



# James Lemoyne Billig

March 20, 1941 - November 7, 2011

Services Pending

# Tribute Wall

“ Jim Billig taught Biology at San Marcos High School back in the 1970s (and 1980s?). I never had him as a teacher; my friends said that he had a very dry sense of humor and made biology less tedious to learn. His classes were always filled up first; I never had seniority to have first pick, so I learned of him through others.

Flash forward to the late 1990s and into the 2000s. He joined the Astronomical Unit, the astronomy club through the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. My husband and I were also members. I had the pleasure of getting to know a little about this fascinating and humorous fellow. I saw with happiness that John Prbish and Jim yakked at an AU event. They had shared years at SMHS; I thought their connecting was a benefit to both.

My best memory of Jim is when he would bring his beautiful parrot to AU parties. He was as colorful and lively as his avian companion.

My last memory is a phone call I received from Jim a few years ago. I was secretary of the club. He asked to be taken off the e-mail list, because he wouldn't be able to work with his computer soon. He seemed so quiet and not his lively self. I asked him, if he wished to tell me, what was going on. He told me of his devastating diagnosis of Fragile X that people over the age of 50 (or so) can develop. I asked him to keep in touch as much as possible, and that I gave him a huge hug over the phone. Sometimes, I have the If-onlys hit -- could I have been more support, could \*I\* have been the one to keep in touch, and so on. I have no answers.

Today, I've lit a virtual candle for this wonderful human being and for all of gifts he gave, which he would snort at and say he didn't do anything. That's the sign of a great man. Thanks, Jim, for sharing your greatness, and I will remember you in the beauty of life around us all.

May he rest in peace.

**Pat McPartlin** - November 20, 2011 at 02:15 PM

PM

“ *Pat McPartlin lit a candle in memory of James Lemoyne Billig*



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**Pat McPartlin** - November 20, 2011 at 01:46 PM