



Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.)

December 6, 1960 - April 30, 2026

Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.), age 65 of Manassas, Virginia passed away Thursday, April 30, 2026 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Clara Zmuda Stader, and his mother, Elizabeth Shanahan Stader.

Survivors include Jim's son, Mark Stader and daughter in-law, Kristina Stader, daughter Jacqueline Stader Thring and son in-law, Edward Thring, two (2) grandchildren, Archer and Naomi Thring, his father, Captain John Francis Stader (USN Retired), and four (4) brothers, John William Stader, Esq., Captain Paul Anthony Stader (USN Retired), Thomas Neville Stader, Colonel Matthew Nicholas Stader (USA Retired).

Jim was a 1983 graduate of Virginia Military Institute, who later served twenty-seven (27) years in the Navy, retiring in 2010 as a Captain in the Civil Engineer Corps. Jim's Navy career was followed by years in the Senior Executive Service, supporting the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Education.

More importantly, we remember Jim as a dedicated son, big brother, loving husband, compassionate dad, hilarious grandfather ("Baba!"), and thoughtful

friend. Jim's grounded yet optimistic nature kept those around him at ease. His love and appreciation of nature mirrored the stability and dependability he was for family. From keeping the Christmas spirit alive for his grandkids, acting as a wildlife whisperer with his amazing wife, serving as honorary Chief Financial Officer to his kids, to goose hunting with his father and brothers, Jim's void cannot be replaced. We remember all that he's taught us, and hope to make him proud.

The family will receive friends and family from 6:00PM-8:00PM for visitation on Wednesday May 27, 2026 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia. The funeral service will be held on Thursday May 28, 2026 at 11:00AM at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, Virginia followed by a 1:00PM interment at National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico.

Following the funeral events, please join Jim's family at 1:45PM for food and beverages at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, 1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle, Virginia, to share stories, memories, and the love we shared for Jim.

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Mass

MAY 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd
Manassas, VA 20110-2566
(703) 368-4500

Burial w/ Military Honors

MAY 28. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Reception to follow burial

MAY 28. 1:45 PM (ET)

National Museum of the Marine Corps
1775 Semper Fidelis Way
Triangle, VA 22172

Tribute Wall

DC

“ I can't believe that Snake Arnold and I are the two left from Room 107 at VMI. I hope lightning doesn't strike the church tomorrow with the two of us inside. Our only hope is that some of Jim's favor in the eyes of the Lord will extend over us for a little while.

Jim was one of the best natural athletes I ever met. He and I would run together and I think the only reason he didn't leave me in the dust was that he was too kind. I asked him why he never ran track or cross country at VMI. He told me he wasn't smart enough. He said he couldn't run and graduate with a civil engineering degree. He always had his priorities straight.

Jim and Clara were two of the best people I have ever known and a perfect match for each other. I miss them both.

Dave Clarke



Dave Clarke - May 27 at 03:31 PM

KC

“ I met Jim for the first time when he came to work with me on the CINCPACFLT staff in the mid to late 1990's. We spent a lot of time at work but outside of work our 2 families lived on ferry time on Ford Island and spent a lot of time together and over the subsequent years. We were devastated 2 years ago when Clara passed suddenly and are beyond devastated about Jim's passing. He was that rare individual who was ethical, an outstanding leader and a devoted family man. He will be so missed. We take solace in his passing knowing that he is with his beloved Clara and together they are watching over Jackie, Mark, their families and the rest of the Staders especially his dad.

Fair Winds & Following Seas
Kathy, Ned & Matt (Cummings & Wolfe family)

Kathy Cummings - May 26 at 09:54 PM

KF

“ Kathy, Ned & Matt (Cummings-Wolfe Family purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



Kathy, Ned & Matt (Cummings-Wolfe Family - May 26 at 09:31 PM

DM

“ *Capt. James Stader is dearly missed in U.S. Navy community, in our hearts, and at the studio gallery in Manassas where you visited often since 2017. Your friendship, bravery, thoughtfulness and hospitality will always be remembered. Your legacy lives on in your family. Our deepest condolences to the family with flowers and a candle of hope. RIP mate. Love forever, John and Denise; and McCall Studio Gallery in Manassas*



Denise McCall - May 26 at 09:23 PM

RG

“ *"Rest easy, shipmate. We have the watch."*

Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences to the Stader family.

Chuck and Rhonda Geyer

Rhonda Jean Geyer - May 26 at 01:24 PM

CG

“ *Chuck and Rhonda Geyer purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).*



Chuck and Rhonda Geyer - May 26 at 12:57 PM

MK

“ Marc and Kristina purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



Marc and Kristina - May 26 at 10:55 AM

LN

“ Love, John and Denise Nesius purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



Love, John and Denise Nesius - May 26 at 10:49 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



May 25 at 03:49 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



May 24 at 08:52 PM

LA

“ Love John and Alexis purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



Love John and Alexis - May 24 at 05:15 PM

TF

“ The Morris family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



The Morris family - May 22 at 09:48 AM

JT

“ Jim and Sharon Truesdell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



Jim and Sharon Truesdell - May 21 at 06:11 PM

TB

“ As a Lieutenant I served under Jim when he was the Executive Officer at PWC Washington. Jim was great with the wardroom, a brilliant man and solid leader, and he cared about his officers and his people. I offer my deepest condolences to the Stader family, and I hope you have nothing but fond memories of Jim and your time with him. Sincerely, Tom Bestafka

Tom Bestafka - May 14 at 11:42 AM

SR

“ On May 24, 2025 the Stone House Quilters Guild of Manassas, Virginia hosted a Quilts of Valor ceremony where Jim was one of the recipients. He was always a friend to the Stone House Quilters.



Shelly Reagan - May 10 at 08:41 PM

TF

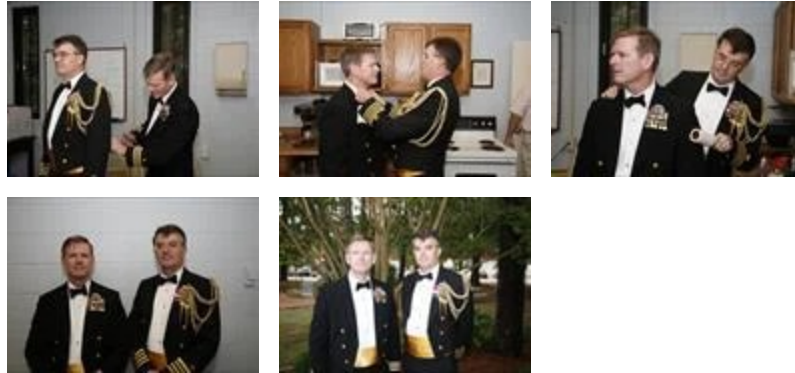
“ The Loftis Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



The Loftis Family - May 09 at 02:57 PM



“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



Jennie Lee - May 08 at 04:07 PM



“ 34 files added to the album Family Photos



Jennie Lee - May 08 at 01:26 PM



“ My heart goes out to you Jackie, Mark and the rest of your family. I hope that your parents are dancing in heaven and looking out for you. They raised wonderful adults. Berta

berta molina - May 08 at 10:12 AM

SA

“ Dear Jackie, Mark and the entire Stader Family,

We are very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. During my tenure as our VMI Class of 1983 Class Agent, I reconnected with Jim in 2022. Over the past two years Jim, my wife Mary, and I would meet occasionally for lunch. We heard many a fun Stader Stories, and some were serious. We admired Jim's bravery and determination to continue on despite his illness. Prayers are with you all.

*Sincerely,
Steve & Mary Amato*

Steve Amato - May 07 at 10:52 PM

TA

“ Tony & Krista Arnold purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Captain James Francis Stader (USN Ret.).



Tony & Krista Arnold - May 07 at 08:52 PM

TA

“ I had the distinct pleasure of rooming with BR Jim “Hypo” Stader for our last three years at VMI. Both struggling civil engineers who’d rather play intramural hoops than study Thermodynamics or Differential Equations, we were. Together with Dave Clarke, the three of us sentenced to too much time in a small space with Mike Laughon 🤔 (RIP BR). Truth be known, Hypo’s peaceful place was on a ten mile run along the Maury River. Hype was also a gritty hoopster with sharp elbows down in Cocke Hall. He was a great roommate, and just an all around good human. He could imitate Mick Jagger like nobody’s business, skinny as a rope, shaking them bony hips of his on the stoop. He cared deeply for his family, and gave the good fight these past few years. My heart breaks for his family, his kids Mark and Jackie, his grandchildren, brothers and his dad. He talked all the time about hunting with his pops. It’s hard to comprehend losing both him and Clara so soon. Our prayers go out to all the family, we lost a courageous, humble public servant much too soon. God bless you Hypo

Tony “Snake” Atnold - May 07 at 08:43 PM

HC

“ Jim, I only learned today from Jackie of your passing. I am so very sorry Brother. You were a good and faithful friend for 40 years. We had several important things in common: we were both recently made widowers, we were both career/retired Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officers, and importantly we were both VMI graduates. Your cadetship began 3 months after mine ended. But you have been a source of inspiration to me almost ever since. I will miss you greatly. See you on the other side Brother. I love you. Hank Chase

Hank Chase - May 07 at 08:16 PM

JA

“ 38 files added to the album *Family Photos*



Jackie - May 07 at 03:16 PM