



James (Jim) Manning Jr.

September 14, 2021

Colonel James D. Manning, Jr., USAF, retired, died of pulmonary fibrosis on September 14, 2021, the day before his 79th birthday. He was at home surrounded by family.

Jim was born September 15, 1942 to Lt. James D. Manning and Mrs. Norma Manning on Governors Island, New York City. During his father's Army career, Jim lived in five states and Germany, attending 12 schools before graduating from high school in San Francisco. He was privileged to have been accepted into the 6th class at the United States Air Force Academy. Jim - known to his classmates as J.D. - was a proud graduate of the USAFA class of 1964.

Jim graduated from pilot training in 1965 and married Doris Beckman ten days later. He was an instructor pilot in Texas, before being assigned as a Wild Weasel pilot in the F-105. Jim flew 134 missions during the Vietnam War and was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in flight.

After completing his tour, Jim returned to the Academy as an instructor while earning an MBA from the University of Colorado. He then attended Armed Forces Staff College in Virginia and served a two year assignment in Saudi Arabia, before serving as a faculty member at the Navy War College in Newport, RI. Jim lost his wife, Doris, in 1981.

In 1982, Jim married Beverly Brien and they returned to the Academy. Jim later served as the base commander at RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, England, which he described as his best assignment. Jim finished his Air Force career at Mather AFB in California, before retiring with Bev to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1990.

Jim was a wonderful man who was a whiz at anything mathematical. He spent his retirement traveling the world, reading voraciously, and enjoying his friends and family. Jim was a member of the Fort Collins Sertoma service club for many years. He lived a full life of service, goodness and integrity.

Jim was predeceased by his parents, his first wife Doris, and his sister Staci. He is survived by his wife Bev, their four children, Kerry, Diana, Michael, Amy and their spouses, nine grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and three brothers, Bob, David and John.

Jim will be inurned with full military honors at the Academy. You can honor Jim's memory by doing something kind for someone in need or by donating to Pathways Hospice in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Tribute Wall



“ *James (Jim) Manning Jr.*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dear Bev,*

I was shocked to learn of JD's passing from the AOG today. As you may recall, JD and I go back many years, even before our Academy days as my stepfather was best of friends with JD's father and was married to his father's sister. The marriage ended in divorce so we always referred to one another as "cousins by divorce." But all kidding aside, JD was a wonderful human being and he will be sorely missed. Lura and I extend our deepest condolences, love and prayers.

Kris Mineau

Kris Mineau - September 28, 2021 at 05:46 PM



Thank you for your warm remembrance of my Jim. You are right, he was a truly wonderful man. I was always so proud of him. We brought his ashes to the Air Force Academy yesterday and he was celebrated by many classmates, family, and friends with full military honors. I will miss him forever.

Bev

Bev Manning - October 14, 2021 at 09:24 PM

MB

“ I met Jim later in his life through our wives, who worked together at the Surgery Center in Fort Collins. Jim always had his special 'grin' on his face no matter what he was doing. I helped he and Bev with a couple of remodeling projects on their house and when I asked him to cut a board at a certain length I was assured it would always be that exact length, but we had to be patient. Jim was the type of guy who always put everyone else ahead of himself. He will be truly missed.

Mark Bowen

Mark Bowen - September 23, 2021 at 04:16 PM

JB

“ Jane Bowen lit a candle in memory of James (Jim) Manning Jr.



Jane Bowen - September 23, 2021 at 04:03 PM

JB

“ Dearest Bev:

*While I knew of Jim's military background I truly never understood the breadth of his service until reading his obituary. To discover that he was a war hero should come as no surprise and now I can add humility to the other qualities that describe this good and generous man. I am so grateful that you and Jim were able to go on the many worldwide adventures you so joyfully undertook after retiring from (both of your) services to our great country and mankind in general. A loose translation from Ovid's Metamorphosis' opening line...."Let me sing to you now of how people move on to become other things".....from a recent book I read about trees and the precious fragility of our earth. Surely Jim is a sturdy oak in a lovely forrest. Always your buddy,
Jane Bowen*

Jane Bowen - September 23, 2021 at 04:03 PM

JP

“ Bev:

Jim provided me with the broadest and most knowledgeable view of the world that anyone ever has. His experiences from around the world, some good and some bad, allowed him to give me perspective that I would not have otherwise gained. For that I will forever be thankful. I'm glad I told him so personally before he left us.

John Pharris

John Pharris - September 18, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“Bev, Before I was selected to work in Silver Bear’s office, a co-worker in my unit had to go before him because he had some sort of infraction; I don’t remember what it was. What I do remember is that when he returned to the office, Col Manning was sending him to correctional custody. “Don” said that he felt good about it because of your husband’s grace. Who wants to spend time in correctional custody? I guess someone who Silver Bear sent there thinks it is a good deal!

When I did work for him, another colonel on base called and tried to “bully” me because I would not put him through to “the boss.,” who was in a behind-closed-doors meeting. Once the meeting was over, I told Silver Bear what happened, and he promptly left the office. When he returned, he told me that nothing like that would ever happen again. He had, in fact, gone and dressed the other colonel down. Wow!

I have a lot of other profound memories of his leadership and tutelage. However, he got one thing wrong. At y’all’s farewell, I could not stop crying and he said, “Gin Bear, it gets easier with time.” He was absolutely wrong, it never got easier and this one is a very hard farewell. God Speed, JD Manning (aka Silver Bear. With much love & respect, Gin Bear

Ginger Thompson - September 17, 2021 at 11:15 PM