



Dr. James McCauley Vandivier "Dr. Jazz"

January 10, 1935 - July 14, 2020

Dr. James M. Vandivier was a humble man of strong character, powerful intelligence, and unfailing wit. His life was characterized by an endless thirst for knowledge, a commitment to service, and the pursuit of wisdom.

He was born in Indianapolis to Robert McCauley Vandivier, MD and Mary Louise [Kelch] Vandivier. He was a 1953 graduate of Shortridge High School, a 1957 graduate of DePauw University, and a 1961 graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine. His internship and residency were completed in Indianapolis. Jim then proudly served his country as Captain in the United States Air Force at Dyess AFB.

Upon return to Indianapolis he entered into the private practice of Internal Medicine. He was a member of the Indiana State Medical Association, served a term as President of the Society of Internal Medicine, and provided expertise and leadership to committees at St. Vincent Hospital to improve the practice of medicine. Because of his valued impact he received the

St. Vincent Hospitals Distinguished Physician Award "In recognition of his being selected by his colleagues and peers for his outstanding patient care, his dedication to St. Vincent Hospital, and his contributions to medicine on a regional, national, and international level."

His devotion to providing exceptional care spanned 48 years. In that time he also gave care to the homebound, provided medical care at Habitat for Humanity projects, and volunteered for The Genesseret Free Clinic which serves the homeless and uninsured. He received the Volunteer of the Year award from that organization.

His life was further enhanced by a fervent love of music, the seeds of which were planted by his mother. As a teenager he attended the prestigious Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. During those years he also discovered traditional jazz and was strongly drawn to that genre. He later became a member of the Indianapolis Jazz Club, serving as either President or Vice President for over 3 decades. Spurred by his keen interest he purchased a used saxophone, an instruction book, and taught himself to play alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, and soprano sax !!! All after the age of 50 !!! Thus was born "DR. JAZZ." Deciding that an amateur band would be fun, he organized the Colonial Square Jazz Band and later the White River Jazz Band, which is still actively playing under new leadership. Over the years they have played at retirement communities, in housing units for individuals with limited incomes, for not for profit organizations, even at the Indiana State Fair ... but not on the main stage! Since his teen years his bass voice has been welcomed in a variety of church choirs. St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Carmel, IN has been his church home for over 10 years. Jim, of course, sang in the choir in MP mode. You have never heard of MP mode ??? It means "MIGHTY POWERFUL!" Lifelong friendships have been made in the fellowship of that open and affirming congregation.

His legacy will be maintained by family, friends, colleagues, physicians whom he mentored, and others whose lives he touched. Jim had a personality that often seemed "larger than life" so that void will be a source of deep sorrow. We can only wonder whose laugh will fill an entire room an entire home, or an

entire venue.

Jim is survived by his wife of nearly 32 years, Sharon Vandivier. He filled her life with a love and joy she had never known, and their partnership was an ongoing inspiration to others. They did have three significant disagreements over the years but they could only remember what two were about!

His children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren:

Susan Setters (husband Doug) gave him three grandchildren: Kristina McCauley Martinez, Michael Martinez (fiancé Beth Butler), and Rachel Martinez

Mark McCauley Vandivier

Douglas Vandivier who gave him his first grandchild, Robert Vandivier (wife Rebecca) and great-granddaughter Shanelle

Mark Gitzlaff (deceased in 1994)

Leah [Gitzlaff] Gibbs who gave him Taylor Bybee and great-grandson Elijah, Bryan Hoover, Cole, Dane and Max Gibbs and Meadow Willingham

Their beloved “Dad” and “Papa” have had an impact on their lives which will affect not only them but others as their lives unfold.

His sister and dear friend is Susan Boles (husband Jeff) who gave him one nephew and 2 nieces. They are Doug Boles (wife Beth). Their children are Conor, Colin and Christian Daly and Carter Boles

Mary McCauley Hendricks (husband Kendall). Their children are Benjamin and Riley McCauley Hendricks (fiancé Joe Powers)

Sally Steward (husband Matt). Their son is Lucas Steward

The family will hold a private “Homegoing” celebration with scattering of ashes at the family farm. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held at a later date when the Coronavirus virus no longer necessitates social distancing.

In lieu of flowers, please pass on the legacy of this extraordinary man. You are also invited to contribute to: Habitat for Humanity, 322 Lamar Street, Americus, GA 31709-3498 or Genesseret Free Clinic, 615 N. Alabama Street Suite 136 Indianapolis, IN 46024

The family wishes to thank the staff of Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton for the caring and competent handling of final arrangements.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ In the late 1990s he asked me if I would play jazz tuba in the White River Jazz Band. I had always wanted to play Dixieland but had never had the chance. I remember our exchange clearly. I Said “I would like to try , Could I sit in on a rehearsal to see how I did.” His immediate response was “we don’t rehearse; the next gig is Friday be there.” He opened an opportunity for me to play what I always wanted. He was a great jokester and always had some for our audience. One of his favorites was “Do you know the difference between a soprano sax and a lawn mower? You can tune a lawn mower.” He had that trouble with his soprano sax. I was a member of the White River Jazz Band for over 15 years until Doc’s passing in July 2020 and greatly miss playing with him. Doc always called introduced me as “The General”
Bob McKnight “The General”

Robert A McKnight - August 01, 2020 at 02:52 PM

FL

“ Sharon, I was so very to hear of Jim’s passing. He was a wonderful physician, and a very kind man. So glad you two found each other. Please know that I hold you and your family in my heart and prayers. Peace to you. Faith Linden

faith linden - July 28, 2020 at 06:50 PM

PD

“ On behalf of Irvington Historical Society and the Irvington community, we are deeply moved by the loss of Dr. Vandiver. With White River Jazz Band, James played something like 20 Annual Ice Cream Socials in Irvington. His energy and talent were inspiring and many people experienced live big band for the first time thanks to Dr. Vandiver and the band. We had canceled this year but hoped to see him next year. God bless his family.

Paul Diebold - July 23, 2020 at 10:42 AM

ER

“ Sharon & family,

Jim was "MP" in many things -- an MP singer, thinker, conversationalist and friend. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

With love, Elizabeth & Gary Roe

Elizabeth T Roe - July 20, 2020 at 05:35 PM

DK

“ Those of us at St. Peter's lost a dear friend and choir member as Jim's body has died. He will be remembered fondly by many! As one who worked at the State Fair, I always enjoyed his band playing at Pioneer Village! My prayers are offered to Sharon and the family. May you know God's peace in special ways amidst your grief. 🌿

Don Kaufman - July 19, 2020 at 03:47 PM

EG

“ Sharon, I am so sorry to hear of Jim's death. You and family are in my thoughts and prayers. Evelyn Groves

Evelyn Groves - July 19, 2020 at 03:21 PM

RC

“ To Jim’sFamily: I send love, deepest sympathy, and assurance of prayers for you th3 family, and for all who love Jim; I share your grief. Yet another n the Christian Family it has a connotation of a life well-lived, a faith Kept, and the Church Triumphant attained.

I am sure you are experiencing that peace of God in the Creator Father, the Savior Son, and the Sustaining Holy Spirit. May that peace, the love of family and Friends and memories of happier times sustain you.

Ron Calkins - July 19, 2020 at 01:00 PM

MV

“ I worked with Sharon and Jim on the Gennesaret mobile medical van for years and will always cherish the memories of that compassionate, but fun loving couple. What a great team they were while they voluntarily cared for so many who were in search of a better life. Additionally, I was often the happy camper at an event listening to Dr. Jim's jazz bands.

Mark Varnau - July 19, 2020 at 12:37 PM

LH

“ We will really miss that boisterous laugh and deep friendly voice. He was always a caring and loving man to include my daughter Anna and our common child/grandchild Bryan. Condolences to Sharon and all of the family. There is nothing better than the love of Family!!!

Lori Hoover - July 19, 2020 at 12:36 PM

DH

“ *My condolences for your loss. Jim was a good friend and a huge supporter of the traditional jazz family. As a musician I know many of us want to be able to celebrate Jim's life when conditions permit.*

Dan Hughey - July 19, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DL

Took me awhile to gather my self to read the obituary today. What a beautiful testament to your wonderful husband.

Like other band members have expressed he gave each of us the opportunity to renew talents, dust of instruments and have fun making music to brighten others lives.

We share in your loss and will do our best to carry on his musical legacy.

Debbie Hinderliter Lewis - July 19, 2020 at 02:00 PM

NL

“ *Jim was a valued friend and colleague. Please accept my sincere condolences.*

Ned Lamkin

Ned Lamkin - July 19, 2020 at 10:22 AM

GB

“ For a number of years I gave Jim a ride to choir practice at St. Peter's UCC in Carmel. We had about 20 minutes drive time during which I knew I could count on him for wonderful conversations featuring endless information and covering a broad number of issues and topics. He was absolutely larger than life and absolutely full of life! What a treasure he was to all of us. Lots of grand memories to bring smiles and warmth - he will be sorely missed. Don joins me in sending our love and heartfelt condolences, Ginger Bievenour

Ginger Bievenour - July 18, 2020 at 03:26 PM