



James William Bottomley

February 4, 1968 - May 8, 2025

James William “Jim” Bottomley passed away peacefully on May 8, 2025, at the age of 57 in Fort Myers, Florida. Born on February 4th, 1968, in Arlington Heights, Illinois, to William Bottomley and the late Linda Bottomley. Jim’s life was a vibrant tapestry woven with love, adventure, and laughter. Jim developed a close bond with his sister, Kimberly (Radtke) as they moved to cities around the world during their youth, from Beaverton Oregon to Baden-Baden, Germany, Al Jabal, Saudi Arabia and the sunny shores of Malibu, California. A devoted husband and father, Jim shared an extraordinary bond with his wife, Mindy, whom he met and fell in love with in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where they both attended Fox Chapel High School. After graduation, he went on to play NCAA Division I Soccer for the University of Pittsburgh and remained an avid Panther fan (win or lose). Jim followed his passion for flying and became a helicopter pilot. Which turned into a life long career at Smith Aerial Photos becoming President in 2001.

Together Jim and Mindy raised two wonderful sons, Colton and Blake, both born in Orlando, FL but soon thereafter moved to Parkland, Florida, where they called “home”. The boys’ achievements in baseball never ceased to make their father beam with delight but nothing made him prouder than to see them grow into remarkable young men. Jim also cherished his daughter-in-law Emily and granddaughter, Bayler, who brought immense joy to his life. Every family member held a special place in Jim’s life as did the memories of his sons, Christopher and Tyler, whom he carried deeply within his heart. Jim was a fervent Pittsburgh Pirates baseball fan celebrating every opportunity he had to catch a game at PNC park when in town (likely a hot dog and a Primanti Bros. sandwich too). His love for baseball, however, was only a fraction of the passions that defined him. Beyond his love for tennis and skiing, Jim found tranquility and joy in flying, embodying his adventurous and calm nature with each takeoff. Whether he was soaring through the clouds or enjoying a round of golf on a sunny day, Jim embraced life with heart and intention. A man known for his compassion, Jim was a true Patriot who loved his country, reveling in the celebrations of Independence Day each year. Though Jim has left this world, his legacy of love—especially for his family and the simple yet profound moments of life—will endure. Jim—we will miss your laugh, your smile, and your unwavering love and

support for your family. May you find peace in heaven as you will forever soar in our hearts. A celebration of life will be held in the near future. Please stay tuned for more information.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to www.ncaddnational.org in Jim's Honor.