



James G. Timmermann

James Gerard Timmermann, loving husband, father, brother, friend, and devoted newspaper man died Sunday, October 25, at home after experiencing complications following bone marrow transplant for myelodysplastic syndrome. Jim was born in Breese, Illinois, on February 3, 1959, to Jeanne (Hitchcock) and Vernon Timmermann. Jim grew up in Granada Hills, California, attending St. John Baptist de la Salle grade school and Kennedy High. He is a 1981 graduate of Pomona College and a 1985 Jeopardy champion. Journalism was Jim's calling, and he began his career as the sole editor and reporter for the Sun Valley Scene and Montrose Record-Ledger for American Publishing in Tujunga, California. He then moved on to business reporting and editorial roles at The Daily Commerce in Los Angeles and The Pasadena Star-News in California. After marriage, Jim left California as a trailing spouse, bought his first winter coat, and became a news editor with The Ithaca Journal in upstate New York. He moved to Michigan and joined The Holland Sentinel in 1994 and became Managing Editor in 1997. In 2000 the paper won the Michigan Press Association's General Excellence Award as the best overall publication in its circulation category. He was most recently the Opinion Page Editor and was honored in that role with several awards from the Michigan Press Association and The Associated Press, including best editorial in its circulation category in the 2011 Michigan AP contest. Jim was known for his fine writing and editorial judgment and love of information. He was a devoted father, a volunteer with a passion for education and human

rights, and a Dodgers fan, who in college had his dream job as an usher at Dodger Stadium. He was a member of St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council, played Pharisee #2 in the parish's Via Crucis, and sang loudly and napped freely in church. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Sanford and children, Daniel, Kevin, Eleanor and Evelyn, all of Holland; brothers Michael (June Okamoto) of Torrance, California, Thomas (Carol Needham, niece Genevieve) of Clayton, Missouri, and Robert (Lori Buchanan) of Tujunga, California, sister-in-law Rebecca Sanford of Wareham, Massachusetts and his "little brother" Victor Rodriguez of Holland. Cremation has taken place and a Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. on Nov. 20 (visitation at 1 p.m., reception to follow) at St. Francis de Sales Church in Holland. Interment will be at Agawam Cemetery in Wareham, Massachusetts. Memorials may be made to the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Be The Match or Amnesty International.

Tribute Wall



“ *James G. Timmermann*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"I spent early years with Jim at St. John the Baptist De La Salle school. I knew him as the ultimate curve buster. He is a friend I have often wondered where Jims life led him He was always top tier of every class we shared. I am very happy to learn he lived a full, but much too short a life with a large loving family and a successful career doing what he loved. I am sorry I've only learned of his passing today. I read about it on Facebook due to our upcoming forty year high school reunion. I felt compelled to write this first to express my sorrow, but also for you his family to know the impact he had on someone whom he knew fifty years ago. I'm very sorry for your loss but know you must also be somewhat comforted to be able to revel in the knowledge of his positive impact on this world we all share. God Bless Jim, you, his family and friends."*

Tom Catalano - September 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Rest In Peace. Didn't know you well at JFK, but well enough to say you were a good guy."*

Anonymous Classmate - September 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I was in the same class at JFK High with Jim. Knew him through mutual friends. He was a good guy. I'm sorry to read of his passing. My condolences to his family. Rest In Peace."*

A friend - September 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ *" So sorry for your loss,you are in our prayers"*

Deirdre - November 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *"I am so sorry for your loss. As a new Pomona College grad, I was a stringer with the Pasadena Star-News. I still have two original articles that Business Editor Jim assigned to me, one about the new Lotto and the other about Avon. To this day, I can clearly remember Jim editing my drafts in the newsroom, asking me questions and making sure I had a balanced article with several viewpoints. I knew then that I was lucky to be mentored by one of the best newspaper writers/editors, and am not surprised he went on to be an award-winning journalist and editor. My dad, who still works in Pasadena, remembered Jim also and clipped his beautifully written obit for me. Thank you for sharing so much about Jim with us (go Dodgers, Chirp!)"*

Sheri Palermo Woodburn - November 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *"My thoughts and prayers are with Jim's family. I was honored to know him on a professional basis while working for Zeeland Public Schools. Thanks, Jim, for carrying that big responsibility with dignity and grace."*

Jim Camenga - November 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AH

“I only knew Jim as the Opinion Page Editor for the Holland Sentinel, but I had the utmost respect for him. Jim pushed me for about a year to write a monthly column and worked with me on all of my submissions, before and after the column. I truly believe that he ran a clean and fair Op/Ed page and the proof comes from the readers themselves. I don't know how to balance an Op/Ed page any better than to have Liberals accusing you of being overly conservative and Conservatives accusing you of being overly liberal, yet that is exactly what happened at the Holland Sentinel during Jim's tenure. Fair well my friend. May God bless your loved ones with comfort and strength.”

Alan Helvig - November 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NB

“My family would have never moved from Chicago had it not been for Jim. He was a great mentor and a very committed Holland resident. It is a big loss for our community. Elizabeth, we are praying for your family.
Love,
The Bickel Family”

Nardy Bickel - November 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EN

“Sorry for your loss our Prayers are with all of you! God Bless”

Enrique - October 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“Such a fair, delightful, honorable man to know and enjoy. I first met him as a tenor in the St. Francis de Sales choir;but I "knew" him as well by reading thefair, unbiased, informative editorials he wrote for the Holland Sentinel. Gentle, witty and sophisticated in onepersonality. He will be missed by so many. RIP”

Tom Smith - October 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BT

“What a wonderfully eloquent tribute to my cousin, Jim. I remember going to a Dodger's game as a young child, and Jim had his scorecard. Even at an early age, Jim was a true Dodger and sports fan. I only wish I had gotten to know him better. Our family has your family in our thoughts and prayers. Bill Timmermann, Litchfield IL”

Bill Timmermann - October 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ST

“I have very fond memories of Jim and his younger brothers all racing to jump into Uncle Vernon's arms when he came home from work. Jim and the boys were the light of Vernon's and Jean's lives. A wonderful family!”

Sherri Timmermann - October 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM