



James Raymond Ramsden

April 4, 1959 - February 21, 2014

JAMES RAYMOND RAMSDEN, age 54, passed away from Multiple Myeloma at his home in Manassas, VA on Friday, February 21, 2014.

He was born on April 4, 1959 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina to the late General James Ramsden and Rae (Lorenzen) Ramsden.

Mr. Ramsden received his Masters Degree in Engineering from University of Florida. He started working in Manassas in 1983 at IBM later becoming BAE Systems, it was there that he met his wife Deborah. He had a lifetime love of tennis, the NY Jets and Bassett Hounds. He was also a member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Survivors include his loving wife of 25 years, Deborah Heller Ramsden of Manassas, VA; three children: Sarah Ramsden of Savannah, GA, Molly Ramsden of Castleton, VT and Jake Ramsden of Manassas, VA; two sisters: Kim Gerred of Joppa, MD and Linda Fielder of St. Augustine, FL.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA where a rosary will be said at 8:40 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 10:00 AM with Rev. Robert C. Cilinski officiating. Interment will be at Stonewall Memory Gardens, Manassas, VA. A

reception will follow at All Saints Catholic Church.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of flowers or donations to:
University of Maryland Multiple Myeloma Fund, 22 S. Green Street, Baltimore,
Maryland 21201 c/o Dr. Badros in loving memory of James Raymond
Ramsden.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Rosary

FEB **25**. 8:40 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
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pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

“ *Deb, Sarah, Molly, and Jake*

I was Jimmy's manager for the last several years of his engineering career.

I could probably write a page or two about his many work accomplishments, his outstanding technical abilities, his dedication to his work, his commitment to quality, and much more.

But, I much prefer to write about Jimmy the person.

Jimmy was, and will continue to be, an inspiration to us all. His courage and his attitude under such challenging circumstances have touched all us who have had the privilege of interacting with him. Even though he had every right to, I never once heard him complain during his difficult four years. He showed us all how one should face a very difficult challenge, with dignity and grace. That lesson, which he taught all of us, will be his legacy.

I knew Jimmy as a family man with strong ties to his faith and country. He could be very serious and firm when required, but probably what he will be remembered for the most will be his wit and sense of humor. He was the main source of levity at our staff meetings, never missing the opportunity to interject a funny remark. As I write this, I can almost hear him saying something that would make us all laugh. He had a way of putting seriousness in perspective. Of all his many qualities, I believe his sense of humor is what I will miss the most.

As his now former manager I think I am entitled to give him one more final evaluation.

Jimmy, my dear friend, you have by far exceeded all our expectations.

Polo Mathieu

Polo Mathieu - February 26, 2014 at 10:30 AM

TB

“ *Jim inspired and profoundly touched the lives of all who had the privilege to work with and know him. He was truly one of the great engineers IBM brought to Manassas. I will always fondly recall the steadfast perfection in his work, his jovial, optimistic spirit and the predictable military "Sir!" with which he addressed colleagues.*

My deepest sympathies go out to Deb and his family.

Tom Butash

Tom Butash - February 26, 2014 at 08:21 AM

CC

“ *Dear Deb and family,*

As you already know, Jimmy was a modest person that always had the correct priorities in life. At work, all in his team could count on his perfection and pride to find the best possible answer. On the racquetball court Jimmy had a finesse that was easy for him to perform and difficult for his opponents to combat. And most of all Jimmy always had a priority for family and friends. Many will miss JAMES RAYMOND RAMSDEN and his positive attitude.

Charles (Chaz) Chambers

Charles (Chaz) Chambers - February 26, 2014 at 06:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Raymond Ramsden.*



February 25, 2014 at 11:53 AM



“ *Dear Ramsden Family,*

The General Dynamics Team has worked and collaborated with Jimmy since the late 90's and we have always enjoyed our professional, and later, a personal relationship with him.

On a professional basis, there was none better at "cranking the numbers" and supporting the needs of the programs we supported together. He represented BAE Systems well and our company and programs are grateful for his efforts.

On a personal basis, Jimmy will always be remembered as a good man, who was caring, personable, family oriented and courageous. Most importantly, Jimmy was a man of faith. He inspired us all.

We are thinking of all of you during this time, sending our sincere condolences and prayers.

*Ron Wells and Bill Heidergott,
General Dynamics Corp*

ron wells - February 25, 2014 at 11:16 AM

GS

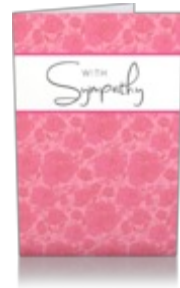
“ *My deepest sympathies upon Jimmy's passing. I knew him mostly through work during the IBM days in B/250.....an extremely conscientious, highly respected guy. May his family and friends be comforted, knowing he is now resting in peace.*

Gary Smith

Gary Smith - February 25, 2014 at 09:51 AM

JS

“ *jane S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James Raymond Ramsden.*



jane S. - February 24, 2014 at 01:42 PM

TM

“ *Dear Ramsden Family,
Thinking of all of you during this time, sending our sincere condolences and prayers. Having shared a good portion of our life together in the All Saints community, we came to know your husband and Father as a visual example of "living faith", always pursuing the presence of God.*

Peace be with you all,

The Morgan Family,

Harry, Addie, Daniel, Allison, Melissa and Matthew

The Morgan's - February 24, 2014 at 12:27 PM

LR

“ Jimmy's love for his family and life has been inspiring. He always was looking at the brighter side of life. God received an amazing angel. My deepest condolence goes out to Deb, Molly, Sarah, Jake, Gator, and extending family and friends. Words can not express how much he will be missed.

LeeAnn Raczkowski - February 24, 2014 at 12:25 PM

LW

“ Deb, I am sincerely to hear about Jimmy's passing. I have known Jimmy for many years, and he was a kind and happy person who loved his family. May God offer you comfort and solace in the days ahead.

Liz Washington

Liz Washington - February 24, 2014 at 11:17 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Raymond Ramsden.



February 24, 2014 at 11:16 AM

LM

“ Deb and Family,
My deepest sympathies. I loved the way Jimmy could always make me laugh. I'm sure he's bringing a smile to all those in heaven. I will miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lynn Murgia

Lynn Murgia - February 24, 2014 at 10:25 AM

CS

“ *Deb & Family,
I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Although Cassie only knew you and Molly, Tasha remembers Jim fondly as "O'Doul's." I know this is a hard time and through faith and family it makes it bearable. You will see each other again.
Cyndi, Tasha & Cassie Stroud*

Cynthia Stroud - February 24, 2014 at 09:59 AM



“ *To me, Jimmy's sense of life was reflected in his FYE emails. I started receiving them after I moved away from Manassas in 2005. After almost 8 years of daily interaction with Jimmy while in Manassas, it was a welcome treat in my inbox when I settled in New York - not only because they brightened my days, but they brought together so many people who shared a common heritage and a similar spirit. Jimmy brought a unifying spirit to life and the people in his life. My thoughts and sympathy are with Deb and Jimmy's extended family.*

King Wiemann - February 24, 2014 at 08:38 AM

 Debbie Coleby

“ *Dear Ramsden Family,
May you find comfort in friends, peace in your faith and love in your memories. Jimmy was a smart and really neat gut. I'm sure he's having a grand time with the Lord and all his family and friends.*

*God bless you,
Debbie Coleby*

Debbie Coleby - February 24, 2014 at 07:09 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Raymond Ramsden.*



February 24, 2014 at 06:17 AM



“ *Deya R. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James Raymond Ramsden.*



Deya R. - February 23, 2014 at 09:59 PM



“ *Deb, we were deeply saddened to hear about Jim's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this most difficult time. May your fond memories provide comfort and healing.*

*God bless,
Dale and Donna Brandon*

Dale Brandon - February 23, 2014 at 05:50 PM

ST

“ *Deb, I was so sadden to hear about Jimmy's passing.*

I have know Jimmy for many years. He always had a smile on his face and such a kind person. He will be greatly missed.

You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Sharon Toland

Sharon Toland - February 23, 2014 at 05:29 PM

TH

“ *Jimmy and I enjoyed some tennis (during which he totally took me to school) and racquetball (where I could hold my own better). He was a very fun person with intense love for competition and sports. His faits is strong, and I pray for his family to lean on that faith now.*

*Good luck Debbie, with all my sympathies,
Tom and Kathy Herald.*

Tom Herald - February 23, 2014 at 03:27 PM

ME

“ *To the Ramsden Family,
I had the priviledge of knowing Jimmy for about an hour when I met him and had lunch with him about a week and a half ago. He is probably one of the most courageous man thatI have ever met. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Cordially,
Ann Elias
BAE SYSTEMS*

M Ann Elias - February 23, 2014 at 03:01 PM

TW

“ I loved Jimmy’s optimism, humor and his faith. How can a guy know he has a cancer that is terminal – yet keep the faith the way he did ... he is an inspiration. He constantly showed faith in God, his family and his country. Could there be a friendlier person? The first time I met him I felt like I was being reacquainted with an old friend. We lost a great one ... why can’t there be more Jimmy Ramsdens in this world? -Tim W

Tim Whalen - February 22, 2014 at 08:12 PM

NL

“ Deb, Sarah, Molly, Jake, Kim & Linda,
Jim was so brave and fought the good fight. You must all be so proud of his strength, grace and courage right up to the end. May you be comforted knowing that he’s been met in heaven with open, loving arms by his Mom, Dad and Michael. I’m so incredibly saddened by his passing and you are all in my thoughts and prayers. With sincere condolences,

Nancy (Manfre) Leizear

Nancy Leizear - February 22, 2014 at 02:09 PM

MP

“ The love & friendship Deb & Jim share is inspiring. I feel blessed to have witnessed it while Jim was here .I believe it will continue to be, just as his love for his children & his other family members. The power of that love will live on in each of them. The loss of Jim is painful . We will always have his loving presence & memories in our hearts. May God bless you & your family with healing thoughts & memories.

Mary parvis - February 22, 2014 at 11:27 AM

NM

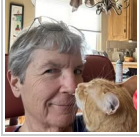
“ Dear Deb and family,
I first knew Jimmy when we were both newbie engineers at IBM. But I really got to know him when we discovered that we were neighbors on Middleburg Ct in 1985. We each had purchased our first townhouse and lived next door to each other. I remember Jimmy as a very nice, sorta quiet guy with a quirky sense of humor. The world has lost a wonderful person. I pray that God will bless you with peace and comfort you with pleasant memories. I am so sorry for your loss.
Nancy McLoda

Nancy McLoda - February 22, 2014 at 08:32 AM

TH

“ Deb, Doug and I are so sorry about Jim's passing. Please know that we have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time.

Tina and Doug Huneycutt - February 21, 2014 at 10:25 PM



“ Jimmy was my friend for over twenty years. He was one of the most kind-hearted people I've ever known. He and his wife Deb were inspirations to the world in their love for each other and the handling of the difficult years of his illness. They were blessed to have each other. Jim idolized his father and seemed to feel that he could never match him. Well, I think he achieved that goal and surpassed it. I know his father would be incredibly proud of him. He was a good friend, intelligent, caring and with a wonderful sense of humor. He has left a great legacy in his three children who are well on their way to being just as outstanding of people as their parents. I will always remember Jimmy's "unique" characteristics. For an incredibly intelligent man he would be stumped by simple questions like the age of his children (though he remembered every moment of their lives). He also got a bit dangerous when he discovered the joy of buying "stuff" on the internet. I will never forget the crates of dill pickles that appeared in his office one day. He thought they were "low sodium" based on the "nutrition info" but hadn't realized that the nutrition info assumed each pickle would be eaten as 8 separate servings. He finally started soaking them in water just to try to eat them, so there were always glasses of water with pickles in them in his fridge at the office. He enjoyed his electronic gadgets, his "CSI" "break-apart" glasses, and all things tennis or basset hound related. My sincere condolences to Deb, Sarah, Molly, Jake and Jimmy's two sisters. You are in my prayers at this difficult time.

Anne Cady - February 21, 2014 at 09:43 PM

JR

I was not personally acquainted with Jim but with Deb. This is a tremendous shock. I remember seeing him about at work and I remember noticing that apparently he was fighting an illness but never thought that he would come out fine. Know that our prayers are with him and his family.

Jose Rio - February 22, 2014 at 06:48 PM

JD

I met Jimmy several times when we presented the annual award in his father's name to the West Point cadet who won. He was always gracious and eloquent in his presentation talk. At the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the class of 1958, his father's class, he gave a slide show and presentation about his father. He will be missed.

Jack Downing, '58

Jack Downing - February 23, 2014 at 04:00 PM