



James Hugh Franzen

December 15, 1940 - June 7, 2025

James Hugh Franzen
1940-2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved James (“Jim”) Hugh Franzen. Jim suddenly passed away due to his rapid decline of Dementia diagnosis in January of 2024. Even with the disease, nothing hindered him. He was optimistic and enjoyed life. Now, he is resting in peace with his beloved parents and brother.

Jim was born in Chicago, Illinois to Hugh Joseph Franzen and LaVergne Mary Tennyson Franzen. He lived in Chicago until 1959 with his family. The family was Catholic and Jim and his siblings attended catholic schools. He served as an alter boy at mass on Sundays and at one point in his life wanted to become a priest. His family relocated to California and lived in the Los Angeles area. While working, he received his Certified Public Accountant license from the State Board of Accountancy in 1963. Additionally, he attended school and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from UCLA in 1966.

In 1976, Jim relocated to Santa Barbara with his family and thereafter he opened and ran a successful public accounting practice. Later in 1999, he and his son, Michael Franzen, formed Franzen & Franzen, LLP, and together as business partners ran that public accounting firm for almost 25 years until

Jim's retirement in 2023.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Symphony from 1976-1996 and was recognized as an Honorary Board member in 2019. He also served on the boards of the Santa Barbara Counseling Center and Rudi Schulte Research Institute.

In 1998, Jim married Maria L. Dominguez, in Santa Barbara, and raised her two children, Frank (1981) and Julius (1987). Ever since then, they have been inseparable and have always had a close bond. And he recently went back to the Catholic Church and renewed his marriage vows with his wife Maria, the love of his life and continued attending mass and Adoration until the day before his hospitalization. This was in honor of his mother "Mary" who so much desired him to return to the Catholic Church.

Jim's passion was spending time with his family and friends, attending the UCLA Football games, reading, listening to Frank Sinatra songs, gardening, taking long walks, and going to the Symphony. He especially loved to travel and enjoyed cruising where he could see unfamiliar places and meet new people. His will forever be remembered in our hearts for his beautiful smile, kindness, love, generosity, helpfulness, respect, big hugs, and his dry sense of humor. I love you and until we meet again, my love, in eternity.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Hugh and LaVergne Franzen; his brother Thomas J. Franzen (Evelyn [Esther – predeceased]). He is survived by his beloved wife of 27 years, Maria L. Franzen; his sisters Mary Lou Howard (Doug – predeceased); Catherine Glenn; and Anne M. Schindler (Todd); his children from his first marriage, Michael R. Franzen (Melissa); and Charlene S. Hiatt; his stepsons Frank M. Dominguez, Jr.; and Julius A. Dominguez; and his adored grandchildren, Taylor, Connor, Filisha, Alison, Charlie and Parker, and many nieces and nephews.

A Rosary will be held on July 9, 2025, at 7:00pm at Welch-Ryce-Haider, 15 East Sola Street, Santa Barbara.

The Funeral Mass will be held on July 10, 2025, at 10:00am at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 21 East Sola Street, Santa Barbara. The burial will follow at the Santa Barbara Cemetery, 901 Channel Drive, Santa Barbara. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's name can be made out to "UCLA".

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Previous Events

Rosary

JUL **9**. 7:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

JUL **10**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
21 E Sola Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tribute Wall

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“ I think I can speak for all three of us sisters in saying that Jim was truly remarkable in many ways. We all admired his intellect, accomplishments and his funny, dry humor!. Our mom told me once how much Jim contributed to our family. She said in high school without being asked, Jim gave half of his earnings from work and this continued throughout his college years also. While attending college and also working, Jim paid for half of the rent. I remember many nights seeing the light on in his room and wondering if he ever got to sleep in-between college classes, work and studying. My mother also told me he was the youngest person to obtain a CPA at the time and I think that was possible because he worked his way in that field in college. I am so happy he made good choices and started what became a very successful business that he ran with son, Michael, who also obtained his CPA certification. Jim certainly came from very humble beginnings and worked very hard to achieve his accomplishments.

What is also truly remarkable is that I don't believe any of us kids ever had any harsh words or arguments with Jim. He was pretty amicable and very logical. I admire how he worked through issues with thinking through them minus any dramatics.

For most of their lives our parents could not afford their own home, until later in life when they put their entire life savings, all of \$5K, into a piece of property in California City. Jim purchased a mobile home for them so they could finally have a place of their own. I remember how happy our mom was to finally have a garden and a sense of security and will always admire and be thankful that Jim was that person who always looked out for them.

I will miss that gentle and fun spirit that was our brother! I know I speak for all of us sisters, Mary Lou, Cathy and I, that we have deep appreciation and thankfulness to Maria, our loving sister-in-law, for her deep love and loyalty for our brother! Even after Jim's dementia progressed and it was suggested to her to put him in a facility, she refused to do so and cared for him at home taking him on many

walks and little adventures. She gave Jim joy and the best quality of life even when it was very hard on her always wanting to be there for him. We thank you Maria for your kind heart and for your dedication to our brother! May the healing begin with treasured memories and knowing that we will all be meeting again! Love the pic of Jim with that smile! Anne

Anne - June 30, 2025 at 07:30 PM