



Hubert James Ellis

August 15, 2020

If you know Hubert James Ellis, you know him as Jimmy.

Jimmy is the son of an Irish immigrant, Francis Augustine Ellis and Rita Marie Cleary of Cypress Hills then later Ozone Park, Queens, NY. His grandmother “Nanna” Mary Cleary Napal and her Husband Francisco Oraa Napal, were a constant source of joy in his early days.

In September of 1949, he entered Bishop Loughlin High School as a freshman and lettered in three sports, Baseball, Handball and Basketball in spite of being only 5’2” at the time. His father Francis “Frank”, worked as an executive for Rupert’s Brewery. Jacob Rupert owned the New York Yankees at the time. Consequently, Jimmy’s first real job at age sixteen was selling programs at Yankee Stadium. His love for the team was unquestionable. In February of 1953, the family including his younger brother Robert moved to Seaford NY, out on Long Island. Jimmy was asked to be the chaperone of a local high school dance once. At this dance he met Barbara Bould and they later got married in February of 1957. In October of 1957 he joined the Army and did six months of active duty, then four years of Reserves. In 1958 he joined the Nassau County Police Department. Because of his education and typing skills he was quickly accelerated up the ranks to a Detective. His police work was based around the investigation of racketeering and he did quite a bit of undercover work that much of his children know nothing about. Let’s just say his family won’t donate to certain charities. Immediately after marriage, Jimmy and Barbara start having children, one after the other. First came James Francis in 1958 then Kathleen Ann in 1960, Patricia Anne in 1961, Kelli-Ann in 1962, Kerri-Ann in 1971 and Michael Patrick in 1975. In 1985 Jimmy retired from the police department and the family moved to Saint Augustine

Florida. After starting a short-lived lawn care business Jimmy and Barbara found an opportunity in buying two small retail stores in the downtown Saint Augustine area. As time went on the business grew and later became the Palm Bay Republic T-shirts and casual wear stores scattered throughout Saint Augustine and Saint Augustine Beach. Jimmy often said there are only two problems in the world: “romance and finance”. The saving grace in Jimmy’s life was his participation in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

On August 4 of 1984, Jimmy surrendered to the disease of alcoholism and maintained his sobriety all the way till the day of his passing.

Jimmy's family grew and grew. James Francis married Donna who cared for him in these last days of his life. Kathleen married Michael Sielaff and they had two children Meghan and Brendan. His first granddaughter Meghan had three children of her own, Maurade, Makenna, and Maisie. Patricia married and had Jimmy's third grandchild Michael. Patricia later married James McNulty and two more boys entered into Jimmy's grandparent life with Connor and Liam. Kelli-Ann remains a devoted daughter, sister and aunt who is loved by all of Jimmy's grandchildren. Kerri-Ann married J Hartley. Together they had Camryn, Collin, Ellis and Tatum. Later in life as Jimmy's health started to take on some age, the Hartley family saw him through the ups and downs and humbly loved him in tremendously unconditional ways. Michael Patrick met Lauren Bitting in college. They later had two children, Trinity and Abbie. Jimmy's family is spread out between New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania and right here in Saint Augustine, Florida. But Jimmy was never far away from any of them. In constant vigilance, he would often be heard speaking of the joy they brought him. Jimmy stuck to his Irish Catholic roots and remained a member of the Saint Anastasia Catholic Church. Where he shall forever be interned.

All the family agrees that Jimmy's participation in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous was life-changing for the entire family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make an anonymous donation to <https://contribution.aa.org/>.

For Non-AA members please donate to St. Augustine Little League
P.O. Box 305, St. Augustine, FL 32085,
<https://mysall.org>.

A visitation will be held 5 - 8 PM Wednesday at Craig Funeral Home with prayers beginning at 6PM.

Funeral Mass will be 11AM Thursday at St. Anastasia Catholic Church, father Jared De Leo officiating.

Events

AUG 19 **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

Craig Funeral Home
1475 Old Dixie Highway, St. Augustine, FL, US, 32084

AUG 19 **Prayer Service** 06:00PM

Craig Funeral Home
1475 Old Dixie Highway, St. Augustine, FL, US, 32084

AUG 20 **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
5205 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL, US, 32080

Comments



“ I first met Jimmy about six years ago. He was sitting with a group of "old timers" who I truly admire. Jimmy's energy was incredible. He had so many lessons to teach. I was further blessed when he and my husband became such great friends. John spent a lot of time with Jimmy. But then I crashed the party on Sundays, sometimes Saturdays. I asked Jimmy if he minded if I was there and he said that he liked when I was around. We would pick him up for church and the clubhouse. He always shared some pearls of wisdom and knew such great history about each place we went. In a short time, I got to know the real Jimmy Ellis. The Jimmy who loved his family so dearly. The Jimmy who had a bright twinkle in his eyes when he spoke of his grandchildren and how much he loved them. He would keep John and I updated on all their achievements and how proud he was of them. Sometimes, he couldn't come with us on Sundays because he would excitedly and apologetically say to us "I'm sorry I can't make it" and tell us that he was "going to lunch with my family" or "going to the movies with my family" or "to my grandson's birthday party." Jimmy was concerned that he was letting us down. The Jimmy who would give you the shirt off his back. The Jimmy who helped so many others along the way. I liked talking to him on the phone. We laughed a lot together. We talked about books. He would recommend a book that he was reading or something to watch and I would do the same. We would go to lunch on Sundays. No matter where we went, he always wanted the shrimp dish. He would tell me "You know what I like." At one place it would be the shrimp platter with datil sauce, french fries and cole slaw. He always gave us his hush puppies. At another, it would be the fish tacos, just eating the shrimp and the potato salad. The last time I spoke to Jimmy was a few days before he passed away. At the end of our conversation I told him "I love you." He replied, "I love you too." I am grateful I was able to have that last contact. The morning of August 15, a beautiful Giant Swallowtail Butterfly visited one of our shrubs and was just fluttering around. This beautiful type of butterfly had not graced our yard for a few years. My first thought was "I have been waiting for you for a long time." Then "I wonder who is visiting." I didn't know yet that our dear friend Jimmy had moved on to the paradise that awaited. You see, I have long believed that butterflies and cardinals symbolized a visitor from a loved one who has passed. A short while after, I had heard about Jimmy. At first, I felt so very saddened and heartbroken. I really loved Jimmy. But then I felt comforted. I must say that the beautiful butterfly has been following me around over the past few days. The presence of this beautiful butterfly has reminded me that Jimmy will never leave us, that his memory will remain and that he will forever hold a place in my heart. Godspeed Jimmy.

Jacqueline Yates - August 20, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ ‘Hi Kathleen,Patty,Kerri,James, Michael,
Mr. Birke (Artie.) and Dorothy offers our deepest sympathies to all the Ellis family. If it wasn't for the COVID virus, you all know I would be there for the funeral. Jim and I went to Loughlin together and were in the Army reserves together, we rode the train to high school together and were close neighbors on Park Ave. As you can imagine I was very close to all of you. Your family held a very special place in my heart. So as time passes the pain of loss lessens, but the good times ,and there were many, and all the the great memories will last last forever. Our good Lord has a way of taking care of his faithful.
So Dorothy and I will be with you at the time of loss, Love to all of you.

Artie Birke - August 20, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Ellis - August 18, 2020 at 11:25 PM



“ We met Jimmy 5 years ago when we moved to St Augustine. His son Jimmy and daughter in law Donna
Are our FRAMILY. Consequently we spent Holidays with them and Jimmy.
Always a sweetheart always a dear man. We came to think of him as family too.
We will miss him and keep him in our prayers. Soar with the Angels Jimmy watch over us, keep us safe until we meet again. Love, Bob & Mary Rosati

Bob & Mary Rosati - August 18, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ He was a joy to behold, a real character and a man of character. When he walked into a room with his Yankee cap on everybody smiled, everybody felt his presence. He was the number one Yankee fan in St Augustine. His twinkling blue eyes, smile, and kindness touched all of our hearts. When I first came back to AA he took me under his wing and made me feel welcome again. He called me about 10 times a day to ask me "so howya doing, champ?" He called me Champ or "the great John L. because he teased me that i was related to the Irish heavyweight. I told him I was, (I'm not) , and i had a perfect record., 0 and 50 lifetime. He got a kick out of that. He was a power of example, he could light up a room with his smile and give hope to even the most down and out, always a kind word and a handshake. i used to call him Jimmy the Kid, because that's how he was. I just love the guy, my wife loves him. we used to pick him up and go to the clubhouse. All the young people there loved him too. He was a great storyteller, expert at making a short story long. And if you missed it, come back tomorrow, Jimmy would still be talking. Hanging out with the man made me a better person, a day at a time, lifted me up and made our little world a better place. He did what he was sent here to do, and he did it well. God Bless you Kid, catch you on the other side.

john francis sullivan - August 17, 2020 at 10:35 PM



“ Wow thanks for sharing

Susan "Sueky" Robertson - August 18, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ Carl B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Hubert James Ellis.



Carl B. - August 17, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ I remember when I was small visiting in south ozone park.im pretty sure they had an attic room I seem to remember.of course he was older than me But we had fun together along time ago in a world far far away.memories

kenneth j cleary - August 17, 2020 at 04:38 PM



“ My Dear Kerri and Family, So sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad. I know you took excellent care of him for a very long time. When someone leaves you, they really don't leave you, for they leave a part of themselves within you. So don't say goodbye to your Dad, say hello. Holding you in my heart and prayers. Rose Fallon



Rose Fallon - August 17, 2020 at 04:28 PM



“ My father knew Jimmy well. I always remember him telling me that he would meet him at the 12Noon meeting on Fridays at the catholic church. The name stuck in my head even though I was still living in New York. I sought him out when I moved down here, just to see what he was like. When I heard him share I knew why my dad admired him so much. He sorely will be missed. Sending prayers to his family. Forever in our hearts. The Damiano family.

Nancy - August 17, 2020 at 04:04 PM



“ He was my big brother. When I was little he was my hero. I was so envious of his athletic ability. Because he was so good in every sport he played. When I entered high school, I was having trouble with algebra. So he helped me each night for several weeks, until I understood it. In the last 30 years we spoke to each other weekly, and nearly daily, for the last 10. I will surely miss those talks.

Bob Ellis - August 17, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ He loved you so much. I learned respect from hearing him speak about you and our family.

Michael Patrick Ellis - August 17, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ Uncle Bob he truly loved you so much! Often times when he spoke of you it sounded as if you were the older brother. He has so much respect and admiration for you. Thank you for being an example of family love/bond. We love you, Kerri

Kerri Hartley - August 18, 2020 at 01:41 AM



“ I can remember seeing Jimmy at mass with his grandchildren and how proud he was of them standing next to him. He always said hello. Jimmy was one of the first people I met here in Saint Augustine; he helped me more than he ever knew. He often came to the bagel shop with the boys, always part of the group, rooting for me to do well. I will remember him fondly.

Lorelei Soule - August 17, 2020 at 03:54 PM