



M James Palmer

August 4, 1939 - March 10, 2023

M. James Palmer (Jim) former Captain of the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department died Friday March 10, 2023, in Traverse City, Michigan. Jim was born in Grand Rapids on August 4, 1939, and moved to Traverse City as a child. He graduated from Traverse City Central High School and then Michigan State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Jim worked for the Michigan State University Police Department and the Kalamazoo Police Department before coming back to Traverse City to work for the Grand Traverse Sheriff Department from 1968-1998. Besides his work, Jim also loved sailing around the Great Lakes on his sailboats Traveler, Knot on Call and Julie II. He made many solo summer trips around Lake Superior and The North Channel. He also raced in many Port Huron to Mackinac and Chicago to Mackinac races with the boat Orion.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his daughter Julie Marie Palmer-Bennington and granddaughter Abbigail Marie Bennington both of Lynchburg Virginia.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, August 5, 2023, at West Bay Covenant Church, 12720 S West Bay Shore Drive at 11:00 am with a luncheon to follow from 12-2pm at Robbins Farm, 10560 Mann Road, Traverse City.

Arrangements provided by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

West Bay Covenant Church
12720 S. West Bay Shore Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686

Tribute Wall



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of M James Palmer.

July 11, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ Mr. Palmer was one of my Instructors in the Northwestern Michigan College Police Academy. He taught criminal investigations, a subject that he was VERY knowledgeable in. He left a lasting impression that followed me through my 34 year career with the Benzie County Sheriff's Office from Deputy Sheriff, to current Elected Sheriff.

My condolences to his family. He was truly a great man!

Kyle Rosa, Sheriff

Kyle Rosa - March 27, 2023 at 11:52 AM



“ Palmer Family,

My sincere condolences.

Jim was nothing short of a true professional lawman. A tremendous asset to GTSD and law enforcement in general.

Rest In Peace Jim.

*Capt. Jimmy Patrick, Ret.
MSP-CID*

Jimmy Patrick - March 25, 2023 at 11:23 AM



*Jim was a true friend. He was in our home many times. He was a faithful dad and a man who loved his Lord.
Jim you will be missed but you have no more suffering in heaven with Jesus. Our deepest condolences to Julie and Abby. God be your strength and peace. Duane and Pam Merritt*

Duane Merritt - March 26, 2023 at 09:08 PM

TR

“ Took a criminal justice class at NCMC from Jim. Great guy.

Tom Rigg (Emmet County Sheriff Office 1973-2003)

Tom Rigg - March 24, 2023 at 09:16 PM

TE

“ Sorry for your loss. I didn't know Jim well, but always held him in high regard.

Troy Elenbaas - March 23, 2023 at 09:58 AM

AH

“ Julie and Abby, We are so sorry for your loss. He loved you both so much. He will be very missed.

Andy & Stacey Hasse - March 23, 2023 at 08:34 AM

BL

“ We grew up and we grew old together-we will all miss him.

BJ Lang - March 23, 2023 at 08:20 AM

MT

“ To the Jim Palmer family: My deepest condolences for your loss. Jim was a good man to work with. May his soul be at rest in God's heavenly kingdom.

Margo Thorpe - March 15, 2023 at 01:21 PM

JH

One of my best friends ever since I transferred to traverse city in 1977 as a Michigan state police detective. I miss him. We worked and socialized together on a daily basis over the years and I was a good friend of his mom Eve and step dad Mac. so sad to see him go through the last years. Julie so sorry.

john hardy - March 21, 2023 at 08:49 PM

RS

The best police officer that I have hah the privilege to work with Roy Strait

Roy Strait - March 23, 2023 at 03:59 PM

CR

I first met Jim during the early 70's when I was an investigator with the Attorney General. Jim and I became friends when we worked joint projects together. I left government during the early 80's, moved north and Jim and I maintained that friendship when sailing together. In fact, on one occasion, he loaned me his sailboat for two weeks so that a friend and I could sail the north channel together. We lost track of one another over the last 15 years; however, I have fond memories of Jim's love and his devotion to his family and his friends. He was a sincere person and genuinely a nice and decent guy. Charlie Rettstadt

Charlie Rettstadt - March 24, 2023 at 08:00 AM

KC

Jim was at the Woodmere Library every day to read the newspapers and check his email, even though he always told me to "never set a pattern." He was so very proud of both his daughter and granddaughter. He has been and is missed by me and many others in the Reference Department. -- Katheryn Carrier, Reference Librarian

Katheryn Carrier - March 26, 2023 at 01:33 PM