

James Cecil "Jim" Byers



January 21, 1948 - November 9, 2017

James Cecil "Jim" Byers peacefully passed away on November 9th, 2017 at his home, in Eureka Calif., with his family by his side.

Jim was born in Joplin Mo., on January 21, 1948, to Bill and Maxine (Giles) Byers. Jim's wife Cecilia Rahner, his stepson, Pablo, and Jim's nephew, Eddie Chapin, survive him. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Susan Byers Chapin.

Jim graduated from Joplin Senior High School in 1966 and Missouri Southern College in 1970. He had advanced degrees in Special Education from San Diego State University. Until he retired, Jim spent his career teaching and caring for children with special needs; first in Kansas City, Mo., then later in Mendocino and Eureka, Calif.

Jim was an accomplished musician and was lead guitarist in the "Riff Laff" band that performed in several northern California venues. He was an avid mountain biker and "Miniball" basketball player (a game invented by Jim and his old childhood friends). He especially enjoyed spending time with his family and many friends sitting around the dining room table "talking story". His spirit will remain in our hearts.

Jim was cremated and a celebration of his life will be arranged in the near future.

A donation, in Jim's name, may be made to Ink People Center for the Arts (Trajectory Program), Eureka, Calif.