



James A. Van Prooien

July 1, 1960 - December 7, 2020

Montague- James A. Van Prooien, age 60, passed away on Monday, December 7, 2020 at Newton Medical Center. Born in Passaic to the late John and Marie (Prall) Van Prooien, Jim had lived in Clifton before Sussex County in 2009. He had been currently employed as a maintenance mechanic for C & S Wholesale Grocers in Chester, New York. Jim is survived by his brother, John H. Van Prooien and his wife Gail of Rockaway; his sisters, Barbara Duvall and her husband Val of Wantage, Marianne Walker and her husband Randy of Lincoln Park, and Jan Saladino of New York State; his nieces and nephews, Lisa and Dan Wolff and their children, Elise and Amelia, Jill and Mike De Francesco and their children, Hayley, Gianna and Juliet, Timothy and Cory Walker, Holly Saladino, Danielle and Matt D'Ecclessis and their daughter, Eloise, and Nicole Duvall. Enfolded in one of his bear hugs, you knew you were loved. Private cremation services have been entrusted to the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Online condolences may be offered to the family on www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Tribute Wall

A(

“ Jimmy always friendly, an old soul with alot of great advice and wisdom. He was a "big" friend to all who knew him. Jim will always be remembered and loved dearly. He introduced tiny Valerie to his turtle and taught her how much fun it was to play with it at her Grandma's house in Clifton. Memories eternal. Love, Andrea Billard (Suydam).

Andrea Billard (Suydam) - October 18, 2021 at 04:37 PM

DS

“ I worked with Jim he always had a smile to share and stories of his family , friends and his turtles. I remember when his turtle got sick he got upset with the vet because he felt she treated him like he did not know what he was talking about. And how lost he felt when the turtle died. And then he was worried about the other one. We talked about Clifton well basic New Jersey and our younger days. He had a few adventures in his younger days at least to hear him tell it. He always loved going down the shore with his friends and fishing before his knees gave him grief. When you needed help know matter how bad he was hurting he was there to help. No job was too big for him to try. He hid his big heart behind a gruff front, but just sit down and talk to him and you knew he had a heart of gold and would move heaven and earth for a friend. He left his mark and touch many hearts along the way. He was a great man, he will not be forgotten.
Debra Speer

Debra Speer - December 15, 2020 at 03:38 PM

JF

“ Creatures under your bed, stalking my first boyfriend in your mustang, bringing the cats ice cream, slathering everything in ketchup and making me do the weirdest things for my Xmas and birthday money. Some of the funniest and strangest memories of you I will always remember and make sure to share with my children. My favorite uncle, I will always be your little sunshine, now you can be mine too. Love you always. Jill and family

Jill De Francesco - December 11, 2020 at 05:03 PM

CL

“ I will always remember cousin Jimmy for so many reasons. He always had the same love of turtles as I did-as a kid I was obsessed. I remember thinking he was so cool because he had turtles as pets. Then as an adult I finally got one of my own. He also had an endless supply of these foam airplanes that he'd give us. Whenever we went there we would get at least one and break the foam pieces apart and throw them all around the house. It was so much fun.

He was also at my wedding... I just remember being so overly excited to see him again- it had been years. I ran up and hugged him and thanked him for trekking out in the crazy snowstorm. It meant so much to have him there.

Rip. You will be greatly missed. 💙

Christina Lopez - December 11, 2020 at 03:07 PM

BB

I worked with him for 2 years at web vote in Hamburg, after I left we kept in touch on the phone at least be once a week and I would go see him every few months we always had great laughs, the last time we talked he told me his knee had given out and might need surgery I told him if he needed anything to call me, I never heard of back, he will be missed he was a great man, rip jim

bill Van buren - December 18, 2020 at 07:19 PM

AB

We all grew up together on the same block. He was like a big brother to my daughter Valerie when she would visit Grandma's house in Clifton. I'm sad to break the news to Valerie. We've all had such good childhood memories together. I will love him and all his brother's and sisters forever.

Andrea Billard (Suydam) - October 18, 2021.

Andrea Billard - October 18, 2021 at 10:13 AM

MW

“ *We will miss brother Jim so much. A great and growly mountain of a man with a heart of gold. He tried to live up to the description of a curmudgeon but his irrepressible sense of humor always gave him away. He loved fishing, the ocean, turtles, cannons, his Mustang, old movies and classic cartoons. Most of all, he loved the kids, nieces and nephew, and their kids. Especially when they were little, they could see past his great size and gruff exterior to see his soft side. RIP Uncle Jimmy, the memories of our times together will live on in our hearts always.*

Marianne & Randy Walker



Marianne Walker - December 11, 2020 at 12:38 PM