



James "Jim" Laurent Niland III

June 22, 1964 - February 22, 2022

James Laurent Niland, III better known as "Jim" or "Karate Jim", 57, of St. Augustine, Florida, passed away on February 22, 2022, at Orange Park Medical Center after succumbing to injuries sustained in a car accident on February 20, 2022.

Jim was born in Meriden, Connecticut on the 22nd of June in 1964 to James Laurent Niland, Jr. and Judith Niland. He attended schools in Meriden and graduated from Platt High School in 1983. Jim served seven years in the United States Army before becoming a Lineman for both Connecticut Light & Power and Florida Power & Light. After working for more than 20 years with the power companies and becoming a Safety Supervisor for FPL, Jim began to focus on a new career and started working towards becoming a Police Officer, a lifelong dream of his. Jim graduated from St. Johns River State Criminal Justice Academy and began work as an overnight patrol officer with the Duval County School Board Police Department. After two years as a police officer, Jim shifted his focus to his real passion and began working on opening his business All American Martial Arts in St. Augustine where for over the past 10 years he worked to build an amazing martial arts community. His positive influence is evident in the confidence instilled in his students.

Jim knew how to have fun and rarely let a moment pass without a laugh. After years as a bodybuilder and powerlifter, Jim achieved his 4th Degree Black

Belt in Tae Kwon Do and his Black Belt in Krav Maga. He was an avid shooter and had recently taken up clay shooting. As a car enthusiast, Jim owned several fun vehicles throughout the years which were always meticulously maintained. He especially enjoyed walking his little dog, Molly, along the shores of Crescent Beach.

Jim is survived by his parents, his son, James Laurent Niland IV, his daughter, MacKenzie Elizabeth Niland, his “sista-sista”, Camie (Peter) Niland-Poirier, his niece and nephews, as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, March 9th, from 4:00 PM to 6:00PM EST at St Johns Family Funeral Home. For those unable to attend, you may watch a live stream of the service by clicking on this link <https://iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/549019>

St Johns Family Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

A Gathering of Family and Friends

MAR 9. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home
385 State Road 207
St. Augustine, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - March 08, 2022 at 12:12 PM

PK

Beautiful

Penny kisser - March 08, 2022 at 02:01 PM

KD

So touching 🍷🙏

Kelly Diotte - March 09, 2022 at 09:03 AM

JW

*Stunning Tribute.
Miss you my friend.*

Jim Whaley - March 09, 2022 at 02:17 PM

RR

Great video Love the photos. Rest in Peace Jim. Love from all your cousins.

Roach Reunion - March 17, 2022 at 06:37 PM

CP

My elementary and middle school friend, so glad that we connected many years later through FB. Many fond, happy memories of Jim. Rest In Peace, my old friend.

Celia Pombo - May 31, 2022 at 01:39 AM

AB

“ Jim came to Hastings Youth Academy to present martial arts to the juveniles. He made such an impression with his presentation and presense. He was so inspiring that I took my son, who was 4 years old to meet him. Jim was truly inspiring.

Adelina Boata - March 12, 2022 at 09:31 AM

KS

“ Today in a high school group Facebook forum, Jay Niland, Jimmy's Uncle, posted Jimmy's obituary. I believe we are all in shock of this tragic news that saddens all of our hearts. From elementary school to high school to sharing being connected as military veteran brother and sister. Jimmy was a great man. He was so full of life and wonderful with the kids in his martial arts program. In his amazing positive videos you could see his joy. You will be missed my friend. You made a lasting positive impact in so many people's lives. May the family have peace knowing Jimmy was one of a kind and revered by all. Kathy Smith Maryland

Kathy Lawrence Smith - March 10, 2022 at 11:29 PM

“ 3.6.22 - Black Belt Strong ♥

Meleah has never been super athletic, but when she met Master Jim, he helped her find strength beyond her own. And he did it again, and again, and again.

Her first Taekwondo experience was the summer of 2015 when she was 4 years old. She took a class with him at the library for a month. The next summer, she joined taekwondo classes at his school full time.

The journey was often hard, but she never gave up. When she really struggled, Master Jim would step in and talk her through it. Together with him, she always persevered until she met her objective.

He believed in her enough for both of them until she believed on her own. He taught her bravery, endurance, and grit.

In 2019, she earned her black belt, but not without difficulty. She honestly wondered if she would make it. He never did. He promised to be by her side, and he definitely was. He was the one who held her feet during the sit ups portion of the physical test. He laid down on the mat and talked her through the push up portion. I remember watching teary-eyed as she believed in herself because he believed in her.

Because taekwondo taught her she could do hard things, Meleah has faced her cancer diagnosis and treatment with tenacity. There have been moments of fear and doubt, but they have been few and far between. I attribute so much of this to Master Jim. Not only for the character lessons he provided through taekwondo, but for every message sent daily since her diagnosis. He had a timer set on his phone and sent a message every single day. Some days it was a one-liner "Happy Wednesday, Meleah! 🐪🐪". Other days it was a picture of his dog, a sunrise, or his artwork. One night during the fall it was a verbal prayer he recorded sitting around a campfire out back with his dog close to midnight praying to God for Meleah as she struggled with another bout of necrotizing pancreatitis.

This past week Master Jim earned his wings as heaven gained an angel. Our hearts are heavy as Master Jim had been so much a part of our lives for so many years. He was an incredible blessing to

all our children and our family.

A few weeks ago, Meleah had confirmed to Master Jim that she planned to return to taekwondo when her health allowed. He committed to personally coaching her so she could regain her physical strength and skills While it won't be him she returns to as her instructor, we are thankful knowing how much he invested in and taught his staff, and we look forward to being back in the dojang. Until then, we'll live our lives as he taught us.

No excuses.

Don't quit.

Boys, hold the door open for a lady.

Hold the doors of heaven open for the ladies, Mr Jim! Until we meet again.

Much love and appreciation,

The Orellanas

#blackbeltstrong forever



Julia Orellana - March 09, 2022 at 12:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.*



March 09, 2022 at 12:20 PM

SP

“ I'm so sorry for your loss, such a tragedy for you and your family. I'm not sure if you remember me, we go way back. May he Rest In Peace
Sally (Duberek) Peluso

Sally Peluso - March 09, 2022 at 09:24 AM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.



March 09, 2022 at 07:37 AM



“ I'm grateful for knowing you and having the opportunity to learn from you. You gave me confidence in myself. You showed me how to protect myself. You will be missed.



Ashley Wilson - March 09, 2022 at 06:50 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.



March 08, 2022 at 10:00 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.*



March 08, 2022 at 08:36 PM



“ *Mr And Mrs James N. Coates Sr (Leslie) lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III*

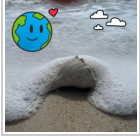


Mr and Mrs James N. Coates Sr (Leslie) - March 08, 2022 at 03:49 PM



“ *My husband and I met Jim thru the VFW and got to know him pretty well. We would run into him at Renegades from time to time. I remember him telling us that he was playing a machine one night and that he told God that if he won he was splitting 3 ways, 1/3 to Penny for surgery, 1/3 to I believe he said Lynn and 1/3 for himself which he used to buy people drinks that night. I was impressed by his generosity and big heart and flattered by his constant remarks about my voice. He made me laugh so often I usually forgot that I had health issues for a little while. Jim you were larger than life and a role model for so many. God must have decided you had completed all you were here for and brought you home. God has another beautiful soul. RIP my friend. Love, light and prayers to your family. Till we meet again. I sing with you in mind because you though I was so brave getting up on stage lol I was shaking inside as always.*

Mr and Mrs James N. Coates Sr (Leslie) - March 08, 2022 at 03:49 PM



“ To the family of Jim, our deepest condolences for your loss. Mr.Jim was such a nice person and my daughter enjoyed when he filled in as the Taekwondo instructor. She had the pleasure of taking the board breaking class and there were times she was hesitant and scared she would hurt her hand but he made her feel confidence in her self that she could do it. I am grateful and blessed to have had him come into her life and given her that gift. Your family is in our prayers.



Melanie Soldevilla - March 08, 2022 at 02:22 PM

L)

“ My condolences to the Niland family.I am so sorry for your loss.May you all find comfort ,healing and peace. Jim I thank you for your friendship. You are a kind and generous person who was always helping others. You lived life large and your laugh is contagious ❤️ I know you are at Peace and forever will be in the hearts of many. XOXO .



La - Manda Kamarad (Mandy) - March 08, 2022 at 01:24 PM



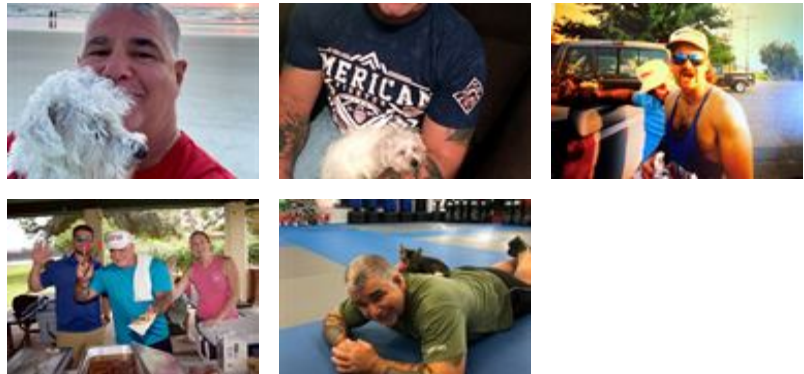
“ 1 file added to the album *Friends*



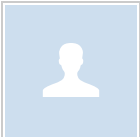
Rob Gagne - March 08, 2022 at 01:04 PM



“ 50 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - March 08, 2022 at 12:02 PM



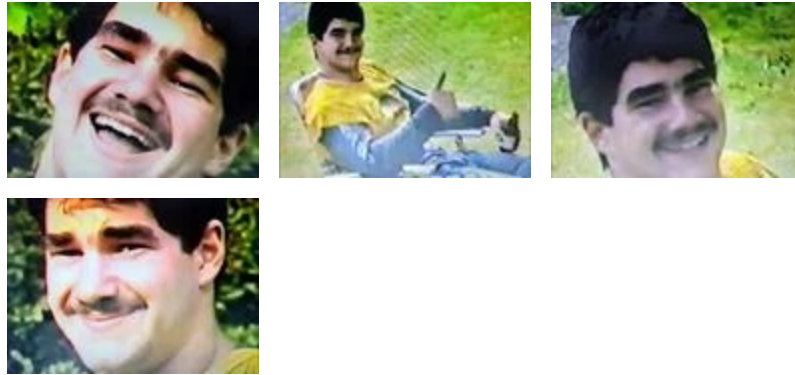
“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.



March 08, 2022 at 11:55 AM

ER

“ Cica summer of 1985. Jim was the life of my "home on leave from Navy picnic". Gave rides on his motor cycle and spred laughs, love and joy. So honored to have known him. Rest in Peace Jimmy.



ERIK - March 08, 2022 at 10:51 AM

EG

Erik Gagne - family childhood neighborhood friend of Jim and his family

ERIK Gagne - March 08, 2022 at 11:04 AM

RP

“ To Jim’s entire family I send my heartfelt sympathy. Jim, you always lived large, laughed hard and loved your family and friends dearly. One of many memories I will treasure is the summer nights when we would jump into the swimming pool at your parent’s house at 1 am when I got off shift from work. Then we would have Subway or some home made food courtesy of your Mom & Dad who were incredibly hospitable at that hour of the morning. I am blessed to be one of your friends. Someday I will see you again for another 1 am dip in a swimming pool. Meanwhile I will continue to smile every time I think of you. Your friend always, Bob Pocobello

Robert L. Pocobello - March 08, 2022 at 09:06 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.*



March 08, 2022 at 08:20 AM



“ *The martial arts community, and the world, lost an amazing soul. He was someone you always wanted to sit near during conferences for the pure joy of his company. Always a laugh, a joke and a great conversation. Brett and Margaret know him as "Uncle Jim", I was lucky to call him friend.*

Lisa Susko CMA716 - March 08, 2022 at 08:13 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.*



March 08, 2022 at 07:47 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Friends*



Robert L. Pocobello - March 08, 2022 at 07:25 AM

PK

“ *My Friend. I miss you deeply. Love you always.
Penny*



Penny Kissner - March 08, 2022 at 07:24 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the
family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.*



March 07, 2022 at 07:03 PM

BB

“ *Cousins Lori, Michael, Beth, Camie, Michael, Donny, Billy, Carron
and out front- with all the moves! Our beloved cousin Jimmy. We
have so many great memories together, and you always made me
laugh- "ought, sisst, aaht" love, Beth*



Beth Bellavance-Grace - March 07, 2022 at 05:53 PM

RG

“ 1 file added to the album *Friends*



Rob Gagne - March 07, 2022 at 05:33 PM

RG

I miss my friend! Love you brother...

Rob Gagne - March 07, 2022 at 05:37 PM

PR

What a great picture

Pam Robillard - March 10, 2022 at 01:22 PM

KB

“ A man with a BIG ❤️ who will be missed by all!

Jim was the most giving man I knew, he always thought of others before himself.

One memory I'll never forget is him leaving singing voice mails on my phone of silly little songs that always made me laugh and always put a smile on my face. He definitely was a man with many talents. His cooking skills were pure deliciousness!!

Jimbo if you or the family need anything please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

(Baby Seal) was the nick name I had for you many years ago.

I'm praying for peace and comfort for you and the rest of the family during this difficult time.

Love,

Kim Blankenship

Kim Blankenship - March 07, 2022 at 05:29 PM

HM

“ Met Jim a couple years ago at a CMA event. He was very kind and helpful. A huge loss to his family and the community.

Howard Munding - March 07, 2022 at 04:46 PM

LB

“ Words cannot express the Sadness I feel in my Heart for the entire family. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Jim personally, but from what I have heard from Judith Niland (my Bestie) he was quite a guy. An amazing Son, Father, Brother and a great inspiration to the men, women and especially the Children he taught. His Memory Will Live on Forever! Rest in Peace Jim. Our thoughts and Prayers. With Loving Memories, Leigh Ann, Jack and the Entire Ball Family From Texas

Leigh Ann Ball - March 07, 2022 at 03:57 PM

LF

“ Leigh Ann, Jack & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James "Jim" Laurent Niland III.



Leigh Ann, Jack & Family - March 07, 2022 at 03:33 PM

LM

“ To the family of our beloved nephew, Jimmy, we send deepest sympathy. Our hearts are broken, yet brimming with memories of his laughter, generosity and kindnesses.
Lois Mathieu & Bill Newell

Lois Mathieu - March 07, 2022 at 03:32 PM