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John James "Jim" Magnuson of San Carlos, California | 1946 - 2018 | Obituary



John James "Jim" Magnuson

May 11, 1946 - March 09, 2018

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Celebration of Life

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Saturday, Apr 07,
2018

4:00 PM-7:00 PM

John James Magnuson, age 71, died on Friday evening, March 9, 2018, after a short battle with lung cancer, surrounded by family in his San Carlos home. Jim was a San Carlos native. Born on May 11, 1946, he was the second child and first son of Carl Gosta and Orpha McCarthy Magnuson.

A natural and accomplished 3-sport athlete, Jim attended San Carlos High School. At age 15, he was a catcher on the San Carlos Babe Ruth League All-Star team. The team made it to the 1961 Babe Ruth League World Series and won, allowing San Carlos to claim they had "The best team in the entire United States." Later in life, Jim and his mother felt that this distinction should be remembered by San Carlos citizens. They collected and saved memorabilia to showcase this key event in San Carlos history. Today, their collection is displayed at the San Carlos History Museum on Laurel Street.

In 1964 Jim was named "Athlete of the Year" by the Redwood City Tribune. That year, he graduated from San Carlos High School and attended College of San Mateo where he was was one of CSM's baseball stars. In 1967, Jim transferred to UC Berkeley (Go Bears!) and after getting recruited by the San Francisco Giants

and Baltimore Orioles, he signed Minor League contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. He played Triple-A ball with the Clearwater Threshers in Florida in the Phillies organization and later with the Greenville Drive in South Carolina for the Boston Red Sox. He also played in Canada as well.

After injuries forced Jim to end his baseball career in 1969, he returned to college and graduated from San Jose State University in 1971 with a BS in Physical Ed and minor in Science. He was hired at Carlmont High School in 1975. At Carlmont, Jim was a well-respected teacher and a successful varsity baseball coach. In the 1970s, his team won the Central Coast Section title.

On July 29, 1979 Jim married Nanci J. Glass in San Carlos, CA. The couple had two children, Deanna (1983) and Christopher (1985) Magnuson. Jim loved his family and enjoyed preparing meals to bring family and friends together. He loved watching sports, especially the SF Giants and enjoyed fishing. His children recall adventurous summer trips to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite as well as camping in San Mateo at Memorial Park. Out of his many accomplishments, Jim found his greatest joy with kids—those he taught, those he coached and his own two children, Deanna and Chris.

After Jim retired in 2009 he spent time on the road in his RV. Accompanied by his beloved black labrador, Missy, they enjoyed visiting California's campgrounds. Jim was an avid gardener and handyman and on weekends, he enjoyed visiting local estate and garage sales to find treasures at the best price.

Jim is survived by his loving family, sister, Karen Magnuson of Kelseyville, son-in-law and daughter, Sean and Deanna Magnuson Griffin and grandson, Ethan Griffin of Redwood City, son, Chris Magnuson of San Carlos and ex-wife, Nanci Glass Magnuson, of Belmont.

Please join Jim's family to celebrate his life on Saturday, April 7th at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City from 4-7pm. All those that knew and loved him are welcome

SERVICES

Celebration of Life

Saturday, April 07, 2018

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Harry's Hofbrau

1909 El Camino Real

Redwood City, CA 94063

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