



James (Jim) Abbott

September 25, 1955 - March 31, 2019

ABBOTT: James Alexander (Jim) Abbott died in Brandon on March 31, 2019. Jim was born in Brandon on September 25, 1955, the eldest child of the late Josephine and Lionel Abbott. He is survived by his sister Mary Jo Abbott (David Pedersen).

When he was a young boy Jim was identified as being special needs. The school system was not yet prepared for special needs children, and Jim's education was at the Manitoba School in Portage. Jim lived in Elm Cottage for four years and learned reading, writing, basic math, and woodworking. He came home every weekend by Greyhound bus and we drove him back on Sunday. Just as he later knew every Brandon Transit route and driver, Jim knew every Greyhound driver by name.

When Jim finished his education he returned to Brandon and worked at CAMROC and ARM Industries. He lived semi-independently, was married for several years, and enjoyed his cats, trips to Winnipeg, listening to music, and bowling. Jim was very proud that he had been on the Manitoba Special Olympics bowling team that competed in Toronto. Jim also very much enjoyed joining volunteer groups and going to meetings. He always dressed up in a sports jacket, shirt and tie, dress pants and cowboy boots, and was a familiar figure as he strode around town, waving and calling to everyone he knew.

In trying to simply live his life in a way that most people take for granted, Jim fought a lifelong crusade against the significant obstacles he was given at birth. That battle wore him down earlier than it should have. As he aged and required more care, Jim moved into an apartment that he shared with his good friend Corey, where they were both well cared for by Brandon Support Services. Jim stayed in his home as long as his health allowed, but moved into the Assiniboine Centre for the last months of his life. He died there at age 63 without attaining his frequently mentioned personal goal of receiving his Old Age Pension. Jim died as he lived his entire life, with an enormous and strong heart that just didn't want to quit.

Jim will be cremated and interred at the Brandon Cemetery in a private family ceremony.

Those who knew Jim will remember that there was nothing he loved more than a good funeral tea, so if you wish, buy a loaf of fruit bread, layer on some cheese, and raise a cup of tea in Jim's memory. For those who might prefer to make a donation in his honour, please know that Jim took immense pleasure in going to the summer camps that Brandon Support Services organizes each year. Not all their clients have the means to attend, and BSS helps all those they can. If you wish to donate to a camp fund in Jim's memory it will make some individuals very happy. Donations should be made out to Brandon Support Services (1540 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB, R7A 0M6).

"Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince; And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!"

Comments



“ MJ, I am so sorry for your loss of your brother. We had some good times back in the day. One I could share was when we had a bunch of white mice in a wooden box and found out they had teeth! Sincerest sympathy. He was lucky to have such an awesome sister. If you're ever out this way look me up.

Debra James Nielsen - April 20 at 05:35 PM



“ Mary Jo, I was so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. I always looked forward to seeing him and catching up as well as passing good wishes to you back and forth through him. He was always so happy and I will miss him. Cindy Chalmers

cynthia Chalmers - April 07 at 08:16 PM



“ MJo - I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Jim. I was involved in Jim's life in many ways over the past 30 years and got to care for the spunky fellow who fought hard for all folks with disabilities. He lived a good , full life. He was lucky to have you to advocate for him over the years along with all the others that were involved in his life. Peace be with you Jim.
Michelle

Michelle Moffatt - April 04 at 04:18 PM



“ Mary Jo. Katie just told me that Jim had died. So sorry to hear. May your fond memories of him, and the caring of friends comfort you and carry you along in the days to come.
I'll be thinking of you.
Tom Watson

Tom Watson - April 04 at 02:17 PM



“ M.J., we are sorry to hear of your loss. I'm sure you have a plethora of very special memories of your time with your very special brother. Our thoughts are with you at this time. Don & Liane Heinrichs

Liane - April 04 at 10:32 AM



“ Mary Jo, so sorry to hear about the loss of your brother Jim. My condolences. Rita Martens

Rita Martens - April 04 at 10:22 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Jim's passing, Mary Jo. It has been a pleasure to know Jim over these past years. My thoughts are with you. Ann Doyle

Ann D - April 03 at 02:06 PM



“ My sympathy to you Mary Jo and family. I knew Jim for many years and he was a fearless advocate for those who live with disabilities. He was active on the board of the Brandon Association for Community Living and always interested in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities were respected. He was a caring, genuine person.

debby dandy - April 03 at 01:15 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Jim served on the ACL-Brandon Board for many years and was a great advocate and dedicated board member. Jim was a caring person, always extending a warm greeting and asking how our family members were doing. Our sincere sympathy to the Abbotts for their loss.

Bob & Pat Gouldie - April 06 at 12:06 PM



“ I am so happy to have had the opportunity to get to know Jim (and you Mary Jo) over the past 10 years. He was such a great person, always made me smile with his calls, voicemails and stories! He will be missed so much by everyone here at BSS and we are so sorry for your loss. Jim was very lucky to have a sister and brother in law who cared so much and who were so involved in his life.

Kelly J

Kelly J - April 03 at 11:12 AM



“ Mary Jo. My thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Take peace in the thought that Jim and Mouser are together again. Many great memories of Jim.

Wendy Petersen - April 03 at 11:01 AM



“ My heart and prayers go out to you, Mary Jo, on the loss of your brother. With sincere sympathy, Darlene Duce. OX

Darlene - April 02 at 02:15 PM



“ Mary Jo we are very sorry for your loss. Our condolences to you, John an Fran and Nell Pudlo

Fran - April 02 at 09:05 AM