

James M. Rajacich



JAMES M. RAJACICH 1943 - 2011 Our hero, friend, and mentor, returned to the presence of our Heavenly Father, December 2, 2011 in an industrial accident. He was born the oldest son of Mike and Dorothy Rajacich on October 22nd, 1943 in San Bernardino, California. He lived in Barstow for 64 years. He took pride in being a resident of Barstow and was often referred to as "Mr. Barstow." Jim started working in the business long before he was out of high school. He served in the US Army as a young adult, and then came back to help his father work the steel yard his father had started on West Main Street in Barstow, named "Barstow Steel". Jim had remarkable intelligence at an early age with regards to buying or selling scrap and heavy equipment, and soon he changed the dynamics of the company from a small steel yard to a busy and prosperous heavy equipment and scrap dealer. When the company incorporated in 1968, Jim was selected as President of the new corporation "Barstow Truck Parts & Equipment Co., Inc.". Jim's new title did not slow him down, and he remained active, hardworking, and hands-on in all operations of this company. It was not unusual for Jim to work at the business 80 hours in a week, and had a true passion for it. Jim had a unique work ethic that confounded and eluded most. Because of Jim's fortitude and determination, the company currently encompasses the site of the original steel yard on West Main Street, but has expanded to 40 acres surrounding the original site. Jim was a long-time member of Elks Lodge, one of the founding Fathers of Barstow Rotary Club where he was a member for over 30 years and received the prestigious Paul Harris Award, a board member of the Barstow College Foundation, and was voted Barstow "Man of the Year" in 1998. He brought the first reverse drawing to Barstow- Rotary Cadillac drawing with a gold Cadillac. If there was a charity in town, he would do what he could to support it. One year North Carolina had a drought; Jim donated the use of trucks, trailer, and drivers to take them loads of hay so they could feed their animals. You couldn't watch a Mardi gras parade without seeing one of Jim's trucks, trailers, and staff driving to help a lot of youth organizations. He had continuously sponsored the Central High float, helped the Barstow High School Band raise money and transport their equipment when needed. If there was a need to help in our community or sponsor our kids or our troops Jim was the first on board to help as long as it was done anonymously. He has touched the lives of all of his employees and countless individuals. Jim's sharp business sense, quiet cheerful spirit, and never ending philanthropist acts made many believe that he helped

make the city of Barstow a better place. Jim's influence and contacts in the construction, trucking, and scrap metal industries stretch worldwide, and his importance to a wide range of companies is immeasurable. As fundamental as work was to his life, there was nothing more powerful than his love for his children and twenty-two grandchildren. Jim will be missed by his loving wife of 9 years, Sharon; Children: Candy Wilson (Allen), James Rajacich Jr. (Nicole), Mandy Hammond (Delbert); Step-Children: Bill Bowers (Amy), Ann Tennison (Harry), Amy Hildebrandt (Donny). Grandchildren: Peter Michael, Zachary, Ronnie, Victoria, Sarah, Ryan, Jaren, Billy, Jacob, Skyler, Luke, Dylan, Jessica, Sierra, Seth, Brady, Donny Rae, Madyson, Ella, Mariah, Collin, Gracie; Sisters: Marsha Rajacich and Joanie Rajacich. Preceded in death by his beloved parents Mike and Dorothy Rajacich and brother, Grover Rajacich. Jim's friends and family are welcome to attend his services as detailed below: Viewing: Friday, December 9th from 5:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Sunset Hills Mortuary, 24000 Waalew Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307 and Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 12100 Ridgecrest St., Victorville CA 92395. Funeral service: 11:30 a.m. Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints, 12100 Ridgecrest St., Victorville CA 92395. Graveside service and celebration of life at Sunset Hills Mortuary following graveside service. In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to the following: Barstow College Foundation, Attn: Maureen Stokes, 2700 Barstow Rd, Barstow CA 92311. Please reference "Jim Rajacich Endowment.

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