



James Joseph McConn, Jr.

April 25, 1948 - July 14, 2024

James Joseph McConn, Jr., age 76, of Houston, Texas entered everlasting life on July 14, 2024, in the presence of his family.

Jim was born in Houston on April 25, 1948, to Jim and Margie McConn. He attended St. Anne's and St. Michael's parochial schools and St. Thomas High School. He was proud to attend the University of Notre Dame, as his father had and his eldest son later would. Graduating in 1970, he then obtained his J.D. from the University of Texas Law School. There, he met his beloved wife, Cathy McLean, who was teaching in Austin. They married in 1972 and moved back to Houston to raise a family. He began practicing law and founded Hays, McConn, Rice, and Pickering, where he practiced dutifully for 33 years.

Jim was a devout Catholic and an active member of church organizations like Legatus and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The eldest son of a Houston mayor, he was a proud Houstonian who inherited his parents' charisma and generosity of spirit. He loved sports, especially baseball. He was coached by his father on two national champion little league baseball teams, quarterbacked for the 1965 St. Thomas High School state champion football team, and became an avid golfer. In addition to his loyalty to the Fighting Irish, he closely followed the Houston Astros his entire life, making plentiful memories at Minute Maid Park and reveled in their recent World Series wins. He fervently cultivated interests in politics, Catholic theology, literature, and travel.

Jim was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather (aka "Pops"). He led by example, displaying selflessness, magnanimity, and work ethic. He chose joy every day. His children remember him giving memorable toasts, cheering at countless little league games, assigning silly but endearing nicknames, dominating driveway H-O-R-S-E games, outings to Bookstop and Blockbuster, solving jumble and crossword puzzles, delivering excellent 'dad jokes', and mingling at the Lake McQueeney lodge. In his retirement, he began a tradition of monthly one-on-one lunches with his sons and daughters, time which everyone cherished. He had an infectious laugh that is already sorely missed by all who knew him. His legacy endures by all the lives he touched in his 76 rich, full years of life. Jim battled Lewy Body Dementia in his final years, and we pray for the repose of his soul and a restoration to health in his eternal rest and reward.

Jim is survived by his wife of 52 years, Cathy. He is also survived by his siblings Kevin (Georgia), Terry (Kim), Melissa Sacra (Mark), and Andy (Beverly) and his children and their spouses: Chris (Lindsay), Amy Rizo-Patron (Raul), Carolyn Valentin (Art), Jimmy (Laura), Erin Modglin (Jason), Andy (Kirby) and Molly Duncan (William). He loved his 19 grandchildren who brought him much joy: Cecilia, Ana, Sam, Quinn, Evan, Emily, Alexander, Jack, Benjamin, Max, Lucas, Eloise, Charlie, Thomas, Allyn, Riley, Matthew, Phillip, and Eden. His 20th grandchild is due in September.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, James J. and Marjorie McConn, and his brother, Michael Glenn McConn.

Friends are cordially invited to gather with the family and share remembrances of Mr. McConn during a visitation to be held from half-past five o'clock in the evening on Friday, July 19th, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of

Walsingham in Houston, 7809 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston, Texas. A rosary will be prayed at half past six o'clock.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at one o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday, July 20th, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, 7809 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston, Texas. Immediately following, all are invited to a reception at the cathedral's Banquet Hall.

Those wishing to make a donation in Jim's memory may do so at the following:

The Cathedral High School (cathedral-hs.org), the St. John Paul II Foundation (forlifeandfamily.org), and the Houston Coalition for Life (houstoncoalition.com).

For those unable to attend the services in person, virtual attendance may be accessed by a video link that will be made available following the services.

We invite you to take a few moments to share fond memories and words of comfort and condolences with his family by selecting the “Upload a Memory” icon below, where you can include a gesture, photo, and more.

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I am so sorry that it took me so long to come upon this tribute for Jimmy. I had the great privilege of playing shortstop when Jimmy was playing 2nd base for the 1964 Colt League World Champion baseball team and the 1965 St. Thomas TCIL State Championship team and finally with Regional American Legion Championship Eagle team that won over 30 straight games and ended up 1 game short of playing in the American Legion Championship in August of 1965. Obviously we spent a lot of time together rooming on road trips, during these seasons. Jimmy and I were inseparable and he gave us the nicknames of "Jimmer" for him and 'Jammer"for me a nickname that has stuck with me for 60 years. I could go on about our friendship but I will just say that I loved Jimmy and I talk with him every night. Jimmy and I shared a diagnosis of Parkinsons until his was changed to LBD. I just had Bobby McConn help me with getting Jimmy inducted into the St. Thomas Hall of Honor, something he so richly deserves. Rest in Peace , Jimmer you lived a great life and impacted so many people.
I love you,
Jimmy Raley

Jimmy Raley - September 19, 2024 at 12:40 PM

CP

“ Dear Cathy,
I am so so sorry for your loss and the pain you have watched as Jimmy slipped away from you. I so admired how supportive he was of you not only as a mother but in your efforts to bring righteousness to our culture.

How blessed you have been to have had a husband who shared your passion for virtue and the protection of the unborn in the name of Jesus.

May the Lord continue to strengthen you until you meet Jimmy where there are no tears nor sorrow in the presence and glory of our Saviour. Much love and blessings to you and yours.

Cathy Patton

Cathy Patton - August 07, 2024 at 10:23 AM

SC

“ What a blessing Jim was to everyone who was lucky enough to know him! He gave happiness to so many, just by being Jim. Always kind, always friendly, always caring. We will miss him as a dear friend. Sherry and John Crossin

Sherry Crossin - July 22, 2024 at 11:36 AM

MG

“ Sincere condolences to Jim's family. May God give give comfort and peace to all.

Michael Gray

St Thomas High School, Class of '66

Michael Gray - July 19, 2024 at 08:22 AM

EM

“ My condolences to Jim McConn's family from Ed Mattingly, STHS 1967 and ND 1971. Here is my story about Jim. In late August 1969 Jim and I headed up together in his car pulling a trailer with our things for my junior year at Notre Dame and his senior year. We were driving through southeastern Missouri, south of St. Louis in the late afternoon near sunset on a four lane highway out in the middle of nowhere when a tire blew out on the trailer. (Yep, for you younger folks, a tire really did fail and actually blow going flat almost instantaneously.) We had spare tires for the car but not for the trailer. We had passed a farmhouse about a quarter mile behind us, so Jim and I decided to walk back to the farmhouse to get access to a phone. (Yep, we did not have cell phones in those days much less cell phone service.) When we got to the farmhouse porch it was pretty dark. We came through a small gate with a bell on it. As we approached the porch the farmer stepped out holding a shot gun in his hand. We stopped immediately. We froze. It is one thing to hold a gun in your hand. It is another matter to have a shot gun pointed at you from about ten feet! But Jimbo kept his cool and calmed down the farmer after a few minutes. We used his phone and were lucky enough to get a garage to help us get that trailer up and running again.

Also, do not forget that Jim won a national championship in basketball while at Notre Dame. O, it wasn't the American college football national championship, rather, it was the French national college basketball championship from his sophomore year abroad while studying at the Notre Dame Sophomore Year Abroad Program at Angers, France. He formed a team that competed and won the mythical NC in France. O, yeah, the competition was not Austin Carr, or Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Rather, it was more like Calvin Murphy in height but with Shaquille O'Neal free throw shooting touch.

Jim was a true friend. I shall always remember his smile and his wit.
Ed Mattingly, cheerleader at STHS and ND

Edward A. Mattingly - July 18, 2024 at 03:25 PM

KC

“ *Sending love and prayers from the Cire family.*

Kathy Cire - July 18, 2024 at 02:48 PM

DB

“ *I regret that I only knew Mr. McConn through my friend Chris, his son. In that, however, I came to know how strong their bond of family was, how important their faith was in forging that bond, and what inspiration and examples in generosity, love and honesty he set for my friend to carry through to his own family life and friendships.*

Sending love to the family far and wide,

Dallas

Dallas Baker - July 18, 2024 at 11:12 AM

JH

“ *I had the privilege of working at Hays McConn for many years. Jim was a wonderful mentor and boss, and I was absolutely honored to work for him. He was always the perfect gentleman in all that he did — even when everyone around him was not.... I know how lucky I am that I got to have him as a role model in my profession. Plus- he was just fun to hang out with. Stellar human he was. Love to his family, Jane Haas*

Jane Haas - July 17, 2024 at 08:53 PM

RR

“ I would like to extend deep condolences to the entire McConn family. I was fortunate enough through my sister-in-law Amy, to get to know her dad, Jim. I always looked forward to seeing him as he was emanating, kindness, and joy always. His smile and his kind eyes were warm and welcoming. He was always curious to get to know you and ask how you were doing and just made you feel good. I think that is one of the best things one can be remembered for. Your entire family continues his legacy in this way as you all share his kind spirit. I wish you all comfort during this difficult time. May his memory be a blessing to you all.

Rita Rizopatron - July 17, 2024 at 07:45 PM