Mr Jim” as they grew up on Lewes Beach . He was a fierce protector of our town and the quaintness that we all love about it. He will surely be missed and the place will just seem a bit incomplete without him... but if I know my friend Jim... he will be watching over everything from above, hollering at motorists to slow down and stop at the stop signs! You are in God’s loving arms now Mr Jim. May you always be in Peace and know how much you were loved by so many. Rich, Teresa, Anthony, Ava and Race Caruso

richard caruso - April 15 at 05:46 PM

RM

“ We are very sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful person and respected by so many people. We wish you peace and comfort.

Richard and Cathy Miller

richard Miller - April 13 at 12:05 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Hughes Bastian Jr..



April 10 at 05:56 PM

MR

“ Jim was such an important of my life for so many years. He always made me laugh, especially when I needed it. Whenever I screwed-up, he would tell me a story that would somehow relate to my upset. His stories mostly made me laugh, but his purpose was always met... I didn’t care any more about forgetting the words to a song or whatever teenage thing I was worrying about. But more importantly, he made sure that I knew he was never disappointed in me. To say he was special to SO many, is an understatement. I will forever be grateful that he came in my life and left footprints on my heart. 📖

Maria Edgerton Reed - March 17 at 05:25 AM

GC

“ I remember Jim who lived next to a friend of mine on Lewes Beach. For the past several years, Jim and I would visit at the gym. My condolences to Charlotte and the family and I salute Jim for his service to our Country! !  
George Chambers, Lewes Beach

George Chambers - February 17 at 04:02 PM

JL

“ So saddened to hear this news. My time in SPIRIT were among my fondest memories during my high school years. The influence by Mr. and Mrs. Bastian have influenced my life forever. I will cherish these memories always. I was always greeted with a hug and kiss whenever I ran into Mr. Bastian. He was the best! Love and prayers to all of the Bastian family.

Jennifer Lester - February 07 at 08:17 PM

SK

“ Charlotte, I am writing on behalf of my husband, Michael Keating. Sincere sympathy from us both. Michael's ability to communicate has made it difficult for him to write to you. Jim was an invaluable friend to him. I'm sorry Jim and Michael couldn't have met one more time at their Somerset properties!! Our son, Spencer, is managing all of that now and asked that I let you know he would be glad to assist however he might be helpful. Just so saddened by this. Keeping you in thoughts and prayers.

Sarah Keating - January 27 at 01:18 PM

DW

“ I met Jim and his family when I became the principal of Lewes Junior High in the late 1970's. Jim came in my office one day to introduce himself and to tell me that he and Charlotte would do all they could to support the school and the Cape School District. And did they ever! Whenever we needed something done by the parents they were the first in line to volunteer. Jim with his hearty smile and big laugh. And later when I successfully ran for the school board they hosted several planning sessions at their home in support. He was a great guy who supported everything Lewes and will be missed.  
Dr. Gary D. Wray

Dr. Gary D. Wray - January 21 at 06:47 AM

PC

“ I met Jim over 25 years ago when I moved to the area to work at Cape Hemlopen State Park. We were both active members of the Grove running club in Rehoboth. The most vivid memory I have is running the Delaware Marathon with him. On the ride up from Lewes to Middletown we talked about how we both wished the race would be canceled because of the weather (10 degrees and windy). No such luck. I will miss Jim a lot. I will pray for his family

*Pat Cooper*

pat cooper - January 14 at 08:57 AM

EL

“ To the entire Bastian Family, I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.



Ellen - January 12 at 10:00 PM

NH

“ Sending love to Charlotte, Cathy, Christine, Jay, and all their family. We are saddened at the unexpected news of Jim's death. So many years and memories....Jim will always be in our hearts.  
*NormaJane and Art Henry*

Norma Jane Henry - January 12 at 07:58 PM

KM

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Mr. Bastian's passing. He was a truly remarkable man who will be missed by so many. Sending love and prayers to Charlotte, Cathy, Christine, Jay, and the rest of the family.

*~Kathleen McGuinness, Delaware State Auditor*

Kathleen McGuinness - January 10 at 03:19 PM

MB

“ My sincere condolences and prayers to ALL of the Bastian family and friends. I am honored to call him my friend. He always made myself and my family feel special. Charlotte, Cathy, Christy and Jay, I see his love, kindness, values and character in you, your children and family. I pray to be half the man, Jim Bastian my friend. Sincerely, Mark Bivins

Mark Bivins - January 09 at 09:19 AM

JS

“ I remember one summer afternoon dropping in and saying hi to Jim and his son-in-law, Dave. I had some recent issues which suddenly required some attention and Jim was right there to lend a hand. He helped me straighten some things out and made sure I was set up with other knowledgeable individuals to help with everything else.  
Jim always had a smile and kind words to say. He was a good man, we'll all miss him.

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**John Spieker** - January 08 at 09:32 PM

VF

“ I practically grew up on New Hampshire Ave, the granddaughter of Joe and Florence Bryan. I cannot remember a time when Jimmy and Charlotte weren't considered family; always there when a friend was needed. Jim was a pallbearer for both of my grandparents. When my youngest attended the Naval Academy Jim asked him to come over and discuss what was "required" to be accepted. Jim had it in his mind his grandson could do that (said grandson had other ideas!). Jim will definitely be missed. Charlotte, Cathy, Christi and Jay, I cannot express how very sorry Joe and I are. Please keep all your wonderful memories close. They will aid in easing your pain.

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**Vicki Brown Fahey** - January 08 at 11:01 AM

CH

“ Charlotte, Cathy, Christy and Jay,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Jim and your family had an incredible impact on many teenager's lives here in Lewes. I cherish the memories of Jim and time spent at your home. May your memories bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

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**Cheryl** - January 07 at 07:50 PM



“ Jim Bastian was such a jewel. I spent many summers living next door to the Bastians at 612 Bay Avenue, and Jim made it an adventure for my two boys. He took them shark fishing on the JayBlrd, helped them with their sunfish sailing, and taught them how to raise and lower the American flag properly. I spoke to him August 2021 when I was visiting Lewes and walked Bay Avenue....it was as though no time had passed even though it had been 20 years. Condolences to Charlotte and all the Bastian family.  
~Abigail Ryan & sons, Andrew & Ryan Speir

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**Abby Ryan** - January 07 at 07:50 PM

KS

“ All of these beautiful posts about Jim show how much he meant to his family and friends and how significantly he impacted the community at large. What a wonderful person and what a legacy he has left through his loving and wonderful family and the many lives he touched. A truly honorable person who will be so fondly remembered and greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

kerry spieker - January 07 at 04:34 PM

BG

“ Charlotte, So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He will be missed by all. Please share condolences to your family from the Gallo Family. Knowing that he is in a better place and remembering all the good times will sustain you during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Bette Gallo

Bette Gallo - January 07 at 02:12 PM

RH

“ Randall and Deena Hitchens  
Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I first met Jim at NAPA store and though mutual friends. I enjoyed going to the Palmer cabin and the Bastian farm in Maryland for all the camaraderie we shared over the years. Jim always wanted to know how our families were doing, and talking about his children. Jim's story telling and humor will be missed by all. Prayers for Charlotte and all the family.

Randall and Deena Hitchens - January 07 at 01:35 PM

BA

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing and my heartfelt sympathy to Charlotte, Cathy, Christine, Jay, and families. Jim was such a loving family man, great community and church leader. Keep good memories close and know He is in Heaven, Betty Anderson

Betty Anderson - January 07 at 01:17 PM



“ Memories 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of James Hughes Bastian Jr..



January 07 at 01:27 AM

KW

“ Sending prayers to the family. I was a SPIRIT kid from Cape and I can honestly say spending time with the Bastians and our close group of Spirit friends was the best part of high school. Mr. Bastian was a father-figure to all of us. Thank you, Mr. Bastian for those special memories. You earned your wings long ago ❤️ 🙏

Katie Downes Walker - January 07 at 01:15 AM

MS

“ I have fond memories of Mr. Bastian from days spent at the Bastian home with Christine when we were “kids.” He was always welcoming and kind. I was fortunate to reconnect with him decades later through the Grove Park Running Club. He laughed when I called him Mr. Bastian and said it was “Jim.” We had some great talks during some of our runs. He told me stories about my Dad that I had never heard. He was one of the good men of “Old Lewes” who will be missed. Wishing peace and comfort for Mrs. Bastian, Cathy, Christine & Jay and their families.

Mary Ann Sockriter - January 06 at 09:38 PM

LP

“ There is not one time that can remember that I ever saw this man where he didn't embrace me with love. He was such a kind generous soul. I will truly miss him. My love and prayers go out to your family ❤️.

Lisa Pierce-Cerchio - January 06 at 08:39 PM

CK

“ Sending prayers of comfort and strength to the Bastian family.

Chris King - January 06 at 07:06 PM

MW

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Bastian was a wonderful person and great role model. Heaven has gained an amazing angel. Love to the whole family.  
Mary Lou Wollter

Mary Wollter - January 06 at 06:11 PM

KP

“ We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We have so many wonderful memories of him as a result of his support, dedication and hard work for both Bethel Christian School and Bethel United Methodist Church. He always had a wonderful story that celebrated the joy and pride he felt for his family or a special memory from his youth. He lived his faith each day by honoring God with his kind words and thoughtful actions.

*We hope God will wrap His loving arms around you all and give you comfort. We hope the memories of time spent together will fill your hearts with happiness.*

*Blessings and love, George and Kathy Pepper*

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**Kathryn Pepper** - January 06 at 05:14 PM

MT

“ Well Jim, "You Done Good". I enjoyed working with you and talking running and cycling and now you are probably more active than ever. Lewes will miss you and your contributions. But the Lewes we both knew back in the 90s and years after is changing and memories sometime fade away because the new have no knowledge of the old.

*My sympathies to your family and many friends.*

*Michael Tyler (no longer living in Lewes)*

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**Michael Tyler** - January 06 at 05:02 PM

KT

“ So, so sorry to hear. I have fond memories of times I spent with the family years ago. To Mrs. Bastion, Kathy, Christine, Jay, and your whole family, I I am sending my thoughts and prayers for you at this time 🙏. Sending light, and love, for Mr. Bastion, in heaven.

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**Karen Vignola Truitt** - January 06 at 02:44 PM

MR

“ Jim was an outstanding man in many ways, none more than when he led the planning commission to reject plans to develop what is now the Lewes Canalfront Park -- to simply reject what he knew was wrong and would harm the city he loved even in the face of litigation. He helped us in many ways with numerous projects and was a joy to be around. Mike & Mary Rawl

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**Mike Rawl** - January 06 at 01:54 PM

CM

“Charlotte and family, we are so sad to hear about Jim’s passing and send our deepest sympathy to all of you. Jim was always upbeat, kind and loving. We hope your wonderful memories will help with your grief.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Charles and Carolyn Martin

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**Charles and Carolyn Martin** - January 06 at 12:08 PM

DB

“Fond memories of Jim and the New Hampshire Avenue armada with my dad, Joe Kelly, Joe Bryan and Tom Miller. The fishing stories, some true, are being told in heaven. Don Bland.

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**Don Bland** - January 06 at 10:41 AM

MK

“Jennifer and Jay started dating when we were so young it's hard to think of any big moments in our lives that the Bastians did not share with us. Jim and Charlotte were present at countless celebrations not only for us but for our parents as well. We have so many wonderful memories of Jim. What will always stand out the most to us is his kindness, his generosity, and the pure joy on his face when he was surrounded by family, especially his beloved grandchildren. He had a way of making you feel like family, always sharing stories and his unforgettable laugh. We are all the better simply for the privilege of knowing him all these years. We pray that Jim's family and friends will find comfort in their memories and the indelible mark he left on every life he touched in this community.

~Kathy Newcomb, Maryellen Kiernan, and Amy Kiernan

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**Maryellen Kiernan** - January 06 at 09:41 AM

PD

“Charlotte and family I am so sorry to hear of Jim your dad’s passing. We just spoke prior to Christmas and Jim was his usual happy, friendly and all smiles self. We do go back as neighbors when we lived on the beach, our kids being the same age played together. I know you are all heartbroken and we will be thinking of you during this difficult time... sending our love and condolences. The Donovan family...Pat, Tom, Keith and Karen

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**Pat Donovan** - January 06 at 07:22 AM

JI

“ Cathy, Christine & Family,  
I met Jim when I was in high school - while working at the Shell Station in Rehoboth. During my Senior year, while picking up parts, I mentioned to Jim that I was planning to go to college. He asked me where I was planning on going, and I replied West Virginia Wesleyan. Although I went to Wesleyan for only two years - I had a life long supporter for life. I always appreciated the support Jim gave me - he was that type of guy! I will keep all of you in my thoughts an prayers.

John W. Dean II  
Milton, Delaware  
USA

John Dean II - January 05 at 10:04 PM

WD

“ I am so deeply sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I have such fond memories of coming over to the house and being treated as a family member when I was younger. Jim was a great friend to my grandfather Bill Barker and actually saved his life years ago while on a fishing trip. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the family at this time.



wendy dickson-wall - January 05 at 07:27 PM

TH

“ Jim was a patient of mine for many many years at Maplewood Dental. I would look forward to his appointments as he was one of those patients that was fun to have around. We would catch up on what was going on in each of our lives & talk sports. I'm sorry to hear of his passing & pray for all of the family.

Traci Humphries - January 05 at 07:11 PM

ST

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Jim. He was always happy and radiated positive energy. Sending love and light to your family.

Susanne Ludwig Truitt

Susanne L Truitt - January 05 at 05:28 PM

JF

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. I have many memories of Jim and Charlotte in my childhood, such good kind people. My heart goes out to the family in their loss....

Janice Ferneyhough - January 05 at 04:59 PM

JM

“ *What a great guy, so helpful when Christine played hockey for Mrs Myers at Cape and very supportive of the Spirit spin off group Pirate Pride. I remember hanging with Jim and Charlotte as they allowed me to be part of the Spirit family as videotaper. In his spare time he was always there to assist me with numerous student council events at Lewes Junior High. He was like a father to so many of the hockey girls and Spirit kids. A sad day for the Bastian, Gillian and Adkins families. Jim was a Lewes institution.*

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**John Myers** - January 05 at 04:03 PM



“ *Jim Bastian...most certainly a part of the fabric of Lewes and Lewes Beach... always a kind word and a friendly story exchanged, proudly sharing the latest updates on the grandkids. During those wonderful summer months...without fail found sitting on the beach at sunset amongst family and friends...engaged in conversation...and always enjoying the moment. Thanks for the fond memories Jim, you will be missed. Godspeed.*

*Charlotte and the entire Bastian family....our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time.*

*All our love,  
Kristen, Matt, Colin, Ellie, and Delaney Joyce*

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**Matthew Joyce** - January 05 at 03:50 PM

RK

“ *Jim was Mr Lewes. I knew him for 70 years. He always had a smile and was an entertaining story teller. He will be greatly missed. So very sad. If a car went through a stop sign on New Hampshire Avenue and Jim was out, Jim would let the driver know what he did. Jim characteristically was concerned about little children on their bikes being hit by a vehicle. For those of us who love Bay Avenue, it was Jim's idea to reverse the flow of traffic greatly reducing vehicles on the road. Jim loved to fish and so did my dad. They often fished together. Jim's often told the story of being in my dad's boat ,and my dad taking off full blast only to see the boat spinning around. My dad forgot the boat was anchored! Rosemary and my condolences to Charlotte, their children and the rest of the Bastian clan. You could not ask for better neighbors and friends. I am sure they are heartbroken, but they can be proud that Jim left such an admirable legacy.*

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**Rosemary. & Joe Kelly** - January 05 at 03:45 PM

RT

“ Jim Bastian was a good egg. The best! When I think of him, I think of smiles and hugs. He led by example. Through years of leading Spirit, and then introducing me to Up With People, the Bastians profoundly and positively impacted my life. Spirit sleepovers at the Bastians’ are among my most cherished memories. :) Sending love and light to Charlotte and the family during this hard time. I love you guys. ❤️

Rebecca Trifillis - January 05 at 02:49 PM

BW

“ RIP Jim Bastian, Lewes, particularly Lewes Beach will miss your presence - always with large group of family. Our thought and prayers are with his family. A life well lived - well done

Bob Watson and Christine, Ben, and Ellie

Bob Watson - January 05 at 02:36 PM

CS

“ Charlotte-I am so sorry to hear this, you and Jim were so good to me to give me a job right out of school, and did a lot for me. I was so glad to be such good friends with you and your family. Please take care, and hope to see you soon.

Chip Sheats

Chip Sheats - January 05 at 02:04 PM

TB

“ Jim was a huge part of the success of the Seashore Striders racing every weekend with us for over 20 years. Jim also brought his family along when they got older as many of the Bastian/Gillian crew took part in the events. Jim was always so helpful showing up early and staying late to help setup and breakdown the events. He loved to talk to all his running friends at the races. The Seashore Strider family will miss Jim Bastian.

Tim & Monique Bamforth  
Lewes, DE

Tim Bamforth - January 05 at 01:43 PM

KA

“ This is a beautiful obituary for a wonderful man. “...his highest priority was always spending time with his family” certainly speaks to the gentleman that Jeff and I know and adored. We loved our California visits and consider ourselves lucky to be part of the Bastian family circle. Much love and peace to family and friends.

Khaki Jones and Jeff Adams - January 05 at 01:39 PM

TW

“ Charlotte my sincere condolences to you and all of your family. I never knew of Jim's fall. Charlotte you and Jim were special people to work for and I cherish all of those memories. RIP my dear friend. Tom Walker

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**Tom Walker** - January 05 at 01:24 PM

KS

“ This is sad news. Please accept sincere condolences from me and the entire Saliba family. Jim Bastian was as much an institution in Lewes as anyone in my memory--dedicated to his country, community, profession, and mostly his terrific family. His life is a model for all generations to admire and emulate. Godspeed to the entire family during this difficult time.

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**Khalil "Karl" Saliba** - January 05 at 01:06 PM