



Dr. James Richard Bozeman

October 17, 1933 - May 24, 2018

James Richard Bozeman, M.D., 84, of Lafayette, La., died peacefully at home Thursday, following his customary early morning trip to Reds, the grocery store(s) and lunch preparation as he readied for his afternoon nap.

James Richard Bozeman was born on October 17, 1933 in Huntington, Texas. He was Lafayette's first cardiothoracic surgeon, performing the city's first open heart surgery on Valentine's Day in 1972 at Our Lady of Lourdes hospital. Dr. Bozeman was a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (SLI) and Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Following his internship and residency in general surgery at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, he completed a two-year fellowship in thoracic surgery at Baylor University-affiliated hospitals in Houston Texas.

During his tenure in Houston in the mid-1960s he worked with a small group of doctors who were, in the words of one historian, "ushering heart surgery from a niche field into mainstream medicine." He had the good fortune to train under the tutelage and mentorship of cardiac legends Drs. Michael E. DeBakey, Denton A. Cooley, George C. Morris and E. Stanley Crawford. They were world renowned for their pioneering techniques for surgery on the heart and blood vessels and, as he liked to remind, their relentless attention to detail. This superior training and attention to detail guided him as he operated on and cared for countless patients in Louisiana and Texas in a career spanning over forty years.

Dr. Bozeman was known as Richard growing up among the red dirt roads of northern Louisiana and later Jimmy, Jim, Doc and BOZE, always BOZE. He even answered to Cornbread. He was always making cornbread and countless dishes and specialties he prepared for family and friends-- -- greens, beans, gumbo, duck, quail jambalaya, bouillabaisse, BBQ, pies, fig preserves and hot sauce. Equal to his passion for cooking was his love of eating, entertaining, hunting, fishing, gardening and holding court. Always holding court. And fishing? "Fishing obsessed" fit.

He was deeply loved and respected for his boundless generosity, and integrity, his work ethic and lightening wit. He was a great provider and always, always the first to reach for the check. At 84, though he was tired and frustrated by a slow and uneven movement and lack of stamina, he had much left unfinished, and was not yet ready. He was focusing on

eating more vegetables and brown rice, yes brown rice, in the last two weeks in a quest to shed a few and lose his ever present suspenders.

On this late May day, his vegetable garden is flourishing, his citrus are budding and the figs are almost ready for picking and preserving. He had his secret (seriously) fresh shrimp supplier lined up for the coming season. His flag currently flies proudly in his yard in prep for Memorial Day. He was looking forward to watching his beloved LSU baseball tigers after his afternoon nap. BOZE was not yet ready. Neither were we.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents Maxie Herrington and the Rev. Robert Armstrong Bozeman. He is survived by his wife of 26 years Judy; children Denise, Monique, Rick, Rachel and Stephen from his marriage to Betty; siblings Martha, Bo and Mary; stepchildren Stephen, Brian, Amy and Lee; nephews Lloyd, Ross and Robert Charles and their spouses; and grandchildren Casey, Jason, Adam, Jake, Josh, Emily, Ryan, Annabelle, Olivia and Claire and Judy and Jim's beloved dog Abby.

The family offers special thanks to Drs. Ed Nagem, Jim McCarthy and John Mickey for their care and everlasting friendship.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00AM on Tuesday, May 29 in Delhomme Funeral Home Chapel of the Flowers led by Asbury Methodist Church pastor Richard Humphries following visitation from 9:00am to 11:00am. Personal condolences may be sent to the Bozeman family at www.delhommefuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, please make donations the National Rifle Association, the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana or Ducks Unlimited.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

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Delhomme Funeral Home

1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

MAY **Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers

LA, US

Comments



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James Richard Bozeman.



May 28, 2018 at 09:07 AM



“ Dr. Bozeman assisted Dr. Nagem during my by-Pass surgery in 1990. He visited me later in my room and assured me that the surgery had gone well. Had a very good bed side manner. Rest In Peace Dr Bozeman. Billy Matthews

Billy Matthews - May 28, 2018 at 08:53 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Bozeman at Our Lady of Lourdes hospital in Lafayette. I was a scrub technician and helped him and Dr. Nagem in the OR. Dr. Bozeman was a Gentleman, a great Surgeon and had a sharp wit! My condolences to his family. Miss you BOZE! Sincerely, Sheeri Slater

Sheeri Slater - May 27, 2018 at 09:01 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James Richard Bozeman.



May 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM



“ May all the sweet memories of Doc (Cornbread) bring you solace during this time. I hope that all moments that you were able to have with him before he passed away bring you comfort. Please accept my sincere sympathy, will miss him Mark “Aubrey “Cole



“ Jim will always be remembered by me as a kind and thoughtful friend. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. Judy, thinking of you and the family at this sad time. I will remember him in my prayers.
Antoinette and Dan Moriarty

Antoinette Moriarty - May 26, 2018 at 06:32 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Dr. James Richard Bozeman.



May 26, 2018 at 04:22 PM



“ The dearest brother in all the world!

Martha griffith - May 26, 2018 at 03:28 PM



“ E. Ward Sudderth M.D. lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Richard Bozeman



E. Ward Sudderth M.D. - May 26, 2018 at 01:43 PM



“ Doc will be missed. Our morning visits to discuss world events and his menu of the day has been a pleasure. He and Judy were a certainty at Reds for some years now. I know he will be remembered by many friends.

Friend

Ronnie Domingue

ronald domingue - May 26, 2018 at 10:55 AM



“ I was blessed to be a lucky person to have known Dr. Bozeman for quiet some time. Through the years , we have gotten to know each other very well. We have hunted ducks together, but we were unable to go fishing together. Unless you knew him very well, your first impression might not have been his real self. Jim was a very kind man and a very giving person. Many mornings he would show up at my home with bags of produce and fruits from his very own backyard. It will be hard not to hear him knocking at my front door anymore. Whenever he needed some work or issues at his home, needing to be fixed, he would call me for assistant and like 2 old men, some way he and I would get it done. Ms. Judy. knew him the best and will surely miss him. My family will pray for him and also for you,Judy. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH, Ken Blanc.

Kenneth Blanc - May 26, 2018 at 09:05 AM



“ Dr Bozeman saved the life of my best friend in 1969 after he was accidentally shot. He was a great surgeon and had become a good friend seeing him at Red' every morning. Rest In Peace, Jim. We will always miss your humor and smile.

JOHN Couvillion

john couvillion - May 26, 2018 at 07:08 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Dr. James Richard Bozeman.



May 25, 2018 at 07:10 PM



“ I was saddened to hear of Dr. Jim Bozemans' passing. He was a regular at Red's and he always lifted my spirits. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace my friend. Bruin Hays

Bruin Hays - May 25, 2018 at 05:29 PM



“ Many of us were saddened by the passing of Dr. Jim Bozeman. I was fortunate to meet him in his later years at Red's. He and Judy shared many early hours exercising and visiting at Red's. I loved taking him fishing and learning of his lifelong passion for this sport. He was always a gentleman & a scholar. Very well read. Yes, many of us will miss his friendship. Rest in eternal peace.

Max Hoyt - May 26, 2018 at 05:16 PM