



James "Jim" Robert Marbach

December 12, 1937 - March 2, 2020

Jim Marbach, Ph.D. died peacefully at his home in The Woodlands Texas on March 2020 at the age of 82. He was preceded in death by his parents Elgin W. and Lydia Marbach, and his brother Elgin T. Marbach of Converse Texas. Jim is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda and his children Gregory Marbach and his wife Jennifer, Eric Marbach, Laura Marbach and her husband Caleb, Kacie and her husband Carl, and his grandchildren Robert, Jackson, Julia & Kyle. He will also be missed by his feline companions Addie & Alby. Jim was born in Converse, Texas. He graduated from a three-room school in Converse. Jim then went onto earn a bachelor of Science degree from St. Mary's College in San Antonio. He had two distinguished careers. He began his first career at Brooke Army Medical Center as a physicist where he worked for David G. Simons a veteran of Project man high. While at Brooke he designed experiment payloads for high altitude balloon tests measuring radiation in the upper atmosphere. Upon learning of a new NASA facility in Houston, Jim left to work for the manned space flight program beginning work on project Gemini. During his career at the Manned Spacecraft center, he designed & flew radiation experiments on the Gemini IV, VII, X and XII space missions. The first experiment, MSC-2, that flew on Gemini IV was the first non-medical experiment to fly on a manned mission. He continued at Nasa until a year after Apollo landed on the moon continuing his research in high altitude radiation experiments. Jim then returned to school to achieve a Master's and Ph.D. in Physics in Medicine, training under Gilbert Fletcher at

MD Anderson. During his distinguished career in medical physics, he authored a seminal research paper on radiation effects on implanted cardiac devices during radiation therapy. Jim was most at home working with the patients in the radiotherapy clinic. His career in Physics was the passion of his life until he retired at the age of 80. Throughout his life Jim most enjoyed meeting and speaking with people. Anyone he met became an instant friend. He loved his family passionately and was their biggest fan and cheerleader. He would often brag of their accomplishments to anyone who would listen. A Memorial Service and reception will be held at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Pastor Rob Renfroe will officiate the ceremony. The service is tentatively scheduled for mid-April - details to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Jim's life. In lieu of flowers Jim would ask for a small donation to The Loft Church at The Woodlands United Methodist Church in his name, address 2200 Lake Woodlands Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Services will be held at a later date when the Covid-19 situation passes.

Tribute Wall



“ James "Jim" Robert Marbach

July 20, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ Just learned of Jim's passing. I first met Jim at St. Mary's University. We had several classes together and were in the band. We became good friends and had many classic chess battles into the late night hours. Jim was in our wedding in 1959. Haven't seen Jim for many years although we kept in touch by e-mail and Facebook. He was a class guy and I was proud to call him a friend. Vaya con Dios Jimmy!

Ken Semlinger

Ken Semlinger - December 14, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ My husband , 2 kids and I met Jim with his lovely wife Linda a couple of years ago at The Loft Church(The Woodlands United Methodist Church) It was so nice to see his smile when we would enter church on Saturday evenings. My husband and I appreciated every single advice he would share with us ...especially about marriage.He loved God and you could see it. I saw him as a classy ,Godly man. Even though we didn't know Jim like most, he has a special place in our hearts. He was part of Quest (a class for men at church) . I would always whisper in his ear to convince my husband to go with him to Quest. lol.. My son Cody thought he was so cool because of his involvement with NASA . We will miss you my friend. We will see you again . My condolences to your family. I will continue to pray for peace and comfort.

Linda Twyman - May 11, 2020 at 07:36 PM

TH

“ Jim was a friend and mentor as I transition my Air Force career to medical physics. His humorous stories and political wisdom always spawned lighthearted conversation. He was always willing to help others succeed; especially in Medical Physics. Our Medical Physics community (and the Texas community) need more men of such noble character. Rest in peace old friend.

My prayers and condolences to your whole family.

Terry Harms

Terrance Harms - March 19, 2020 at 06:45 PM



Thank you, he's smiling @ your rememberances. He did no true hear praise; he does now. You honor him. If you need, ask - it is done. Sincerely Eric C Marbach (FB ~name same -I'll post a Gemini pic)

Eric Marbach - May 01, 2020 at 04:42 PM

FW

“ I met Jim for the first time at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. We were both around 14 years old and spent the next 10 years learning - six years at Central Catholic High School and four years at St. Mary's University. Jim graduated with a degree in Physics and I with a degree in Music. During those years of learning, Jim and I along with the girls we ended up marrying , would drive to Monterrey, Mexico enjoying ourselves and having fun. Then there were trips to Padre Island, New Orleans, Houston, and other places of interest. My wife and I moved to Houston in 1962 and Jim and his wife followed us a short time later. I being a pro-musician and Jim being a darn good sax and clarinet player, I made sure he was in every band/orchestra I organized. I cherish many great memories of those times.

Jim was Best Man at my wedding and he remained my Best Friend for life.

Jim, my friend, you are missed. Know that someday, I will join you in Heaven. Perhaps we can make music in Heaven.

Fred E. Wernette

Fred E. Wernette - March 18, 2020 at 03:21 PM

MK

“ I am truly saddened to hear the news about Jim. He along with his business partners Ron and Bill, sponsored my graduate work at UTHSCSA. What a generous and kind man. I always enjoyed listening to his many stories. He was a terrific guy and will be missed by many.

Michael Karaszewski

Michael Karaszewski - March 13, 2020 at 12:06 PM

MC

“ For over 50 years, I have been blessed with the friendship of Jim Marbach. This was a man who never knew a stranger, who personified the concept of friend. Physicist, healer, father, husband, musician, an accomplished man by anyone’s standards, the beauty of his soul shown through in the brightest way when he was reaching out to others, filling the room with his contagious laughter and making even the shy feel at home and appreciated. I count myself as one of the many people whose life was made better by the warmth of his smile. You will be missed, Jim. God bless you.

Mary Lou Chollar - March 12, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ Please let me know when Jim's life celebration ceremony is scheduled. Blessings, Alicia Harris Medphys@gmail.com

Alicia Harris - March 10, 2020 at 09:31 PM

LM

His memorial service will be April 24 at 2 pm at The Woodlands United Methodist Church - Rob Chapel
Thank you for asking

Linda Marbach - March 14, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Robert Marbach.



March 10, 2020 at 11:43 AM

JC

“ Jim was my big brother when we were at MD Anderson. After graduation we continue to be friends. His wonderful stories and big laughs have brightened countless days over the years. I will miss you dearly, my big brother!

Jim Chu - March 10, 2020 at 10:11 AM

LM

Jim really did love his time at MDAH and other sites he worked. It is gratifying to see how much he was respected. He cared about every person he worked with. I feel it was his gift

Linda Marbach - March 11, 2020 at 01:45 AM

JD

“ I had the privilege of working with Jim back in the early 1990s on the American Association of Physicists in Medicine's (AAPM) Task Group Report on how to manage radiation therapy patients with cardiac pacemakers. Jim was an excellent chairman, keen on getting the task accomplished thoroughly and efficiently. In the meantime, over the years, we would connect periodically at the annual AAPM meetings. I would like to express my condolences to the entire Marbach family at the loss of a very sociable and personable individual.

Jake Van Dyk - March 10, 2020 at 09:45 AM

LM

Jake I hope there is a Heaven Association of Physics in Medicine! They are all up there now doing measurements on some project. Or calibrating some equipment.

Linda Marbach - March 11, 2020 at 01:49 AM

PB

“ I first met Jim when I entered the field of medical physics at about the same time as him. We had both recently published some work on the same topic. I recall that we had animated discussions on the results and that was the beginning of a long friendship between us. We would always have time for long conversations at the annual meeting. He was a godd physicist and a wonderful person.

Peter Biggs - March 10, 2020 at 09:15 AM

LF

“ Prayers and condolences to all of the Marbach family. Jim was a wonderful medical physicist who was always willing to impart his knowledge and wisdom to anyone who asked. I feel fortunate to have known him. He will be missed.



Lynne Fairobent - March 10, 2020 at 05:57 AM

MM

“ So sad to hear this news today. Jim was a true friend and colleague to me for the past twenty years as consulting medical physicists. We shared many stories and experiences. It has been a true pleasure to count him as a friend.

Melissa Martin

Melissa C Martin - March 10, 2020 at 01:44 AM

BB

“ From the beginning of the millennium, Jim, Ron and I were business partners for the better part of 10 years. Together we built a tidy little company that thrived on hard work, quality and honesty. Even, or maybe especially, among friends things can go awry and the rift between us ended in the loss of not just the business but more importantly our friendship. Jim was the most perceptive and practical of us, we all depended on him for wise counsel, not just his knowledge of physics but also his insight with people. I don't think I have ever met anyone who was so deeply invested in the people around him. His level of empathy was simply amazing; nowhere was this more glaringly apparent than his interactions with his patients. Numbers and angles and doses aside, Jim never ever lost sight of the human aspects of our endeavors. From this I personally benefitted. Jim and Linda took me in and saw me through the roughest of patches. A decidedly generous gift for which I could never have thanked them enough and which I could never repay. Linda, I am truly sorry—Jim was a good man, one of the best, and I shall miss him.

Bill Bice - March 09, 2020 at 11:40 PM

LM

Bill this warms my heart! He always respected you & Ron both personally & professionally. He loved you both like brothers. Wish we could have done things differently. There is a plan & it worked out ok but he never stopped missing IMPS. Thank you for the memory.

Linda Marbach - March 11, 2020 at 01:57 AM

DM

“ JR was a friend, mentor, leader and humorist. Anyone who knew or worked with Jim appreciated his grounded dedication to the patient and his coworkers. 1000's of cancer patients were fortunate to have received the care he provided. Jim was lucky to have a partner in life that could bring out the best in him. Linda, you are the absolute best. I believe we will see Jim again in heaven where he is no doubt holding court, sharing his good natured outlook with those who would benefit and a laugh with all in his vicinity.

David Mellenberg - March 09, 2020 at 10:18 PM

LM

Maybe a Heaven Association of Physics in Medicine? Those guys now have every treatment plan & calibration perfect!

Linda Marbach - March 11, 2020 at 02:02 AM

CA

“ I had the chance to be his friend during our time at MDAnderson and his friend after that time
We spent a great time working an socialize together
I have indeed very found memories of this very nice and very polite human being
Linda, my warmest condolence
Carlos E de Almeida

Carlos E de Almeida - March 09, 2020 at 08:38 PM

LM

So happy to hear from you. Jim had the greatest respect & live for you. Some pretty good stories too.

Linda Marbach - March 11, 2020 at 02:05 AM



Rhonda
Holloway

“ *My family met Jimmy when I was 10 years old. One year later Greg was born and every day after that I was next door to be with what everyone called my first baby. Then came the second one Eric and then my third Laura. I babysat and we did a lot of family things all together.*

Then broken hearted they moved to Austin.

Thru the years we have kept in touch.

What wonderful memories I hold in my heart for the Marbach family.

Bless you Linda for take care of this wonderful family.

Rhonda Holloway - March 08, 2020 at 03:15 PM

BP

I met Jim when I was going through a momentous change in my life. I had given up on my career in basic physics and discovered "medical physics". I joined the MS program in medical physics at San Antonio although I already had a PhD and was working. When Jim found out about my situation, he told me his story. He was so empathetic and that meant a lot to me. Jim was the most friendly and gregarious person I have ever met. He was gracious even when he was in disagreement with people. Thanks Jim for your encouragement and empathy when I most needed it. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

Baldev Patyal

Baldev Patyal - March 10, 2020 at 12:16 PM