



## Dr. James R. Howard

July 14, 1946 - April 20, 2019

Dr. James Ray Howard, DDS, MS, of Holland, Michigan, unexpectedly and far too soon joins his friends and family in the ever-lasting light of the Lord. He passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2019 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital. He graduated from Michigan State University, University of Detroit Dental School and Northwestern University Specialty Degree of Endodontics, and served as President of E.D. Coolidge Endodontic Study Club and Certified Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. Jim taught as Endodontic Instructor at Northwestern University for twenty years and maintained private and specialty practice for forty-one years. Jim is preceded by his parents, Vella and Ray Howard and in-laws, June and Joe Van Alten, affectionately remembered by his wife, Debra Van Alten Howard, brother Thomas and Constance Howard, immediate family Rebecca and Mauricio Ulloa, Brian and Ashley Howard and Christine Kaminski, grandchildren Rowan, Jade, Nicholas and Sean and his extended family, friends and peers. All will be welcomed at the Visitation on Friday, May third, from 4:00 – 7:00p.m. at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St., Holland. Memorial Donations are encouraged for The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Al-Van Humane Society. To leave a condolence and more information, please visit [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. James R. Howard*

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August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"As we near the one year mark of Jim's death, great memories come to me. I'm looking at all my old photos and came across our bike trip photos and the "czar's reflections/notes". What a beautiful role Jim played in making these excursions so much fun -- and being the voice of reason! What a wonderful friend. I also found my Nevis photos and recalled that Jim had faith in me that I could scuba dive and he made sure on the ascent I didn't hit my head on the bottom of the boat! He cared. I think that was one of Jim's sterling characteristics- he saw the best in humankind. To Debbie and family, my love to you as you think about your loss and relish your memories. God's blessings and love to you. Skippy"*

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**A friend** - April 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Debbie, please accept our condolences on the loss of your dear husband. He has been in our prayers (post-it on our computer) since entering Cleveland Clinic. Thinking about him at tulip time, we were surprised to see the wake was 2 days ago. We will always remember Jim fondly from Coolidge and Northwestern. His presence lit a room like sunshine and he was a true professional as well."*

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**Taisa and Andy Browar** - May 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KB

“Dear Deb and family, our hearts go out to you. Sending our deepest sympathies and prayers. So very sorry to hear this news. A great man.”

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**Ken and Patti Bing** - April 30, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“Dear Debbie and Family, Jim was always a thoughtful, loving friend- sailing, bicycling, diving, great conversations- wonderful memories . Deepest sympathy. Skippy”

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**A friend** - April 28, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JK

“Jim was great person, wonderful friend to travel with. No trip to Nevis will ever be the same without him as our guide. He was a highly skilled endodontist and a real people person that everyone loved. Losing him will leave big void in our hearts. We can only try to fill it with memories. Our prayers are with you Debbie.”

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**Jackie and Kevin King** - April 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RH

“So sorry for the loss of Jim. He was always such a happy person. I believe he truly enjoyed life. I remember visiting with he and Tom along with their parents when they would all come to the Justus reunion or to see Grandma Hattie. He will be missed. Our prayers are with you”

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**Roger Helms** - April 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RI

“So sorry to learn about your loss. Nancy and I always enjoyed Jim and Tom coming to visit Grandma and Grandpa Justus in Smithville. Please know you and your family are in our prayers.”

Rita - April 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

NE

“Debbie and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you. I always enjoyed the summer visits that Jim, Tom, and their parents made to our grandparents' house in Smithville, Arkansas. My sister Rita and I thought our cousins were so handsome, and we were proud to show them off. I always recall what Jim asked me one time. Our little town was tiny compared to where he lived. He asked, "What do you guys do down here anyway?" Jim and Tom made sure we had fun during their visits exploring the countryside and going to the creek.”

Nancy Justus Elliott - April 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RL

“Debbie, Becky and Brian...I was so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing....He was always such a fun loving guy....I always enjoyed visiting with him . He was always smiling...Please know that Stephen and I are praying for you at this time.....Rendy and Stephen Lightfoot”

Rendy Lightfoot - April 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JP

“Debbie and family: So very sorry to learn of Jim's passing. My prayers and sympathy are extended to you as I reflect on how he was loved by his family, patients and friends.”

JERRY PFEIFFLE - April 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CS

“Debbie, Becky, Brian & family, I am so heartbroken for all you. Dr. H. was a wonderful friend, boss & lover of books. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I will keep all of the wonderful memories of him in my heart and of course I will think of him every time I step into the office. You are all in my prayers. With Love,  
Carmen”

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**Carmen Surber** - April 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM