



James Lawrence Cranwell

June 14, 2022

With the love and support of his family by his side, James Lawrence Cranwell was released from his pain on Tuesday June 14, 2022, at the age of 83 years. His wishes for a compassionate end to life were respectfully and caringly fulfilled by the Palliative team at Lakeridge Health Centre. With his loving family by his side, children Michael Cranwell (Monica), Sally Robitaille (John), Julie Holman (Paul) and beloved granddaughter Amber Willdig (Chris) supported our Patriarch on his last voyage.

The family will be eternally grateful for the wonderful care of the nurses and doctors (and a very special social worker, Jena) on G5 and 4F.

His life lessons, legacy and belief in harmony will live on in his great-granddaughters, Sydney James and Audrey Lynn, his great-step-granddaughter, Lily Louise, and all who knew and loved him.

James will always be remembered for many things. His sense of humour and generosity. His love for the theatre, watching Manchester United soccer games, bike riding, classical and jazz music, reading (he was a voracious reader), fine tea and a cold pint (preferably an IPA) on the patio. He was also an incredibly progressive thinker, a Humanist, a staunch supporter of equality for all, and very much a man ahead of his times. His influences were varied and widespread, beginning with his parents who taught him much about humanity and what really matters.

Open-minded and one who never stopped learning, James drew strength from many others he admired. Amongst them include Bertrand Russell, William Shakespeare, Jane Austin, Oscar Wilde, Marie Curie, Carl Sagan, Neil deGrasse Tyson, David Attenborough... and of course the entire Monty Python troupe.

He will be forever missed and never forgotten.

As per our father's wishes, there is to be no funeral or service. A private celebration of life

will follow at a later date.

“The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.” - Bertrand Russell

Tribute Wall



“ <https://youtu.be/JZBtWx1XIEY>

Remembering Grandpa (Video)

Amber Lynn - July 22 at 09:47 PM

HD

“ *Jim, our buddy, encouraged my wife Larisa and I to watch the movie "War and Peace". He happily lent us the video tape. The discussions afterwards were even more interesting considering that Larisa had watched the original in Russian. Of course Jim was as conversant with Tolstoy, Pushkin and other Russian greats as he was with authors, poets, composers and artists from Britain, the U.S., Europe, and several other countries.*

In Stratford, we wouldn't have enjoyed a play, the walk of the swans, the Shakespeare Garden and the beautiful town itself if it hadn't been for Jim with whom we spent a night in his lovely house.

Jim liked to walk and he also liked Indian food. So did I, his coworker. Naturally, the two crazy people walked one day after work from OPG head office at University and College to Gerrard and Coxwell to the Indian Village. The huge amount of naans and curry that was consumed might have also been because our legs hurt so much that it was easier to simply sit and eat.

There was of course never a dearth of topics to discuss with this wonderful man of diverse interests and much curiosity for mankind with its unending display of brilliance as well as folly. Jim always stood for what was fair and reasonable, no mater what the prevailing propaganda was being spun by society, and especially its leaders.

Larisa and I had a nice lunch with Jim in 2019 at an Indian restaurant in Oakville. It was sad to see that he couldn't enjoy the meal much. He kept his troubles to himself. We left Canada soon after. Little did we know that we would not be sharing any more time with him. We will miss you Jim.

Hussein Dhirani

Hussein Dhirani - July 14 at 02:27 PM



Thank you for your lovely message and for sharing some of your memories with us, Hussein. My Grandma spoke of you often with me and what a dear friend you were.

Amber Lynn - July 22 at 09:41 PM



***grandpa*

Amber Lynn - July 27 at 11:01 AM

AW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Amber Willdig - June 17 at 10:05 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Michael Cranwell - June 17 at 10:02 AM

DT

I'd like to express my sincere condolences to Jim's relatives and his many friends.

I had the pleasure of first meeting and getting to know Jim, over three decades ago, when he was the Speaker Program Director with Humanist Association of Toronto. I was in the same role with Humanist Association of Ottawa. We "worked" together, sharing ideas, planning events, and coordinating lecturers. I always admired Jim for being so thoughtful, professional, and conscientious. He was a true gentleman.

It was Jim's thirst for knowledge and rational discussion which brought him to many conferences sponsored by local and national humanist associations, atheist associations, and Centre for Inquiry Canada, etc.

Richard G L Thain DDS

Dr Richard G L Thain - July 06 at 10:00 PM

DT

On some of my trips to Toronto, I was sometimes fortunate enough to be able to join Jim, Don Cullen, and other humanist, atheist friends, downtown, at their Friday afternoon social and chin-wagging sessions.

While returning home, along Highway 401, to the Ottawa area from other sojourns to Toronto, I'd call Jim, and if I were lucky, he'd be available for dinner or a coffee. He enjoyed talking about his family, cycling, theatre in Stratford and Ottawa's NAC. Jim was well-read and he had a wide range of interests, and could discuss serious, academic thinkers to "thinking-persons' entertainers" such as the Pythons, and Tim Minchin.

Bertrand Russell's quotation below, certainly applies to this inspiring and wonderful human being, Jim Cranwell. -Richard G L Thain DDS

Dr Richard G L Thain - July 06 at 10:01 PM



Richard, thank you so much for your lovely message and for sharing some of your wonderful memories with us. My grandpa was an extraordinary man and it's wonderful to hear about the role he played in your life.

All the best.

-Amber

Amber Lynn - July 22 at 09:46 PM