



James W. Doane

April 11, 1942 - May 31, 2023

James W. Doane, 81 of Westlake Village, Ca. and Durham, NC. died May 31, 2023 of complications from pneumonia. “Jim” Doane, son of Vernon and Kathryn Doane, and loving husband of MaryKay Doane was born in Washington D.C. He is survived by his wife, MaryKay Doane and two children, from his previous marriage to Carolyn Doane, Rebecca and Jeremy, two stepchildren, Julie and Douglas and nine grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Fred Doane. Jim was predeceased by son Randell.

Jim graduated from The Landon School in Bethesda, Md., Middlebury College, and Tufts University. He worked as an economist at The Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Ca. and The Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) in Colorado.

Unlike the “dismal” science of economics Jim was warm, witty, and insightful. He loved skiing, cycling and golf with good friends in the great outdoors, and photography and woodworking in his shop at home. With these two hobbies he created beautiful furniture pieces for his family and a wonderful photographic collection of memories of his life. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Services will be held Tuesday, June 6 at Wake Memorial Park Cemetery, 7002 Green Hope School Rd., Cary, NC at 4 pm.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Habitat for Humanity.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 6. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park
7002 Green Hope School Rd
Cary, NC 27519
(919) 465-0888

Tribute Wall



“ *Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of James W. Doane*



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - June 05, 2023 at 01:06 PM

RC

“ *Jim was the first economists that I meet that actually would admit that he was an economists. I made an economists equivalent of a lawyer joke, and he was very gracious. That won me over and I loved the guy after that.*

The reason I even met Jim was that I was leading a big study for DOE/NASA about can a huge solar power plant in geo orbit be attractive as a commercial power source. Well, I had not dealt with commercial anything before and I needed someone who could help me do commercial economics. Thus, I was directed to see our new hire, Jim Doane. He was a one in a lifetime find. I'll miss him.
Rich Caputo

Richard Caputo - January 14, 2025 at 07:57 PM

SJ

“ I met Jim in the mid-1990’s when we worked together in the institutional computing office at JPL. It didn’t take long to discover that Jim had two things that made him a great contributor and a pleasure to work with: competence and integrity. Although trained as an economist, Jim’s contributions were more substantial than mere finances. His real skill was helping us determine how our services could help the smart people at JPL do their jobs and finding the best way to provide them.

Our friendship grew when I joined a group of cyclists Jim had been riding with for years. I came to learn that the purple Trek bike Jim rode had belonged to his son Randy, who had died as the result of an accident some years before. My own son Austin rode with us on occasion. Austin was a stronger rider than me and often rode toward the front with Jim. Nothing replaces a lost child, but I always felt happy to lend Jim a son for the duration of a ride. They became friends too.

My late wife Abbey loved and admired Jim. When she was diagnosed in 2014 with an aggressive form of uterine cancer, she recalled Jim’s own bout with cancer, and one of the first things she asked was that Jim come and talk to her about it. He drove to our house and spent a couple of hours answering all her questions. Abbey and I were both in shock from the diagnosis, but after Jim’s visit she was ready to do whatever she needed to do. I will always be grateful to him for that.

Jim was intelligent, kind, honest, reliable, and delightfully irreverent. I miss him already.

Steven Jenkins - July 02, 2023 at 03:05 PM

JA

“ Jennifer Albright lit a candle in memory of James W. Doane



Jennifer Albright - June 19, 2023 at 03:34 PM

JA

“ I was fortunate to have worked with Jim while he was at the University of Maine, and got to know his first wife, Carolyn, and babysat for his children, Randy and Rebecca. Jim was a wonderful dad and took every opportunity to create a full active life for his kids.

When I had the opportunity to move to North Carolina, Jim said, "You have to meet Fred's wife, Heike. You two will hit it off." So I was fortunate to get to be friends with Fred, Jim's brother, and Heike. We've all been "hitting it off" for decades.

Jim, I will miss your positive spirit, go get 'em attitude, kindness, humor and dedication to family and friends. MaryKay you have been amazing in your unfailing support and care over the past couple difficult years. You were a gift to Jim. My condolences to all the family and friends.

Jennifer Albright - June 19, 2023 at 03:32 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - June 05, 2023 at 12:43 PM



“ Jim, you were a decent and competent Section Manager at JPL. Not just a "boss" but a friend. Rest in peace.

Randy Cassingham - June 04, 2023 at 04:24 PM



I agree 100% with Randy. Jim was a truly decent, competent and all around great person and boss! My condolences to Jim's family. Sincerely, David Gardner

David Gardner - June 07, 2023 at 03:54 PM