



James C. Pratt

March 28, 1935 - April 13, 2015

James C. Pratt, born March 28, 1935, in Richland, New York, son of Wayne and Elizabeth Pratt, died suddenly on April 13, 2015.

Survived by wife Mary Beth Pratt and loving family.

Sons and daughters-in-law Mike and Sherri Pratt, St. Charles, MO; Rob and Kristina Dunne, Northville, MI; Josh and Sarah Pratt, Tupper Lake, NY, and dear family friends Debra Sutton and Butch Beals, Malvern, PA.

Ten grandchildren Kristy, Daniel and Megan Pratt; Erin, Robert, Jeremiah and Agnes Dunne; Lowden and Amelia Pratt; Erin Sutton-Beals.

Siblings Betty Gerdon, Hemet, CA; Gloria and Dick Young, Fountain Hills, AZ; Doug and Barbara Pratt, Sandy Creek, NY; and his wife's brother's family Rick and Jodi Tully, Columbus, OH.

Nieces and nephews Ed Gerdon, Darlene McCarney, Janet Hamby, Dedee and Jamie Sivero, Laurie and Dave Basler, Adam and Kristin Cipollone Pratt, Stacia and Aaron Schioppa, Caitlin Tully, Steve and Karen Rossman, Amy and Randy Shervin.

Many great nieces and nephews, and other family friends.

An Eagle Scout, Jim received his B.S. from SUNY Cortland and an M.S. from SUNY Brockport. He served in the U.S. Army after college, from 1957 to 1959.

Jim's career was spent in the service of youth, starting in Rochester, NY, as a street gang worker for the YMCA. He became the executive director of Threshold, Center for Alternative Youth Services, in 1975, and in 1988 the executive director of the New York State 4-H Foundation, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Jim retired in 2000 and became an active volunteer with Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. He served on Session, with Youth Ministry and World Wide Ministries, as an usher and a Sunday school teacher. He worked every week with a housing rehabilitation program started by the church, which is now part of Habitat for Humanity – West Philadelphia. He also volunteered at The Wild Center, the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, Tupper Lake, NY.

Jim enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, gardening and other outdoor activities. He also was an avid Philadelphia sports fan.

A memorial service will be held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA, at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, gifts in Jim's name be made to one of the following: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Foundation, 625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA, 19010; New York State 4-H Foundation, 248 Grant Ave., Suite II-A, Auburn, NY, 13021; "Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia, West Philadelphia Repair Initiative," 4157 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104; or the Wild Center, 45 Museum Drive, Tupper Lake,

NY 12986.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 9. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall

AT

“ To Mary Beth and family: My deepest sympathy to all of you and please know Linda and my prayers and thoughts are with you during this sad occasion. As I reflect on the memorable times with Jim at the YMCA Outreach Program, what comes to mind is he opened so many doors for numerous youth of the inner City of Rochester in the 1960 and early 70's that changed their paths in a positive way. Jim's commitment and dedication to the at-risk and underserved youth of the Rochester community continued with his work at Threshold as he garnered the resources and support to initiate, build and institutionalize Threshold as a premier provider of youth services... Having met Jim as a youth in the Outreach program in the mid 60's; having work for Jim as an Outreach Youth Counselor in the Outreach Program in the late 60's; and having served on the Board of Director of Threshold while Jim was the Executive Director, I am honored to call Jim my friend. On behalf of the many lives that he touched and made a difference in during his time in Rochester, please know he was appreciated and respected for his many contributions to the often forgotten and underprivileged in the community. Jim will be missed.

Peace, Love and Blessings
Andrew & Linda Thomas

Andrew Thomas - April 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

PY

“ To Mary Beth: Jim was such a dynamic person - any room virtually lit up with his presence. I'm not sure when I met Jim. It was probably at Threshold when they were located on South Clinton. I was always impressed that he continued to support Threshold long after he had joined Cornell. I know how much he was admired by his colleagues at Threshold when I became director in 1995. I hope you and your family take solace in the many tributes to Jim that have been brought about by the news of his passing. Phil Yawman - Fairport, NY

Phil Yawman - April 25, 2015 at 09:45 PM

NB

“ Jim was a special man. He really helped make the NYS 4-H foundation. I always enjoyed seeing and talking to him. In recent years it has been when he joined us at the golf tournament. Thank you for sharing him with us. Niles

Niles F Brown - April 23, 2015 at 08:19 PM

ND

“ Dear Mary Beth and Family - My deepest sympathies...I am so sad to hear of Jim's passing. I had the honor of working with him at Cornell in the 4-H Foundation office and have many great memories of my time there. He was a wonderful mentor and teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.
-Noel Desmond

Noel Desmond - April 21, 2015 at 08:56 PM

DS

“ *Aunt Mary Beth:
My greatest memory of Uncle Jim is his warm hugs and charming smile. Words can't express the mountains of love for his family, I admire his humble character. I will treasure all my time spent with him and hold those memories close to my heart. My prayers are with all of you!*
Deede Sivero and Family

Deede Sivero - April 17, 2015 at 06:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James C. Pratt.*



April 17, 2015 at 10:22 AM

JS

“ *Jim was a wonderful teacher and an amazingly calm man. He never even looked the slightest bit annoyed when I nearly destroyed your roof in Rochester! I have used that incident as the model of kindness and patience in my life and always tried to live up to it.*

With love Jon Simon and the Simon family.

Jon Simon - April 17, 2015 at 07:24 AM

KR

“ *Mary Beth and Family,*

I was so sorry to hear about Jim. He was a wonderful father and husband. I know he will be deeply missed. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

With love, Kathy & Ken Rebecchi and Family

Kathy Rebecchi - April 16, 2015 at 04:28 PM

JA

“ *Dear Mary Beth and family -- We are so saddened to hear about Jim's passing. Please know we're thinking of you and praying that you'll find some comfort in your memories of him.*

Jim and Lisa Austin

Jim Austin - April 15, 2015 at 08:29 PM