



James A Björnsen
"Jim"

November 3, 1944 – February 18, 2016

James "Jim" A. Bjornsen

James was born on November 3rd, 1944 to parents Alfred and Diane "Bernice" Bjornsen, in Sacramento, California. He was the younger brother to Kay Inks.

Jim grew up in the Curtis Park area and attended Sierra School and California Junior High. Graduated from McClatchy High School in 1962. Then attended Sacramento State and received his bachelor's degree in business. Jim excelled in the world of "numbers" and went into a lengthy and successful career involving accounting.

Jim started his career in the early 70's as an auditor working for the Department of Interior, Inspector General Office, Western Region. During Jim's stay with the Inspector General Office, he achieved the title of Auditor-In-Charge. Here Jim managed audits ranging from a few man days to hundreds of man days, and covered the Interior ten western states plus Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam.

In the early 80's, Jim transferred from the Inspector General's Office to the Department Of Interior, Bureau Of Reclamation, Western Region Department of Finance. Here he was the special assistance to the Chief of Finance. Jim was soon promoted to Chief of the Department of Finance Cost and Repayment Section.

Jim was responsible for overseeing the repayment of all of the Department of Interior Western Region water projects, as well as establishing water rates for the Western Region agriculture water. During Jim's time at the Bureau of Reclamation he received many outstanding awards for his efforts in setting these water rates.



How fortunate we are for being able to call this great man "our dad." Our dad was calm, quiet, good to his core and happy to simply be around his friends and family. Jim still looked like a child himself when he became a father to Shawnté at the age of 32 and then to Barry at 34. What a proud father he was even with his two goofy looking brown babies! He often described baby Shawnté as not so cute... Kind of like a skinny little rat but oh my goodness how he loved her! Father and Daughter, these two had a very unique bond. They very much lived their lives on the same wave length, often thinking and feeling things that only the two of them could understand and half the time they didn't actually understand, but that was ok because each knew that the other one lived and breathed the same way. Never has a man felt so much pride in his daughter, never has a daughter had such a grounding man for a father. Barry was his big bowling ball headed boy who had a natural charisma and happiness that our dad envied so much. Under the intense training of his dad, Barry had abs of steel and bulging biceps before he could walk. Ok, not really... But our dad took great pride in developing Barry's innate athletic abilities and loved watching him not only participate but also be the star in every sport or game he was willing to try. Our dad was so fascinated with our mom's impact on a room any time she walked into one and when he realized his only son had that same impact, that people were naturally drawn to him because of something special they could sense in him, just...wow! What an incredible thing for our dad to have had two of those people right by his side in life. A solid man who lived true to his beliefs, he taught us the importance of a disciplined lifestyle. Family, friends, honesty, hard work... These were his key ingredients to having a happy and successful life. Yes, he loved his cars and staying on top of his fitness game but at the end of the day it was his family and friends that brought him more joy in life than he ever could have imagined.

I ♥ U PAPA

Papa,
You were the world's greatest
Papa. I'll always remember
those times when you'd take me
out and buy me donuts and
come home. I'll remember
those times when you'd
take me to the gym and I'll always
remember that you
inspired me to be an adult.
You made me want to do what
you did and make me want to
be a professional. You were the
greatest of all Papis to make
me who I am today.
Love,
Shawnté

It Almost Didn't Happen

In 1967, Jim and I didn't know it, but we were about to meet the "love of our lives." You see, we were both going on our first "blind date" EVER!!!

Jim's Buddy Steve, who had been dating one of my younger sisters, Esther, set up the date. We were going to a drive-in movie. When Jim and Steve arrived at my mom's house, they waited for us in the living room. Of course, we were still getting ready.

In the meantime, I got "cold feet" and "chickened out"! I just couldn't do it. I asked my sister to go out there and tell Jim I was sorry, but I had changed my mind. She replied, "I'm not going to tell him...**YOU** go out there and tell him!" Then she left the room to meet the guys in the living room.

She came back to my bedroom and wanted to know what I was going to do. I asked her what "he" looked like. She proceeded to describe Jim as: tanned, blondish hair, super skinny, has a beard, he's wearing pegged black jeans, and wearing Beatle Boots. "Are you kidding me... Beatle Boots!!!!"

I thought the evening was going to be awkward, and I thought we probably wouldn't have anything to talk about. So, I made up my mind. I'm going out there to let him know I'm sorry, but I decided not to go out with him.

When I walked into the living room, this handsome skinny, bearded tanned guy, wearing a green and yellow pin striped t-shirt, black pegged jeans, and Beatle boots, he stood up, and looked at me in a way I had never been looked at before. I must have looked at him the same way, because at moment, I knew this was the guy I was going to marry! How weird was that!! I never believed in Love at First Sight, until I laid eyes on my Jim.

While we were dating, he sent flowers to my house.... I was so excited. But to my surprise...The flowers were for my Mom! The card read: "Thank you for having such a beautiful daughter, Love Jim." What a class act!!! We went "steady" for a year, and were engaged for a year before we were married on June 21st, 1969.

We waited almost 8 years before having children. Jim wanted to be sure we were financially ready (typical Jim, right?), so I could be a stay at home mom, to raise our kids. When we found out I was pregnant, Jim went out and bought a darling shirt that read on the front "Hooray I'm Pregnant." We were both so happy. I wore that shirt to work with pride the next day. What a joyous day, September 11th, 1976 was for us for our beautiful little daughter, Shawnté Reneé was born. Jim was so proud to be a father, and immediately started calling everyone to share the news. OMG....19 months later our son, Barry James was born on April 3, 1978. Talk about Jim being a proud Father...He was over the moon, holding his son in his arms! He now had a son to carry on the Bjornsen name. Jim was a wonderful father, to our kids, just couldn't love them more.

What a wonderful and blessed life Jim and I shared together. So much joy, laughter, friendship, understanding. I truly miss his sweet smile, his loving eyes, his kind demeanor, and how he loved to cuddle. In our 46½ years of marriage, I can honestly say, My Jim woke up every morning in such a pleasant mood, and with a big kiss for me.

With sadness and a broken heart, the time has come for me, to bid farewell to "The Love Of My Life,."

Till we meet again. Your devoted wife Rosie. I'll love you forever.

Jim is survived by wife Rosie, daughter Shawnté, son Barry, sister Kay, son-in-law Justin, granddaughter Lola and grandson Brady. He has left behind more friends and extended family than we could possibly mention, but we love you all and know he will be so very missed.

Jimmy,
I love you.
Rick

Papa was kind.
He cleaned the pool.
He likes to snuggle.
He made Papa eggs.
He was the best.
I love you, Papa.

Love,
Brady