



James Frederick Hiatt

January 9, 2021

James F. (Jim) Hiatt, 68, of Lithia Springs, passed away January 9, 2021. A native of Atlanta, Jim graduated from Briarcliff High School and Georgia State University. Jim worked for HiFiBuys/Tweeter Insurance Replacement for 20 years. After he left HiFiBuys he began substitute teaching in the Douglas County School System, which he truly loved. He loved working with children.

An ASA/USA umpire for more than 30 years, he was devoted to ASA/USA Softball as well as the Southern Collegiate Umpires Association for college ball. He was also active in the North Georgia Amateur Umpire Association, (NGAUA) having served as President and Board Member for many years. He could be seen at many tournaments in the Cobb and Cherokee area. He served on the State Staff for USA Softball of Georgia as State Training Coordinator for more than 10 years and as Zone 5 Umpire in Chief for the past 3 years. Jim was inducted into the USA Softball of Georgia Hall of Honor in 2015, he umpired more than 20 ASA/USA National Championships, he was an ASA Elite Umpire and ISF in Modified Pitch, a member of the National Indicator Fraternity, and a Gold level member of the ASA/USA Medals Program. He served as Umpire In Chief or Assistant Umpire in Chief for several National Championships. Most recently he served as Umpire Coordinator for the 2019 and 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic Cup. He served on the planning committee for the 2019 and 2021 National UIC Clinic for USA Softball.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Frederick Hiatt and Nonna S Rivers. He is survived by his wife Cathy (Cheek) Hiatt, son, Matthew, daughter and son-in-law Michelle and Terry R. (TJ) Bowen, beloved grandsons Terrance and Tyson Bowen, and brother Steve Hiatt.

Due to COVID concerns, there will be no visitation or memorial service. A graveside service for family will be held on Sunday, January 17th at 1 pm at Sunrise Memorial Gardens in Douglasville, Georgia. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to:

Communities In School of Douglas County-

a organization that surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Mailing address:

PO Box 1077

Douglasville, Ga 30133

Cemetery

Events

Sunrise Memorial Gardens JAN

3721 E Bankhead Hwy.

Douglasville, GA, 30134

17

Graveside Service

01:00PM

Sunrise Memorial Gardens

3721 E Bankhead Hwy., Douglasville, GA, US, 30134

Comments



“ Condolences to the family. Only worked a few games with Jim umpiring softball, but always a delight seeing him at sectionals back in the day and calling with him.

Jay Smith - February 04 at 10:26 AM



“ My family and I send our condolences to Jim's family. We will keep you in our prayers.

Iris Hawkins



Iris Hawkins - January 16 at 06:01 PM



“ The entire Jones family are praying for you and yours. When I had an umpiring question he was on my list to call. He would usually quote chapter and verse; give me several game situations; and then ask, “Makes sense?” He will be missed.

Stuart Jones



Stuart Jones - January 15 at 11:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Frederick Hiatt.



January 15 at 11:20 AM



“ Momma Cathy,

We are so sorry for your loss! Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, Matthew, Michelle, TJ and the boys.

Laura, TJ and Tripp Porche



Laura Porche - January 15 at 11:12 AM



“ Jim was a great friend, He was always concerned about my well-being and my family.

He put family first then we would talk softball.

Jim was someone I could always go to for advice and get help if I needed it. He was always a phone call away.

I remember one time I was struggling with my low strike zone, and he said ":First of all "there is no low strike zone" then he said "make sure you are in a good stance, track the ball all the way and see the ball to the glove, then make the call. It worked. He had a way of making things simple.

I'm going to miss his wonderful smile, his friendship, and his desire to always be there to help everyone, anyway he could.

Prayers go out to the family.

Love, Wayne

Wayne Howard - January 14 at 11:00 AM



“ Cathy,
So sorry for your loss. Praying for your comfort and peace.

God bless,
Scott Cook

Scott Cook - January 14 at 10:18 AM



“ Richard Shaffer

I only knew Jim for a short period of time while umpiring. The last time I talked with him was at the showcase tournament at Lost Mountain and we talked for about an hour. I was told some very interesting stories about his umpiring career and I could tell he absolutely loved umpiring. He told me he would give anything if he could umpire that day. He was a very nice and interesting person. My thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family as they go through this difficult time. RIP Jim



Richard Shaffer - January 14 at 09:33 AM



“ Jim was a good friend that would help anyway he could. He was always my go to guy if I didn't know the answers to a play on the softball field. I remember him inviting me to go to Florida for a showcase. I asked him if he would watch me and help me get better. It was like throwing him a big steak. He critiqued 19 ball games I umpired. In the end I had more training from that one tournament than I have ever had. We left to come back home tired and happy. He got to teach and I got to learn.

I will miss my mentor, my teacher, but most of all my friend.

Prayers go out to the family and friends.

Scott McNinch - January 14 at 09:29 AM



“ It is sad to learn of Jim's passing. I got to know Jim through my affiliation with NGAUA. Jim was a delightful, personable, friendly, talented man who was inspirational and enjoyed instructing the NGAUA umpires. It was an honor to have met and work with Jim in the brotherhood of NGAUA. He will sorely be missed by all. My heartfelt condolences to the Hiatt family. RIP my friend.
Michael DeCilla

Michael DeCilla - January 14 at 09:03 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Jim’s passing and my prayers go out to you and his family. My wife and I have known Jim for many years and have so many fond memories of seeing him at the fields. When we were coaching we were always happy when he would do our games as we knew he would do them with pride and integrity. When I took up umpiring he was one of the first to welcome me to the group and was always there with kind words and encouragement. He will be sorely missed.

Kirby Donnelly - January 13 at 10:29 PM



“ I find myself still in shock from the announcement of Jim's passing. For the past three years, he has been a real true mentor and fellow Umpire friend. He was my partner on my first post season assignment and I am so glad he was. He was always talking and teaching and I was always listening and learning. I kept him informed of my games and invited him to come and critique me and he was at my last three high school games with lots of good things to say and more things on which to improve. I owe so much to Jim and will always remember his greeting to me with a slight smile, as he would say, "Hello, Ray." To that I say, "Goodbye Jim." You will be missed, but we all should find comfort in the fact that, "Christians Never Say Goodbye or The Last Time!"

Ray McClure

Ray McClure - January 13 at 10:03 PM



“ I’ve been contemplating what to say and think about such a sudden and devastating passing to truly capture what Jim Hiatt meant to me and my career as an umpire. I’m not sure the words exist as he was such a powerful voice of guidance and support every time a took the field for another round of umpiring. He always was right there quizzing me and trying to make me better and ensure I lived up to the potential he saw in me. I am truly devastated at this news and my thoughts and prayers are with his immediate family as well as those in the umpiring community who knew him and were affected for the better by his love and guidance.

Jim you will be missed very dearly! I love you boss and thank you so much for everything. And as Steve Marcus so eloquently put it...I’m thrilled to know that your knees are hurting no longer!

Love ya bud! Rest In Peace Jim



Stephen Lombard - January 13 at 09:23 PM



“ I pray God’s peace will be with you in this difficult time. Jim was my friend and mentor. We umpired many games together. He encouraged me and gave me many opportunity’s to umpire higher level tournaments. I always enjoyed our many conversations and he will be missed in our softball world. He was a great man and I’m so grateful to have called him my friend.

Donnie Priest

Donnie Priest - January 13 at 08:22 PM



“ Words cannot express my deepest sympathy for you and your family. Jim made me what I am today as an umpire - he would never take I can't for an answer from me. I will miss our almost weekly and sometimes more chats and text conversations and looking up from the field to find him standing there after traveling many miles just because he knew where I was umpiring that day for support and knowledge. No one cared more about your success both on and off the field than Jim did. I will treasure and carry his influence on my life with me for the rest of mine.

Rana Smith

Rana - January 13 at 08:20 PM



“ Cathy, very sorry to hear about jim and have many fond memories of our travels to umpire college softball games. What a great man and always enjoyed time spent with him. Will keep him in my prayers as well as you and the family.

Fred Puryear

Fred Puryear - January 13 at 08:04 PM



“ Jim was a beloved mentor and friend. I'd always feel better after a chat with him. I sure am going to miss his smile.

Michael "Ski" Plochinski

Michael - January 13 at 08:01 PM



“ Our Heartfelt Condolences to The Hlett Family Jim always invited us to Atlanta United games never asked for anything in return was always a joy to be around He always wanted to help umpires get better Loved his friendship
Brad Brenda and Cam Westerman

Brad Westerman - January 13 at 07:41 PM



“ Kathy (Grandma), I am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful husband. Thoughts and prayers for you and all the family.

Kathy LeJeune
MEAG Power

Kathy LeJeune - January 13 at 07:36 PM



“ Kathy, You and your beautiful family are in hearts and prayers. Jim and I have been remembering the good times we had together at Lithia Springs United Methodist Church. It doesn't really seem so many years ago yet it is. May you find strength in the love of God. Carol and Jim MOORE

Carol Moore - January 13 at 05:24 PM



“ Cathy,

I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and the family.

Cathy VanHeirseele
MEAG Power

Cathy - January 13 at 10:39 AM



“ Kathy, our sadness and prayers go out to you and the family, we have know Jim for a long time and his umpiring knowledge and his love for umpiring. Do as Jim would have told a young umpire when he made a mistake, "There will brighter days ahead".

Bob & Lila Earwood

Bob Earwood - January 12 at 05:39 PM



“ Cathy, Michelle, Matthew, TJ, and boys, Corliss and I are heartbroken at your loss. Your husband, father, and grandfather was taken from you much too soon. Our prayers are with you at this time. Take comfort in your memories, each other, and the knowledge that Jim is in heaven enjoying the fullness of God's grace.

Merwin & Corliss Chambers

Merwin Chambers - January 12 at 05:28 PM



“ My prayers go out to Cathy and the rest of Jim's family as they deal with the sudden loss of their loved one.
I met Jim 23 years ago and he is a main driving force that has made me the umpire that I am today and I thank him for that.
Jim will be greatly missed by all.

Jim Rollins
NGAUA

Jim Rollins - January 12 at 05:13 PM



“ Thank you for your leadership, friendship and welcoming so many of us into the Umpire world.
Our prayers are with your family and friends.. In Jesus name.. Amen.

Buster

James "Buster" Hickam - January 12 at 03:50 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I enjoyed umpiring with him. You are all in my prayers.
Donnie



Donald "Donnie" Newsom - January 12 at 03:49 PM



“ Condolences to Jim’s family, as well as wishes for a fast and complete recovery to those battling COVID-19.

It was such a joy to spend time with Jim these past two years at the JO Cup. What a wonderful person to be around and listen to. He will be greatly missed, and softball events will not be the same without him.

Diana Welch - January 12 at 01:54 PM



“ It has been my pleasure to have known and umpired with Jim for the past twenty years and he was always a pleasure to be around. My condolences and prayers.

Mike Bush - January 12 at 01:40 PM



“ Cathy,

My thoughts and prayers, along with hundreds of of umpires whose lives Jim touched, are with you.

His knees hurt no longer :)

Steve Marcus

Steve Marcus - January 12 at 01:16 PM



“ Cathy,

Our prayers are with you and all of your family. Lean on each other for support.

Tim and Paige Turner

Tim Turner - January 12 at 09:24 AM



“ Words don't come easy but know that my Prayers are with you all in these troubled times.

Neal Riley

Neal M. Riley - January 12 at 08:11 AM



“ Dear Hiatt Family,
I met Mr. Hiatt just 9 short weeks ago. He had been the long term sub for class I was hired to teach. From the first day, I could see the love he had for the students. We had many wonderful conversations and I considered him a friend. I was so sorry to hear of his passing. He will be sorely missed. My love and prayers are with you.

Rae Dotson

Rae Dotson - January 11 at 10:13 PM



“ Cathy,

I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.

Lisa Mitchell
MEAG Power



Lisa Mitchell - January 11 at 03:05 PM



“ Cathy,

David and I were so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I will be praying for you, Michelle and Matthew in the coming days. I have good memories of Jim at our Christmas parties back in the day!

David and Michelle Weekly

Michelle Weekley - January 11 at 02:55 PM



“ 23 files added to the album LifeTributes



Davis-Struempf Funeral Home & Crematory - January 11 at 02:53 PM



“ My sincere condolences and prayers of comfort to Jim's family. I never got to meet Cathy or Jim's children. I did get to spend time with Jim at several umpire camps in TN and GA. Jim was always ready to help and professional in all that he did. He will be missed.

Ed Clark

Knoxville TN

College Assignor

Ed Clark - January 12 at 01:36 PM



“ Cathy,

Words can not begin to properly express the sadness we all feel in the passing of Jim. Like many others have and will express, Jim was a wonderful, knowledgeable, and truly "good" guy to work with and to know on a personal level.

Jim will definitely be missed, on and off the ball field.

From Beth and myself, prayers and condolences to you and the entire family.

Newton Babb

NEWTON BABB - January 12 at 02:01 PM



“ Our prayers to go out to your family. My wife and I both umpired with Jim and he will certainly be missed both as an umpire and as a person. We are deeply saddened by his passing.

Frank and Glenda Holcomb

Frank Holcomb - January 12 at 08:51 PM



“ Cathy & Family,

Our prayers go out to you for the loss that you have suffered.

Those of us that have spent so many days, nights and weekends on the softball field with Jim over the past twenty years will miss him greatly. Having been his room mate on multiple occasions I surely will miss the dry wit and crazy sense of humor that he always shared with all of us. God Bless you and your Family.

John LaRue

John LaRue - January 13 at 07:21 PM



“ Cathy, my sincere condolences to you and the whole family. Jim will be dearly missed by many many people. It was my pleasure to meet him at Michele and TJ's wedding. That's when I got to know how good of a person he was and what kind of people your family is. Rest In Peace Jim. God has called you home. God Bless you and your family.

Gods Love

Mike Moon

M.Moon - January 15 at 07:27 PM