



H. James Mowrey

September 17, 1945 - March 19, 2010

H. James Mowrey died in Deland Florida on Friday March 19, 2010. He was born on September 17th 1945 to Rachel and Harley Mowrey of West Hartford. He graduated from Conard High School in 1963 and from Ripon College in Wisconsin in 1967 where he was a member of Delta Epsilon. After college Jim served in the US Army for four years as a lieutenant. He had been employed by Federal Express, Pioneer Parachute Company, and retired from Scan Optics in Manchester, CT in 2009 when he moved to Deland Florida.

Jim leaves his proud mother Rachel Weir Mowrey of West Hartford, his brother-in-law Jack Halibozek of West Hartford and his nephew Matthew Halibozek of Essex Junction VT. He was predeceased by his sister MaryAnn Halibozek and his uncle James Fraser Weir of Chester.

Jim was an ardent sportsman, he was a long time member of the NRA, an active parachutist and past president of four terms for the Connecticut Parachutists Inc, and a pilot and drop zone manager. Early in his career he was proud to be a first officer DC3 pilot for an Indiana based charter airline. He flew more than 1900 commercial flight hours and over a thousand hours ferrying skydivers. Jim personally made over 3800 jumps and served 10 years as the New England States regional director on the board of the US Parachute Association. During his tenure as chairman of the U.S.P.A. safety and training committee, skydiving fatalities nationwide declined from more

than fifty skydivers per year to 23 per year. Similarly, student fatalities also saw a dramatic decline. Jim was also a member of the Manchester Fireman's and Policeman's Bagpipe Band, an enthusiastic runner and competed in the Manchester road race for many years. His passion for these activities was only exceeded by his care and concern for his family and friends.

Friends may visit the family at Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford on April 6 from 10-11:30 am. Following the visitation Jim will be buried in Soldiers Field at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford. A celebration of Jim's life will be held at Avon Old Farms, Avon following the burial. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Ripon College, 300 Seward St., PO Box 248, Ripon WI 54971-0248 or to a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ Jim and I were sharing a house on Highland St in West Hartford many years ago. I remember him as a first rate skydiver and an accomplished athlete. I last saw him jogging at the reservoir a few years ago, and he showed no signs of slowing down. He was a good friend, great roommate and all around likeable guy. He will be remembered and missed.##imported-begin##Ken Balette##imported-end##

April 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I am a Charter/Life member of CPI. I have know Jim since he first came to the field to make his first jump. Jim was dedicated to anything he did. My husband and I were so impressed with his contribution to both the club and to the future os safe sport parachuting. We made it a point to attend a parade so we could see and hear him on his bagpipes. We were frined but not intimate, we enjoyed jumps togeter, good conversation over a beer. My deepest sympathday for your loss. I will include Jim in my prayers. Marge Bates##imported-begin##Marjorie E Bates##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I always looked forward to seeing Jim, we had much in common and every time we met were never at a loss for conversation. Before parades We would look at the rifles that color guards were carrying and remark on their history, we'd swap stories of our days in the Armored Cav. At City Steam we'd sit at the bar talking on the fine beer and the finer ladies that would enter his immediate vicinity he was a charming , good lookin gentleman. He'd explain the finer points of running in packs on the street to my glazed eyes! never understood why anyone would run on purpose with no one chasing you

He'd talk about his next Sky diving adventure I never understood why he would want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane!

Piping, guns , fine wine , flying, running, cowboy shooting, re-loading , motorcycles-he was a renaissance guy with no pretensions at all - no airs, just plain folks , a Gentleman.

I spoke with him last when He had just returned from a zip-line trip to Costa Rica with friends. Sliding on a wire 100 ft. above the Rain Forest!

Nothing was out of the question for Jim , as long as it provided a challenge and self satisfaction. Jim passed at 64 in better shape than i'm in now, doing something that he loved, I know its cliché but that's not too bad a way to go.

Jim Loved our pipe band, because everyone in it is so different, He was proud of the band for the chance to go to Germany and all the hard work it took .I will always picture Jim with great sunglasses and a fantastic Troopers mustache.

I hope to see him someday on Fiddlers Green, but until then - Fair Skies Jim.###imported-begin###Drum Major C.L. OX

Gara###imported-end###

April 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM