



James L. Sapp passed away on November 7, 2023, at the age of 80, in his adopted home state of Colorado. Jim had battled a few health issues over the last few years which slowed down his mobility, but not his dedication to his family, friends, and volunteer organizations.

As a child, Jim grew up in Alexandria, VA and had a lot of independence. He often told stories, usually involving adventure and petty crimes with his neighborhood gang. Oddly, these almost always occurred when he was 12 years old as he told it. He graduated from Mt Vernon (VA) High School in 1961. He married Patsy in 1967 and they recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary.

After school, Jim started working as a shoe salesman at Montgomery Ward and then became a contractor to the Central Intelligence Agency in 1963.

After becoming a full-time Agency employee in the mid-70s, he spent the rest of his working career in Imagery Analysis. He was always proud of his CIA career and won several awards, about which he could never tell his family.

After raising his family in Northern Virginia, Jim and Patsy retired and moved to the mountains of Colorado where his greatest joy became watching his grandchildren become successful adults. He also gained new friendships and volunteered for various organizations. Being an avid collector, researcher and documenter of Victorian-era art glass and Fairy Lamps was an enduring passion.

Meeting Deuce

I only ever had the opportunity to meet Jim once at his home in Colorado in December of 2014. Several weeks before that, I reached out to Jim to see if he would be home sometime during the week. He said he would be and would be happy to have me stop by for a visit. Officially this trip was so my youngest could visit and tour the campus of CSU where she was thinking of attending college, but for me, it was the opportunity to finally meet Jim. We communicated a fair amount about Fairy Lamps over the years as well as discussing issues with the Fairy Lamp Club and Newsletter which he helped start with my parents.

On the morning of the 13th, I hopped into my rental car with trusty driving instructions in hand and was on my way to up the hillside outside of Denver. The drive seemed to take no time at all as we made our way towards his home. As we arrived, Jim walked out onto their deck and welcomed us with open arms. Both Jim and Patsy were the best hosts the entire time. Jim and I looked at his collection of lamps and advertising that he had collected over the years many I hadn't seen in person prior. This was truly an educational day for me.

After we said our goodbyes, my daughter and I drove back to Denver to catch our flight home the following day. Other than the speeding ticket I received that day it was a great trip!

Jim always had an open invitation to visit my family and see my collection, as I had done with him, but sadly he was never in the area. We always wish there was more time when time runs out.

Brian Ruf