

James Govostes Jr.

February 6, 1951 ~ December 2, 2024

James “Jimmy G” Govostes Jr., 73, of Sandy, Utah passed away Monday, December 2, 2024, at University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City surrounded by loved ones, after suffering a heart attack while skiing at Alta Ski Resort.

Jimmy was born February 6, 1951, in Detroit, Michigan to James and Ellen Govostes. His love of skiing started at Boyne Mountain and only grew when a move to Salt Lake City, Utah provided an opportunity to ski real mountains, where there really is the Greatest Snow on Earth. After skiing at all of the resorts in the area, Alta became a clear favorite with its $10 lift ticket, the best snow, and the friendliest people. It was in the line for Alta’s Sugarloaf Lift that Jimmy met his wife of nearly 39 years, Kathy (“Wendy”). The two married at Alta’s Goldminer’s Daughter on January 4, 1986, hitting the slopes in wedding dress and tux following their ceremony. Together they welcomed two daughters, who much to Jimmy’s disappointment, did not take up skiing despite his single lesson to his oldest daughter. His love of Alta knew no season, extending into the summer with daily walks, but he was always eager for the return of winter. On December 2, Jimmy skied his first day of Alta’s 2024-25 ski season, spending the day with his friends from the Wild old Bunch. After having lunch together, the group hit the slopes again, where Jimmy’s journey came to an end on Sugarloaf.

When he wasn’t skiing, Jimmy enjoyed spending time with close friends and family. He also loved taking long aimless drives in his cars, rooting for the Detroit Lions, and watching his “judge shows” including Judge Judy and Hot Bench, though the jury is still out regarding Jimmy’s level of legal expertise. While he loved to watch boxing matches, he refused to order another pay-per-view fight after one highly anticipated match ended in under 30 seconds.

With over 40 years of experience in the commercial refrigeration and HVAC industry, Jimmy built a successful business, Dun Rite Refrigeration, where he formed many lasting relationships with customers and vendors. Jimmy retired in 2017, selling his business to trusted long-time employee, Jay Biesecker, who over the years had become part of the family. Jimmy stayed on as a consultant to Jay for a few years, and found a great deal of purpose in his mentorship role. Jimmy loved reminiscing with Jay about the good old days, and sharing his advice and knowledge about business.

Jimmy is survived by his wife Kathryn (Christianson) Govostes, daughters Nicole (Joaquin) Avila and Jenna Govostes, grandsons Leevi Avila and Avery Avila, granddaughter Lila Avila, sister Mary (Dan) Chisholm, and nieces Danielle (Dan) Titus, Deborah (Jim) von Schmittou, and April (Jeremy) Kendzorski, and many close friends.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents, James and Ellen Govostes, brother Raymond (and his wife Rosemary) Bataille, niece Dawn (Jon) Martens, and his close friends Michael Butler and Douglas Stevens.

A celebration of Jimmy’s life will be held on Saturday, January 18th from 2-5pm at Larkin Sunset Gardens in Sandy, Utah for family and friends to gather and share memories of a truly special man.

Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 South), Sandy, Utah 84092

A special thank you to the Alta Ski Patrol, Intermountain Life Flight, and the wonderful doctors and nurses at University of Utah Medical Center whose tireless efforts will not be forgotten, and for all the kindness that has been shown to Jimmy’s family during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Heart Association (www.heart.org) or your favorite charity, or simply spend a day on the slopes in Jimmy’s honor.