



James Thomas Axman

July 17, 1944 - December 27, 2024

James Thomas Axman, 80, died suddenly on Dec. 27, 2024, at his home in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Jim was born to Alice R. and Edward W. Axman, on July 17, 1944, in Dayton, Ohio — the youngest of 3 siblings. He is survived by his wife, Roena (Joy) Axman, his sister, Marilyn (Axman) Orzechoski, his nieces Kathleen & Bonnie, and his nephew, Michael. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Edward H. Axman.

Jim was a patient soul, who treated others in the kindest way possible. Soft-spoken with a sense of humor, and happy to be the brunt of a joke. His passion for learning was best reflected in his mastery of all things musical. He started his musical life as a young percussionist.

Jim parlayed that love into a lifetime of musical pursuits from high school band to the US Navy band and then later, back to high-school band as the teacher. After earning a Music Education degree from Indiana State University, Jim was in the first commissioned crew of the JFK carrier, serving in the Mediterranean, during Vietnam. With a true passion for jazz, Jim taught music for many years, before branching in new directions. He remodeled homes, rebuilt classic Mercedes cars, and soon found himself deep into the computer revolution.

Jim enjoyed working and being productive. In his second career, he developed impressive skills in database development, for State insurance industries. He continued to work long past retirement to keep his brain active. Though he battled a long illness, he was not one to complain, and his passing was sudden. Jim will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Betty J. Martin L.I.F.E. House for Animals, 14 Fido Ct, Frankfort, KY 40601 and/or Franklin County Humane Society, 100 Companion Pl, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I worked with Jim at the Oregon Division. He had a wonderful sense of fun. I'm sorry to hear of his passing.

Jann Goodpaster - March 26, 2025 at 12:15 PM

LB

“ I met Jim in 1994 when he was assigned to work with me on his first Georgia market conduct examination. During that time, he encouraged me to purchase my first laptop and then taught me how to use it. Jim, along with Doug Froehlich, helped me get my first market conduct examination assignment with Kentucky. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to work with Jim back in 1994 and to reconnect with him in 2007. He was our market conduct claims expert, easy to work with, and so much fun to be around. I will truly miss him.

Linda Black

Linda Black - January 03, 2025 at 06:15 PM

BR

“ I worked with Jim many years in insurance regulation. Jim was a great friend who loved his music, and collecting saxophones. I really appreciated Jim's humor when we had tough times at work. I truly will miss Jim.

Bob R

Bib Rutledge - December 30, 2024 at 06:54 PM

LC

“ Jim was an amazing part of our work family. He was loved by all and will be greatly missed!



Lori Cunningham - December 30, 2024 at 05:39 PM

JH

Jim and I worked together at the KY Dept. of Insurance, although we knew each other through professional associations for several years prior. He was very skilled in regulation of insurance companies and a leader in his field. He loved music and repairing many instruments, notability saxaphones....Axman the Saxman was his true calling. Great sense of humor and a very good friend. I will miss him. Condolences to his friends and family.

Jay E. Hodges - December 31, 2024 at 02:58 PM

SC

Everyone at the Kentucky Department of Insurance who knew Jim, knew him to be a kind, intelligent, dedicated man. When the Department was located on Main Street in Frankfort, Jim would go into the garage on his break and serenade us with his lovely music. People outside the garage could not locate where the music was coming from but would stop to listen and smile. Jim, we will miss you. Commissioner Sharon Clark

Sharon Clark - January 02, 2025 at 04:11 PM

FJ

I first actually met Jim in 2003 when we started working together at Colorado Department of Insurance, however had known of him when we both worked for Florida Department of Insurance in the 90s but had never met. Jim was a huge help to me with insurance regulation challenges during my employment with Colorado and Kentucky, specifically with the claim reviews. He was great to work with; patient, never got angry, loads of fun, extremely knowledgeable, giving, and a very very hard worker. He would get me involved in some of his Mercedes car and saxophone ventures which turned out to be lots of fun when we were on the road. Never a dull moment with Jim. We especially loved those coney hot dogs in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. :-) A person that made a difference in my life. Thanks Jim. God bless you.
Fred Verny

Frederick Verny Jr - January 03, 2025 at 02:47 PM