

CAPTAIN JAMES BLACK



In loving memory of
Captain James Black

Suddenly on May 18, 2024,
Captain James Black
departed from his earthly
home of 27 years in South
Fayette, PA, leaving behind an
ocean full of memories and a
legacy of adventure that will
forever echo in the hearts of
those who knew him.

Born on November 5, 1949,
in Bellshill, County of Lanark,
Scotland, Jim was the
cherished only child of the

late Helen (Ella) McGuire and James B. Black. From his earliest days, Jim's destiny seemed intertwined with the skies above, evidenced by his childhood dreams of becoming a pilot. Jim is survived by his chosen partner of more than 35 years, Amy "Louise" Foster, whom he first met in 1978 while both serving at the 911th Airlift Wing (AFRC) Coraopolis, PA. Together, they embarked on a journey across the globe, collecting memories and stamps on their passports, in some of the breathtaking corners of the earth, with Sipadan holding a special place in their hearts.

In addition to Louise, Jim leaves behind two boisterous Amazon Parrots, aged 50 and 40, as well as the memories of their four departed cats, who lived a pampered life under his care. A man of his word throughout all of life's ebbs and flows, Jim was a pillar of strength and constancy in the lives of those he loved.

A graduate of Duquesne University with a master's degree in journalism and a distinguished alumnus of Air Force ROTC, Jim served as an active-duty Pilot from 1971 to 1975 then continuing his service with the Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of Captain. Known affectionately as "Captain Black", he later transitioned to a career with American Airlines, retiring after a lifetime of dedication to aviation.

Beyond the clouds, Jim found solace and joy beneath the waves, while attaining multiple PADI certifications.

Before long he uncovered his passion for underwater photography. That fascination with the ocean's mysteries was matched only by his extraordinary talent behind the lens, from that point on he was spellbound by the unique beauty of Nudibranchs, *Tambja blacki* is named in his honor. Thousands of hours logged photographing another favorite subject, sharks, driving him to embark on many thrilling adventures in their pursuit. His legacy lives on through his published works and the countless friendships forged in the diving community worldwide.

Yet amidst his global adventures, Jim remained deeply connected to his roots, cherishing the bonds of brotherhood forged with his Castle Shannon friends, Tony A., Jim S., Mike W., Jerry T., Vince P., Bones A., Don R., John T., Joe K., Gary A., Ronnie M.

From shooting hoops with the Shannon Bums to serenading crowds with his amazing voice as part of the karaoke traveling crew, Jim's zest for life and camaraderie was evident. He shared so many memorable moments at Karaoke with his close friends, Ray G. and Dr. Dave, along with their crew of regulars. Let's not forget the "Blues Brothers" performances with Mike W.

To those who had the privilege of knowing him, Jim's life was a testament to the power of love, friendship and adventure. Though he may have departed from this world, his spirit lives on in the hearts of all who were touched by his kindness, humor and unwavering spirit.

Jim, your journey may have taken you beyond the horizon, but your legacy will forever guide us as we navigate life's ever - changing currents. Evidence of a life well lived is found in those who love you. "Louise"

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