

Jim Martinsen was simply - one kind and amazing man.

What most people remember about Jim is... He was always smiling. ☺

Jim often said; “Any girl could play softball and be successful. It didn't matter what size you were, how small, how big, how short, how tall, nothing physical about a girl stopped her from being a good softball player. “

He was (is) so right.

Jim moved to Colorado in 1976, first living in Boulder, then after a year, he moved to Niwot.

He founded Falcon Supply Company in Niwot, which has served the Rocky Mountain region for 31 years selling water treatment equipment.

He and his wife, Dawn, had recently purchased Wings West, a restaurant in Estes Park.

Jim has four children Lara, Matthew, Kevin and Lianna.

Jim Martinsen began coaching Softball for Niwot Youth Sports (then GLVRA) in 1988 when his daughter Lara played. He became the Softball Director for NYS in 1989 until 2002. Also in 1989, he joined the IPGSA Board. He served as Treasurer of IPGSA from 1990 until 2006.

His volunteering didn't stop with NYS or IPGSA; he was a tireless volunteer, taking an active role in the communities he lived. He helped start the Developmentally Challenged Softball Program. He faithfully served on the St. Vrain

Valley School Board for eight years, the Boulder County Planning Commission, board of Niwot Sanitation District, League of Women Voters (Estes Park), the Otters Swim Club and Estes Park Learning Place as a board member and was a mediator of Restorative Justice (Estes Park).

He was a friend to so many people.

Jim moved to Estes in June of 2005, where he immediately became involved in this community. One of the projects on his list was to see if he could organize some kind of softball program here.

He actually planned on working on this project last summer (2009), but in June, Jim started not feeling well, and went to the doctor on July 17, where he was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Pancreatic Cancer.

There were no treatment options available. Jim decided he was going to live his last days with as much dignity as possible.

He continued to be positive, even as his illness progressed very rapidly. After only five short weeks, he died at home in Estes on August 27th. He was surrounded by many loved ones.

He thought softball was the biggest builder of self esteem for a young woman. He was passionate about the sport, and thought it was much more fun than other sports.

Jim is buried with his softball mitt, much worn and used, and several softballs signed by members of different teams he coached, and a plaque commemorating his support of softball, and of course a baseball hat.

The Round Robin Tournament was Jim's favorite part of IPGSA. He coached a RR team for years, even long after his daughter was too old to play in the league.

He would say, "I love watching girls that don't know each other at the beginning of the day, become "new best friends" by the end of the day".

This year's shirt contest winner, Lainy Hughes, put what he used to say into her own words as part of her design –

"Where friends are made"

Yet the amazing thing is, Lainy has never met Jim or knew he'd say that. Besides having a great design, her slogan caught the Board's attention and Jim's voice was heard.

Thanks Jim - for all you did... You are missed and will never be forgotten.