



## Mr. James C. "Jim" Jankiewicz

April 14, 1945 - September 1, 2019

UTICA - Mr. James C. "Jim" Jankiewicz, affectionately known as "Air Marshall", peacefully flew away as he departed this life, at the age of 74, on Sunday, September 1, 2019 at MVHS St. Luke's Healthcare.

Born in Utica on April 14, 1945, James was the son of the late Charles and Antoinette "Marie" (Lobaczewski) Jankiewicz. He was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1963. In 1965 Jim was ordered to active duty as a member of the United States Navy. He proudly served his country as an airman until his honorable discharge in 1971. On December 21, 1974 he married the former Nancy A. Liberatore. He was devoted to his vows and their love was real. Nancy passed away on February 10, 2018. For the past 17 months, he was blessed to have a whirlwind relationship with Jean Wolcott, and they enjoyed many precious moments and adventures in their time together.

Jim worked for the Department of Defense at Griffiss Air Force Base for numerous years until its closing and he subsequently transferred to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. He later returned to New York to be closer to family and accepted a position at Ft. Drum Military Base working on the flight line.

Jim was proud that he worked with several branches of our Defense Department during his career and he entered his well-earned retirement in 2010. He was passionately patriotic and put his heart and soul into his military service to America. He found his profession to be a commitment to protecting our troops and our homeland. Jim was always an active man who enjoyed

maintaining his physical fitness and mental acuity. He had an outgoing, gregarious personality and was a man of his word. Family was important to him. He loved to cook for his friends who were appreciative of his efforts. With many menus stored in his mind, he enjoyed feeding others and knew everyone's favorite foods!

An outdoorsman, Jim was at home in the woods and in the water, hunting, fly fishing, hiking, and mushrooming. In the winter he enjoyed cross country skiing and speed skating, and in the summer he participated in many long distance cycling events, triathlons, and ran over 30 Boilermaker races! And to top off his "born-to-move" mentality, he was a motorcyclist. His engine never idled; it was always running, and he could tire you out. Amazingly, he appreciated a good nap! In his earlier years, he was in the driver's seat, literally, as a stock car racer. He knew engines and how to keep them running to perfection. From his youth, Jim was fascinated by planes, motors, and aviation. He attained his license as a small aircraft pilot and joined the veterans' Civil Air Patrol as a starting point. He flew planes alongside many compatriots who shared his passion, including their jaunts to the Adirondacks which were so peaceful and euphoric. In keeping with Jim's need to 'go faster and fly higher', he ventured into another tour de force, Ski flying. He loved spending time at the Frankfort Highland Airport sharing his flight experiences with others. Jim was self-driven, and if he wanted to do something, he made it happen—his way, whenever, wherever, and however he determined. He was a member of the QB's (Quiet Birdmen), an elite international Pilots organization and the Utica-Rome Hangar where he made many friendships with like-minded men. Attending airshows was a favorite pastime where he developed a network of more friends with whom he would work on aircraft and log in 1,000's of flight hours.

A devout Catholic, Jim was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church, was a member of St. Michael's Lancers, and served in the Honor Guard during the holiday seasons. Jim was a proud Polish-American committed to preserving and perpetuating his Polish heritage. He was a member of the Kopernik

Association and the Polish Community Club where he served on the Board of Directors. Last summer he fulfilled a lifelong dream to tour Poland.

James is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Tiffany and Cameron Gibb. Always close to his heart was the memory of his son, Christopher J. "Chris" Jankiewicz who passed away on October 5, 2007. He also leaves his grandchildren, Alexander James, and Isla Gibb; and Gabriella Titus; his brother, Charles Jankiewicz. (He was preceded by his brother, John V. Jankiewicz in 1989); and his "partner in love", Jean Wolcott. He will be remembered by his nieces, nephews, especially Mark Liberatore, and Gary Liberatore; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, Kathy Jankiewicz, June Jankiewicz; Theresa Fehr, Robert and Margaret Liberatore, William and Eva Liberatore, and Betty Liberatore; and a multitude of friends who were so important and instrumental in his life, especially Tommy Maugeri, and Steve and Angie Lewosko and their children.

The family is grateful to Dr. Merima Ramovic-Zobic who was a guiding physician; his love, Jean, who was by his side each day and meant so much to Jim and his family; the nursing staff and aides of the 3rd Floor Allen Calder wing who went above and beyond in caring for Jim; and Fr. Joseph Moskal for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

A Memorial Gathering in Jim's honor will be held Sunday from 2:00-4:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's honor may be directed to Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen online at <https://mmwsk.org>. Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend James' funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday at 11:00 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church where his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be offered with Military Honors conferred by the U.S. Navy.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com  
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
1206 Lincoln Ave  
Utica, NY 13502

# Tribute Wall

DQ

“ Jimmy you will always remain in my thoughts. I am a better person for having you as a friend and I will miss your presence at our QB gatherings and at the 6B4. When I think of you I will always smile and remember all the good times we had together. When I take my final flight west I look forward to you greeting me as I climb off the wing. Love ya buddy.

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**Danny Lembo QB36718** - September 08, 2019 at 09:14 PM

 Linda Burwell

“ Jimmy thou I never physically met you I met you through all of Jeannies pictures and posts. I have never seen Jeannie so happy and content with life in a long time Fly high my friend

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**Linda Burwell** - September 07, 2019 at 07:31 AM

JF

“ On behalf of the members of the CNY Chapter 490 Military Order of the Purple Heart we send our condolences to the Jankiewicz Family on the passing of Jim “Air Marshall” Jankiewicz. He was a friend, Patriot, and comrade to all veterans. His volunteerism of performing “Fly Overs” to honor all our active military, our veterans, Gold Star Families and our First Responders will never be forgotten. Jim will surely be missed by all. - Joe Fraccola, Commander.

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**Joe Fraccola** - September 06, 2019 at 12:55 PM

CS

“ Sharing several Wigilia dinners at the Polish Community Club with Jim and other family members was something I will always remember! A great man.

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**cousin Susie** - September 06, 2019 at 09:16 AM

SS

“ So sorry to hear of Jim’s passing. I worked with him at Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield and he was a stand-up guy. My deepest condolences.

Susan Stokes - September 05, 2019 at 10:13 PM

PW

“ So sorry for Your Family’s Loss. Worked with Jim at GAFB as a young Army LT and then at WSAAF. Fly High

Paul Williams - September 05, 2019 at 05:32 PM

MP

“ Heard a plane fly over today-thought it was him. nice obituary-wow-Utica Free Academy/Class of 1963. In 1965 Jim was ordered to active duty as a member of the United States Navy. He proudly served his country as an airman until his honorable discharge in 1971.to those who believe life is changed not ended.prayers for friends and family



michael patterson - September 05, 2019 at 04:14 PM

KJ

“ Jimmy was always very kind to me. He was also very generous and always had the best treats to share . He sent Charlie and I great care packages when we were living in remote ranger stations . We could always count on delicious New York apples coming our way in the fall. Best of all he gave us Tiffany & her husband & children to love & cherish.

Kathy Jankiewicz - September 05, 2019 at 09:47 AM

RP

“ *To Jim's family...he took me flying, gave me and Father Joe Moskal a tour of the former GAFB, and was a great guy, now in Heaven with his wife, and son flying with the angels.*  
*Ralph Paladino*



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**Ralph Paladino** - September 04, 2019 at 11:58 PM

TM

“ *Jimmy I will miss you. Thanks for the memories and great times. Fly west. Tom*

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**Tom Maugeri** - September 04, 2019 at 06:30 PM