



James "Jim" Chudd

February 14, 2026

James "Jim" Chudd, 76, passed away February 14, 2026, in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, in the love and company of his wife and daughter.

Born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, to John and Domicell Chudd, Jim lived a life defined by curiosity, intellect, humor, music, and deep devotion to his family.

An Army veteran, Jim was working as a pharmacy tech in Columbia, South Carolina, when a colleague, Kathryn, introduced him to her sister, a nursing student named Yvonne. That introduction became a 53-year love story. This Valentine's Day would have marked their 49th as a married couple, and one of Jim's final wishes was that Yvonne enjoy a glass of champagne to commemorate their day.

Jim earned his master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and began his professional career as a chemist with Kodak in Rochester, New York. In 1982, he relocated to the Kodak Colorado Division, moving to Colorado with Yvonne and their four-week-old daughter, Jean. He worked for Kodak for 19 years before pursuing his true passion: international travel. He founded American Dream Travel and served his community through this agency for 18 years.

A lifelong learner and avid reader, Jim was also a skilled numismatist and

exonumist. He was published in Numismatic News and remained active in local coin clubs through both scholarship and his business, American Dream Coins. He treasured his water aerobics group at the Fort Collins Senior Center and the many friendships built there.

Jim was a passionate home chef and generous host, known for lively gatherings and even catering events for fellow members of the Fort Collins Business Network before retiring.

Next to his family and travel, pizza was his third great love. A worldwide connoisseur of his beloved “Vitamin P,” he delighted in welcoming a professional pizza chef into the family when Jean married Gianluca this past June.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Yvonne Schumpert Chudd; his daughter, Jean Michelle Cucchiara, and her husband, Gianluca; and his sister, Christine Chudd.

A Celebration of Life will be held March 7 at 1pm at The Rio Agave Room, 149 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins. In true Jim fashion, the gathering will be tropical-themed. Attendees are encouraged to wear a Hawaiian shirt or something colorful to honor this vibrant and joyful man.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Alzheimer’s Association (alz.org) would be deeply appreciated.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 1:00 PM (MT)

The Rio Agave Room
149 W. Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80524

The Celebration is Tropical Themed. Attendees are encouraged to wear Hawaiian shirts or something colorful.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ As long-time neighbors of Jim and Yvonne, we enjoyed many evenings in their party themed backyard. Jim also shared many high-end whiskey tastings with me at his custom-made tiki bar. He will be greatly missed by all of the neighbors on our cul-de-sac.

Steve Wilke - March 07 at 01:46 PM

BI

“ Jim of the velvet voice! Meeting first as members of the Fort Collins leads group, he became my travel agent, my friend. He enjoyed life and lived it full on, proud of his gorgeous companion through it all, Yvonne. His recipes developed as he bragged about expanding his cooking skills to elaborate menus - I adored listening to him describe techniques, wines, the finer things in that smooth, radio voice. He was playful and fun, teasing and laughing, relaxed in his Hawaiian shirts. We loved the magical mystery bus tour to all his favorite places for his birthday party - what a night!! Relaxing under the stars in the back yard as he bartended. He was well loved, he will be missed.

Barb Imes - February 24 at 08:56 PM

DH

Barb, you send it all!

Greg and I also met him at FCCC back in the summer of 2000 and he took us under his wing and introduced us to so many people! I will never forget, "without a travel agent, you are on your own." The nibbles he would create for our socials were more like gourmet food! I personally learned more about cocktails from him than any other.

God Bless him and his family!

Dianne & Greg Hewitt-Long

Dianne Hewitt-Long - February 26 at 01:09 PM

TR

My father adored "Chuddly" from the time they met at UW Oshkosh back in "68". Over the years we would hear stories of Chuddly and I would overhear some of their long phone discussions that would occur occasionally-they were ALWAYS special. I'll never forget our family road-trip to CO back in '83-and how much fun it was to stay with Jim and Yvonne. We were touched when Jim made an effort to come out to WI to speak at my dad's Celebration of Life this past August. When he left that afternoon-he shared with me a funny story of my dad as a young dad-and it touched me. What a guy! He will be missed!

Tracy Rossing - March 11 at 09:24 PM