



## James "Jim" Haberkorn

April 16, 1952 - April 16, 2022

On April 16, 2022, James Edward Haberkorn (Jim) passed away peacefully surrounded by his beloved family. Jim was born on April 16, 1952 in Watseka, Illinois. He is the son of LaVerne (Habby) and Iva Haberkorn. He grew up in Sheldon, Illinois and graduated from Illinois State University in 1974.

In June 1973, Jim married his biology lab partner, Debbie Martin. They moved to Des Moines, Iowa where Jim graduated from Drake Law School in 1977.

Jim and Debbie settled in Rock Rapids, Iowa in 1977 when Jim joined the law firm of Riter, Henneberg, and Austin. In 1978, the firm became Riter, Austin, and Haberkorn. He worked with the law firm until his retirement in 2016.

Jim was an active member of the United Methodist Church and Kiwanis in Rock Rapids. He devoted over 30 years to working with Central Lyon middle and high school Mock Trial students. In his free time, Jim enjoyed reading, playing basketball, and golfing with friends and family.

In 2014, Jim and Debbie moved 50 miles east to Spirit Lake and spent some of their favorite times boating, waterskiing, and soaking up the sun on the beach or by the pool with friends and family or fishing with grandkids.

Jim and Debbie have two children: Ben (Colene), Mound, MN, and Allison Kohlhaas (Tim), Cumming, Iowa. They have 3 grandchildren: Zach, Hudson, and Quinn. Jim has a sister Joyce McConkey (Roy) in Sycamore, Illinois. He was preceded in death by a sister, Jayne, and his parents.

Jim was an intelligent, fun-loving, and generous man. He will be missed by all who knew him well.

A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22, 2022, at the Waterfront Event Center located at 610 Lindon Dr. Arnolds Park, IA 51331. Family will greet friends one hour prior to the service on Friday. Arrangements are under the direction of the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at [www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com](http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com)

The family requests in lieu of flowers and cards, they would love to receive stories of your fond memories of Jim or make donations in Jim's to Hope Lodge Management at 411 Second Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901 or to the Serenity House Network at 2041 – 31st Place NW, Rochester, MN 55901, or email them at [serenityhousemn@gmail.com](mailto:serenityhousemn@gmail.com) or visit their webpage at [www.shnrochestermn.com](http://www.shnrochestermn.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Waterfront Event Center  
610 Linden Dr.  
Arnolds Park, IA 51331

## Celebration of Life

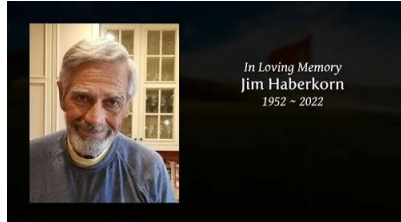
APR **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Waterfront Event Center  
610 Linden Dr.  
Arnolds Park, IA 51331

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Haberkorn*



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**Robinson Funeral Home** - April 20, 2022 at 11:03 AM

JA

*Could not watch this without tears - beautiful tribute to a truly beautiful man.*

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**Jackie Austin** - April 21, 2022 at 03:39 PM

BW

*What a guy! He touched so many of our lives and will be missed.*

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**Bonnie Wilson** - April 21, 2022 at 05:12 PM

KM

“ As the Sheldon High School Class of 1970 began preparations for our 50-year (delayed due to covid) class reunion, we learned of Jim's passing. Most of us went through all 12 grades together. With only 24 in our class, we knew a lot about each other, our families and our community. We all grew up together. He was a good student, a great basketball player and had many friends. We were looking forward to connecting with him and Debbie at our reunion. Instead, we will honor him when our class meets and share stories. Our sincere sympathy to his family.

*Kim Mabbitt  
for the  
Class of 1970*

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**Kim Keller Mabbitt** - May 14, 2022 at 06:42 PM

KD

“ *Deb and Family,*

*We are sending our sympathy. Jim always seemed to have a smile on his face whenever we met him. May your many fond memories bring you comfort these days and in the future too.*

*Tom and Kay Dye*

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**Kay Dye** - April 22, 2022 at 10:17 AM

LK

“ *Our deepest sympathy upon the passing of Jim. Keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Gary & Lorna K.*

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**Lorna Koedam** - April 21, 2022 at 11:20 PM

RM

“ Jim and I first met in 1978 shortly after we moved to Rock Rapids. My wife Jane first met Debbie at her newly opened fabric store and in the course of the conversation they discovered that their husbands shared a mutual interest in the game of tennis. The very next Saturday Jim stopped by our house, we met, headed to the tennis court, and thus began a friendship that lasted through the years even after we later moved out of state.

One of Jim's many endearing qualities was his boundless optimism. The glass was always half full; it was sunny not partly cloudy. His optimism was infectious and led to many adventures. Our family still remembers the Blue Mound State Park camping trip. It was a late Spring day and let's just say the conditions were less than ideal for camping with small kids. But we got the tents pitched in the face of a not quite gale-force wind. The small lake had white caps, but we canoed. We made the s'mores on the campfire in spite of the chill. Jim's "it's pretty nice out here, huh?" made it all work and a memory that we still share.

Jim always brought some zest to any activity or experience. The tennis matches were "epic", the golf shots could be "something to behold", if food at a restaurant was good it was like four stars. He had an irrepressible fun-loving and joyful attitude. Jim had an amazing memory and could call up a historical fact in the context of a conversation, could cite some twist of plot from an old movie that we remembered, or pull out a literary allusion every now and then. To say nothing of old sports stats and players. Memories with Jim were memories that lasted. He was my friend, he was my buddy.

*Rick Mueller*

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**Rick Mueller** - April 21, 2022 at 04:45 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Haberkorn.*



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April 21, 2022 at 10:26 AM



“ *Jim's twinkling eyes and endearing smile will never fade from our memories. A round of golf and a gin & tonic at the clubhouse afterwards along with a lively discussion of current affairs are our favorite memories! The photo is from Arizona one year ago. We didn't get to know Jim and Debbie until recently but we are forever grateful for our times together! Prayers of comfort for Deb, Family and Friends of this amazing man.*



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**Kathy and Mark Stelzer** - April 20, 2022 at 07:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Haberkorn.*



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April 20, 2022 at 09:24 AM

“Doris and I met Jim and Debbie shortly after they moved to Rock Rapids in 1977 to join the Riter, Henneberg and Austin Law Firm only 4 months after we moved to town. Soon, Jim became a key legal advisor, trusted confidant and loyal friend. He clearly loved the law ... and history. That led to many enjoyable conversations and sometimes debates. Jim was a walking encyclopedia full of interesting thoughts, facts and ideas

*Both of us loved golf and played hundreds of rounds at the local 9, and on other courses. The most memorable was a spontaneously planned golf trip to Fairfield Bay, Arkansas in March 1995. Like a pair of little boys, we, along with Wayne and Al played from early mornings to late afternoons when we switched to dinner and televised NCAA March Madness games until we fell asleep. In a text message just over a week ago, Jim told me that trip was as much fun as he ever had! I agree, although our trip in later years to Starr Pass in Tucson was nearly as good. I have a record of our golf matches since 1997, including two of Jim's holes-in-one!*

*Debbie and Doris would often join us after golf for refreshments or dinner with more enjoyable conversations, and pledges by both of us to play better next time.*

*It was sad for us to watch Jim's health deteriorate over the past few years. He faced his trials with courage and determination and without complaint.*

*We extend our sympathy to Debbie, Ben and Colene, Allison and Tim and their children. Our prayer is that God's promises will bring you peace and comfort, that the support of family and friends will sustain you, and that in due time, memories of Jim will make you smile!*

*Jim, you will be sorely missed by all who knew you. Rest In peach dear friend.*

*George and Doris Schneidermann*

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**George Schneidermann** - April 20, 2022 at 08:46 AM

VS

“ *Vicki Slack lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Haberkorn*



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**Vicki Slack** - April 19, 2022 at 08:53 PM

JK

“ *I am really going to miss my golfing buddy in Okoboji. We had some great times playing golf and when Jim was in good health he took great delight in beating me at the game.*

*I remember most he was just happy to be out there hitting the ball and enjoying the outdoors. Even during the past couple of years, as his health was limiting the amount he could play, he was still grateful to be outside and enjoying the game.*

*He was always a gentleman and a very good friend and we have lost a great friend. He will be dearly missed.*

*Jim Kosse*

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**James A Kosse** - April 19, 2022 at 07:15 PM

JG

“ That brief sentence about Jim's time at the Drake Law School covered so much. During the very first week, we L-1s were advised to find a convivial partner or three to help with the challenging process of law school. Four of us coalesced into a "study group". Fred Anderson, Jon Kimple, Jim Haberkorn and I. That coalition became a team of rivals and resources, competitors and colleagues, battlers and buddies. Hundreds of hours of 2-on-2 basketball -- ping pong when it snowed -- all to make a break from studying. Our intramural basketball team was "The Frankfurters", not least because we all were hotdogs on the court, and we concocted a "secret handshake" with which we greeted one another for years afterward. We paired up to take the bar exam, and we counseled Jim when he kept going back to that bulletin board to check, recheck, and then check yet again that we'd all passed. The four couples celebrated together many of the steps along the way: exam grades, law clerk opportunities, and first real jobs. Ultimately, our careers split us up geographically, but the friendship of that motley group has been a buoying presence for each of us throughout the years.

Thanks, Jim, for being such a wonderful part of a key segment in the lives of your friends from those days. We will miss you, but we will have these fond memories forever.

--Jim Giles.

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**Jim Giles** - April 19, 2022 at 04:19 PM

AJ

“ My sympathy to you, Debbie and family. Jim always had a smile when he came into the PLAC. I am smiling reading these tributes - it sounds like he had a great sense of humor.

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**Alesia Johnson** - April 19, 2022 at 03:00 PM

CW

“ *Cathy Wubbena lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Haberkorn*



Cathy Wubbena - April 19, 2022 at 02:58 PM

DH

“ *DeeDee Hughes lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Haberkorn*



DeeDee Hughes - April 19, 2022 at 02:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Haberkorn.*



April 19, 2022 at 02:15 PM

TG

“ *Twyla (Weerheim) Garnmeister lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Haberkorn*



Twyla (Weerheim) Garnmeister - April 19, 2022 at 11:56 AM

JA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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jackie austin - April 19, 2022 at 10:41 AM

JA

*Jim was a valued member of the law firm in Rock Rapids for 39 years until retirement in 2016. His clients and partners still miss him!! L-R: Paul Kippley, Mike Austin, Jim, Jennifer Wippert.*

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jackie austin - April 19, 2022 at 10:46 AM

SS

“ *I played pick-up BB with Jim in Rock Rapids early mornings between 2001 and whenever he finally stopped coming. He had a very unique shot, that almost always went in. We frequently guarded each other and quite often, after I would make a basket we would be running side by side back to the other end of the court, and he would say to me, "great shot.....don't ever do it again". I'll always cherish that memory of Jim. He was a fun competitor and a fun man to be around. My condolences to his family. May God bless you all with His peace at this time.*

*Shannen Struckman  
Rock Rapids, IA*

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Shannen Struckman - April 19, 2022 at 09:56 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Haberkorn.



April 18, 2022 at 11:34 PM



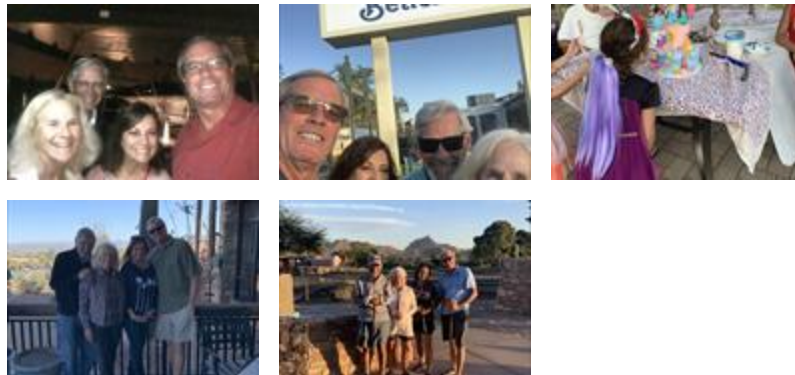
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Haberkorn.



April 18, 2022 at 09:52 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



**Kathryn Schuster** - April 18, 2022 at 09:10 PM



*These are amazing. Thank you for sharing Kathy.*

**colene** - April 18, 2022 at 09:13 PM

KS

*We met Jim and Debbie when they moved into Beaches. We've become dear friends and our children and grandchildren have also become good friends. We are blessed to have had Jim in our lives. Jay and I and our family will miss his smile, kindness, and humor. The pictures tell it all. Our hearts go out to Debbie and family with our Cares and Prayers. Kathy and Jay Schuster*

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**Kathryn Schuster** - April 18, 2022 at 09:18 PM

PA

“ *I was Ben and Allison's babysitter ever since they were babies. There were many times I spent the night at their home, or the kids would stay at my house with my parents and me. Jim and Debbie were ALWAYS so good to me and were so appreciative of the care I gave to their children. My mother was a legal secretary at the law firm Jim worked at in Rock Rapids so the Haberkorns were life long friends of our family. Jim will be dearly missed by ALL of us!!*

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**Patty (Vander Woude) Altman** - April 18, 2022 at 08:57 PM

SS

*To the Haberkorn family, my sister (Judy Schlumbohm) worked with Jim & Associates for 49 years & my mother Helena Sprock also cleaned for them for a time. My thoughts are with you all at this most difficult time 🙏 Sandy Sprock*

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**sandy sprock** - April 19, 2022 at 09:00 PM

MW

“ *Jane and I enjoyed playing Pickleball with Jim. Jim was always cordial and had a smile for everyone. He will be missed. Our condolences , Myron and Jane Wodtke*

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**Myro and Jane Wodtke** - April 18, 2022 at 08:30 PM

TB

“ James helped me with Mock Trial and he touched so many young lives from 12-18 years old! From middle school to high school he gave would come to 7:01 am practice with sweats from his old man bball games (LOL). He was always willing to meet with students in his office and just clicked with the kids. For you lawyer haters he can be blamed for about 15+ attorneys working today! 😭 You will be missed but never forgotten James!

Terry Van Berkum - April 18, 2022 at 05:21 PM

HS

I agree with all the things that have been written about Jim. He was a very special person and Jack and I appreciated knowing him. He will live in the hearts he has left behind. My prayers and cares for Debbie and family.

Holly Spitler - April 21, 2022 at 11:30 AM

JJ

The greenhorns from "out east" who showed up in Rock Rapids in 1993 to buy the local paper have never forgotten the encouragement, wisdom and friendship of Jim Haberkorn. He's the one who made it work.

Frank Starr and Jim Houck

Jim - May 05, 2022 at 11:06 PM