



## James Edward Vandelly

August 15, 1942 - June 30, 2025

James E. Vandelly, 82, of Centreville, VA passed away on June 30, 2025 at the Adler Center for Caring in Aldie, VA due to complications from Alzheimer's. Born in Massachusetts, 1942, his love of music started early at age 6 when he began accordion lessons. It would be a lifelong pursuit. His family relocated to Southern California during his early high school years and then moved to Florida where he graduated from high school.

After graduation, he attended the University of Florida for three years where he met the love of his life, Kathy. They married December, 1963 and were married for 61 years. He had joined the Air Force prior to marriage, became a Thai language interpreter, and was stationed in the Philippines during the war.

After his discharge, they settled in Texas with their family of beagles, where he attended Angelo State University to complete his bachelor's degree. He followed that with a master's degree in Political Science from American University. He then became a Government and Economics teacher at Wakefield High School, retiring in 1997.

The family spent their school years in Virginia and their summers in Michigan, a place they loved to be. They also traveled as much as they could, giving their family a broader view of the world.

He spent his time in retirement playing his accordion, bayan, and balalaika in organizations including the BDAA, WMAS, and the WBS who played at Carnegie Hall in 1997. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycles, traveling to places like Canada, Russia, and Sweden to visit dear friends, and spending time with family.

James is survived by his wife Kathy, his children, Jamie and Cindy, their spouses Teri and Rob, his grandchildren James and Kacie, and his great-granddaughter, Leighton.

Service details: TBD. Private burial.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in the name of James E. Vandelly to the Alzheimer's Association® and/or Wakefield High School.