



## James Hugh French

March 8, 1939 - April 6, 2018

James (Jim) French passed away April 6th in Corvallis, the result of heart failure.

The son of James Byram and Nell Long French, he was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1957 and continued his education at Oregon State where he lettered in rowing and was a member of Delta Chi fraternity.

Following graduation in 1961 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and served as a jet aviator until he was retired on disability as a Captain in 1969.

After leaving the Marines Jim went to work in project management on the F-111 aircraft program for I.T. & T., and was subsequently hired by the Aircraft Division of Hughes Tool Company in Culver City, California. At Hughes Helicopters, he was involved with numerous programs including the TH-55 Army Trainer, the OH-6 scout helicopter and the Apache Attack Helicopter. In 1970, he was named the Budget Manager for Hughes Helicopters and held that position until 1973 when he was promoted to the position of Budget Director for the Hughes holding company, Summa Corporation, headquartered in Las Vegas. Summa, in addition to the helicopter company, operated an airline, seven hotels and casinos, television and motion picture operations,

major real estate holdings, ranches, mines, and numerous other activities. Upon the death of Howard Hughes, in 1975, Jim was named Director of Financial Planning. He left Summa in 1984.

His next position was as Controller for Broman Aircraft Corporation, a joint venture between General Electric and the Government of Puerto Rico to establish and develop an aircraft industry on the Island. He subsequently assumed the position of Director of Planning and Control. That program was discontinued after four years as Puerto Rico ran out of money.

Jim's father, a pioneer in the broadcasting industry and Director of Engineering for C.B.S., had given Jim and his sisters his interest in a radio station in Lancaster, California. Jim joined the Board of Directors of the company and was named Vice President of Finance. Other members of the Board were looking for financial guidance at that time and Jim accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for Antelope Bus, California's largest charter coach company. During his eight-year tenure, the broadcasting company acquired two more stations and the coach company grew from 85 buses and three operating yards to over 180 buses and six operating yards.

In 1998, Jim coordinated the Sale of both the bus and radio businesses and retired. Retirement didn't last long. Beginning in 2000 he was again active consulting on assignments in the aviation industry. He worked on programs for Mooney, Luscombe and Quest Aircraft and continued consulting up to the time of his death for numerous other companies.

Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Linda, in 2008. In 2011, he married Carol Trammell in Corvallis. He is survived by his wife, sisters Susan Souveroff of Encino, California, and Kathleen Campbell of Sugar Grove, North Carolina, son Scott of San Diego, California, daughter, Karen of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and grandsons, Tyler and Connor French, Jacob and Matthew

Grzeca, and granddaughter, Meghan Grzeca.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances should be directed to the Boy's and Girl's Club of Corvallis.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, April 20, 2018 at Suburban Christian Church in Corvallis. Please leave condolences for the family at [www.mchenryfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchenryfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **20**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Suburban Christian Church  
2760 SW 53rd St.  
Corvallis, OR 97333

# Tribute Wall

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Tom Dover - September 10, 2024 at 02:29 PM

MD

“ The Daniels family is very sad to learn of Jim's passing and would like to express our sympathies to the family. While we lost Jim's flight school buddy Richard "Dick" Daniels back in 2016, we know our family is forever indebted to Jim French.



We have heard the stories of how our Dad would not have made it through flight school without Jim. Apparently Jim literally pushed our Dad over the obstacle course walls and kicked him through the physical training. The "Marine kindness" and caring of Jim got our Navy man "Dickie Donuts" through the physical part of the flight training. Our Dad would have been lost without his wings.

My brother and I hear stories about how Jim French was the "truest" of Marines. Just the other day Caye shared the story about some beach party in the good ol' days where Jim came out of the water with a shark in his hands :) ... Yes, Jim French has a great legacy in the Daniels family and we hope Dick and Jim have reunited in that big sky.

The Daniels - Caye, Greg and Michelle

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Michelle Daniels - May 24, 2018 at 05:51 PM



“ Please accept our deepest sympathies on Jim's recent passing away.

*Peter D. Winer and Kathleen L. Winer  
Lt Col USMC (ret)*

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**Peter D. Winer, LtCol, USMC (ret)** - April 17, 2018 at 10:10 PM



*Thank You,  
Semper Fidelis*

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**Scott French** - April 23, 2018 at 08:30 PM

P(

“ Jim and I first met in late July 1960, when, as NROTC Marine Option Midshipmen 1/C, we arrived amidst the fury and intensity of the US Marine Corps, Officers Candidate School, (then called Training and Test Regiment (T&T)), Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va.

We both had completed three years of college - Jim at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR and me at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI. We were beginning six weeks of intense evaluation to determine whether, or not, we would have what it took in leadership skills and physical endurance to receive a commission as a Marine Officer upon graduation from college the following June.

After falling into ranks and being separated into platoons of "candidates" by Drill Instructors - who we were convinced were out to "destroy us" physically and mentally - Jim and I found ourselves standing next to each other in the squad bay on the first day...., and before the DIs could blink, Jim took the top bunk and I took the bottom bunk.

We said "hello", and from that point on for the next six weeks, Jim, I, and many of the others in our platoon, while undergoing intense pressure by the DIs, quickly bonded into extremely close friends. Many of us have remained in touch over the years.

With the exception of about five midshipmen, all 45 in our platoon stood up to the DI's stress, demonstrated our ability to lead under pressure, graduated from T&T Regt in late August 1960, and returned to college for our senior year.

The following July 1, 1961, after all of us had graduated and received our commissions as 2nd Lts, we all returned to Quantico to attend six months of Officers Basic School, where we learned the tactical/technical/professional aspects of being a Marine Officer. We graduated in Dec 1961 and, those of us, including Jim, who were selected to become field artillery officers, attended a one month

*course on field artillery tactics and techniques at Quantico.*

*We then flew to Okinawa, Japan, in late Feb 1962, where we were assigned to one of the artillery battalions of the 12th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division. Jim went to the 2nd Bn and I went to the 1st Bn- both at Camp Sukiran (now Camp Foster). After 13 months, Jim transferred back to the US in 1963, and I remained on Okinawa voluntarily for another 13 months. We then pursued our separate paths in, and out, of the Marine Corps... Sadly, I never saw Jim again after he left Okinawa in March 1963.*

*In the late '90s with the advent of internet, Jim and I reconnected, traded a few emails, and agreed to make every effort to "get together someday".*

*Hopefully, that "someday" would have been in mid-May 2018. I had just sent to Jim, an invitation to attend an "old timers get-together" in South Carolina with other Marine artillery officers from our vintage. Sadly, the response came to me two days later in the form of an email from Jim's wife, Carol, and sent to many of Jim's friends, stating that Jim had passed away....*

*Jim will be missed by all of those who knew him, and in particular by those of us Marine Officers who built such strong bonds with Jim from our days together in the early 1960s at Quantico, and on Okinawa.*

*Semper Fidelis,*

*//Pete//*

*Peter D. Winer, Lt Col USMC (ret)*

*Haymarket, Virginia*

*petewiner@hotmail.com*

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**Peter D. Winer, LtCol, USMC (ret)** - April 17, 2018 at 10:04 PM

SF

*Thank You, Peter for your kind words. Dad would have been very overjoyed to have known you remained brothers. Semper Fidelis! Dad was given military honors by the USMC and his urn rest in the Veterans section located at Oak Hills Cenmetary Corvalis*

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**Scott French** - April 23, 2018 at 08:53 PM

MR

“ *After college, Jim and I met in We meet up in NAS Cubi Point, Philippines on our mutual deployments, Jim on what I believe was the USS Okinawa (LPH-3) and me on the USS Oriskany (CVA-34). This was before he went into Marine aviation. We spent many hours at the Officer's Club reminiscing of our college, and service days. We were both in the Delta Xi Fraternity - he is the class of 1961 and I in 1959.*

*We lost contact until Joyce and I went to Corvallis for the restarting the Fraternity (after several years of inactivity) and met up with Jim again. Again it was a time for reminiscing.*

*My wife, Joyce, was listening to one of her favorite radio station shows, the Mystery Theater, when they announced that Jim French had just passed away. She wondered if that was the same Jim French she met when we were in Corvallis. I told her I thought it was.*

*In reading Jim's obituary, I learned a lot more of what he did and was sad that we had not spent more time together.*

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**Mike Riley** - April 14, 2018 at 07:13 PM

SF

*Thank You , Dad would have loved that you remembered and wrote what you did! Semper Fidelis! Thank You again Mike !*

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**Scott French** - April 23, 2018 at 08:34 PM