



James Brian Phelps

January 15, 1968 - March 27, 2013

To his family and friends, Jim passed all too soon on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 45 years old in Mesa Arizona. He was born in Hammond, Indiana on January 15th, 1968 to Roy and Carolyn Phelps. Siblings include older brother David and younger sister Sherri. It was reported that the first time Sherri saw Jim she cried and Jim at 23 months said, "Oh, her cry, poor Sherri." The family moved to Mesa, Arizona when he was 10 years old. He was an honor roll student and graduated Mesa High in 1986. Jim married Kimberly June Betz of Mesa, Arizona on December 15, 1996 and they continued to reside in Mesa.

As an avid coin collector, Jim was a guest writer for Celator Coin Magazine and a member of the American Numismatic Association (coin Collecting). He enjoyed ancient antiquities, exercising by doing Shao Lin Kung Fu, and had a passion for genealogy. Jim volunteered at Friends for Life, fostered kittens, and served as Medical Director for a short time. Musically, Jim enjoyed playing the guitar and keyboard instruments. Jim took pleasure from all types of music but had a love for Trop Rock, Jimmy Buffett style.

Jim had a strong commitment to organ donation, including the gift of a kidney for his father. Jim's wishes were honored by providing further organ donation after his death.

Jim had a wide variety of uncommon talents. Jobs as a youth included selling

balloons at parades and swap markets, and working as Putt-Putt the Dragon at Golfland in Mesa. After high school he went into detailing (drafting). When one of his companies lost the computer technician, all IT questions were sent to Jim. He soon became the computer support and internet security specialist.

Jim's love for performance magic and for Kim began when he attended one of her large illusion shows. Jim and Kim especially enjoyed performing magic together for several years.

Jim is survived by his wife, Kimberly Phelps, parents Roy and Carolyn Phelps, sister Sherri Phelps, and many loving family members. Jim was preceded in death by his brother David, grandparents Harold and Cecelia Boggs, and Orville Alva and Gladys Beulah Johnson.

Jim will be remembered with a Celebration of Life gathering on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 2:00 PM, at First Methodist Church of Gilbert, 331 S Cooper, Gilbert, AZ. Local services will be held in Indiana at a later date. Jim's family wishes to extend thanks for the support of family, friends and church family.

Tribute Wall



“ Rose Hill Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Brian Phelps



Affordable Cremation & Burial Chapel - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IV

“ Kim, Uncle Roy, and Aunt Carolyn,
I will never forget going to Arizona and meeting all of you. I remember seeing the card tricks and getting to play with some of the foster kittens. Those are very special memories that I will never forget, although I wish I could have made even more. I just want you to know that my love and prayers are and will be with you.
-Ivanna

Ivanna - April 14, 2013 at 12:07 AM

PB

“ To Kim and the whole family, we share in the sadness of your loss, and were so sorry to hear about Jim. Please know you will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Sending lots of love, Paula Betz,, and for Tim, Caleb and Joshua as well.

Paula Betz - April 12, 2013 at 07:00 PM

JJ

“ Didn't really know Jim as well as I wanted to know but what I did know of him all I can say is this last week and a half I've really missed him and just how soft spoken and kind he was. We will truly miss him at all of the family gatherings etc

JJ

Jeff Jackson - April 12, 2013 at 06:35 PM

EE

“ We remember our Grand Canyon trip, Jim stayed by me the whole way down and listened to me complain the whole time. .. Eric had had all he could take of my "It's so steep, my feet hurt" crap that he went way ahead... but Jim was so super nice to me. I also remember our river rafting trip, Jim and Kim made-out in the back of the bus like the whole time.... cute cute love birds. We have many more memories, and pray for peace for all of you. Love to all of you!
Eric and JoAn Ellsworth

Eric and JoAn Ellsworth - April 11, 2013 at 05:09 PM

DH

“ roy, carolyn, sherri,
our hearts and prayers go out to you. we love all of you! my first remembrance of Jim was when we moved in across the street from you so many years ago. From day 1 Jamie and Nicole have loved you and loved marching across the street to see you. At first Jim was not sure what to do with these 2 little people who were constantly at his house but he grew to be so good to them and so good with them. And even though those two little girls grew up to be young women he remained very good to them. We all appreciated and loved him. May God bring you great comfort now and in the days ahead!
love Tracy, Debra, Jamie, Kody, Nicole

debra hillman - April 10, 2013 at 06:25 PM

JD

“ Kim, It's so hard to walk in to Tri-City and not see your warm smiling face :>(. My thoughts have been with you every day since I learned of Jim's death. I didn't know him well, but I knew from all you said you shared a special love. You seemd to not only be husband and wife but best friends and that is very rare. You should have had so much more time together. I love what Marilyn wrote. That's a good way to think of him. Up there with all your feline children brought together with their Dad to look over them again.
I hope you're taking care of yourself. I love you! Judy



Judy Dhuse - April 09, 2013 at 12:42 PM

EM

“ Jim was a compassionate man and is truly showed when he was taking care of his foster kittens or working at a cat show with his wife Kim. He was always friendly and warm to everyone he met. I will never forget how nice he was to me, even though we never became really close friends. He will be missed by many, but never forgotten.
Eleanor Maloney



Eleanor Maloney - April 09, 2013 at 12:07 PM

KD

“ I remember during Sam's cat behavior class, I got props from Jim for demonstrating good cat behavior. Made me smile. Good, decent guy gone way too soon.

Kathy Dunham - April 08, 2013 at 11:55 PM

JC

“ Jim was a great guy. I've been friends with Jim for about 20 years or so and EVERYTIME I saw him he had a smile on his face. Always cracked me up with his Jimmy Buffet concert stories. He was a quiet guy but if you knew him he was a great friend. Jim my friend, you are already missed. I'm sure you are in a better place watching over us all.

My families thought and prayers are with the entire Phelps and Betz families. God bless...

John Chacon

John Chacon - April 08, 2013 at 11:46 PM

PA

“ My first memory of Jim was the day he decided to take over my computer from the Phx Schuff Plant and me at the Gilbert Plant. No one told me he could do that so I thought there was a problem with my computer until till he called to let me know who he was it was kind of joke from then on. He once surprised me with a cat under my desk that he had rescued. Jim was one of the kindessws people I knew. My prayers are with his family.



Penni Arnold

Penni Arnold - April 08, 2013 at 10:43 PM

 Paul Raia

“ Although I never met Jim, I know that Friends for Life and the rescue community has suffered a great loss and will not be the same without him. My prayers and sympathy go out to his family and friends.

Paul Raia - April 08, 2013 at 08:59 PM



Charles Patton

“ Thank you for helping Friends for Life with so many projects over the years. You will be sorely missed. Charles Patton.

Charles Patton - April 08, 2013 at 08:36 PM

SA

“ I remember that every time Jim dropped off foster kitties before he left he gave each of them a little kiss - such a sweet man - so sorry for your loss Kim.
Sharon Andreas

Sharon Andreas - April 08, 2013 at 08:35 PM

MH

“ Kim,
I saw the post about Jim and was quite shocked. My thoughts and prayers for you as you cope with losing him. He was such a gentle, kind man and seemed the perfect man for you to share life with. He will be looking after all the kitties that have gone over the Rainbow Bridge. Marilyn Hutchings

Marilyn Hutchings - April 08, 2013 at 08:03 PM

MH

“ Marilyn Hutchings lit a candle in memory of James Brian Phelps



Marilyn Hutchings - April 08, 2013 at 07:46 PM



“ *Kim,
We just saw the post -- so sorry for your loss, we'll be praying for you. When we met Jim, you were only engaged with a winter wedding in the plans. He seemed like the perfect man for you.
Carolyn, Harold, & Howard Turner
Quincy, IL*

Harold Turner - April 08, 2013 at 07:20 PM



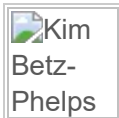
*Kim,
Again I cannot express the heart felt sympathies. Jim will be deeply missed. My thoughts are with you.*

Rhonda Al-Zubaidy - April 08, 2013 at 09:25 PM

HS

“ *I will remember a very special man who became a good friend despite the distance between us. Even though I couldn't see it I always knew Jim had a smile on his face when we spoke. He was one of those rare individuals who can bring out the best in others. I will miss you very much Jim, but have a wealth of positive memories to hold onto. Rest in peace Jim. Just remember when you attack the pearly gates you need to send cavalry and scout loyalty waves and your best hero (Jim will understand that one and I can feel him smiling now).*

Hayley Scarborough - April 08, 2013 at 05:17 PM



Thank you. made me smile

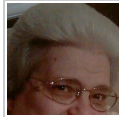
Kim Betz-Phelps - April 08, 2013 at 07:13 PM



“ *Jan Hartlerode lit a candle in memory of James Brian Phelps*



Jan Hartlerode - April 08, 2013 at 03:56 PM



All of you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. Hopefully, your grief and pain will go away quickly and only fond memories will remain. Jim will be missed by all.

Jan Hartlerode - April 08, 2013 at 03:59 PM



“ *OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO THE WHOLE FAMILY. WISH WE COULD BE THERE FOR YOU IN THIS TIME OF GRIEF. MILES SEPERATE US BUT OUR FRIENDSHIP BINDS US FOREVER. GOD BLESS AND COMFORT YOU. ALL OUR LOVE, LEN, CANDY AND KIM*



LEN AND CANDY - April 08, 2013 at 12:57 PM



“ *Jim was such an amazing person. I loved his sense of humor. It was a bit dry- but he and I always had great bantors. Always, on his birthday, I would say "You're getting old, Jlm". His response, "But you'll always be older". Love you and miss you much! Karin*



Karin Jackson - April 08, 2013 at 12:17 PM



My condolences to all of his family,, sherri,,i love you... love vickie and ed

vickie wiglesworth - April 08, 2013 at 12:51 PM