

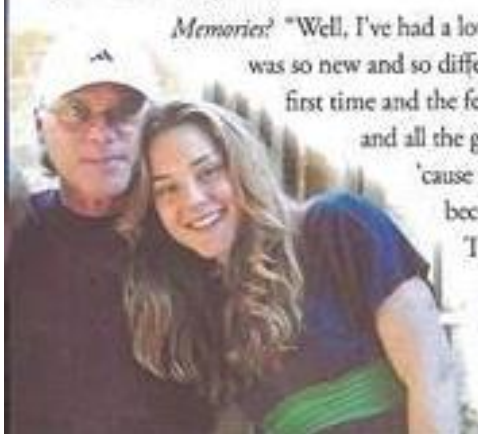
James (Jimmy) Joseph Amelang

May 21, 1954 - October 31, 2014

James Joseph (Jimmy) Amelang was born on May 21, 1954 in Chincoteague, VA where his father was stationed in the United States Navy. He lived most of his life in Houston, TX. Jimmy began dancing at the age of 9 at Margo Marshall School of Ballet in Houston, TX. High School summers were spent in New York City dancing at the Joffrey Ballet School. After graduating from Spring Branch High School in 1972, Jimmy started his professional dancing career with the Joffrey Ballet Company and went on to dance in Amsterdam, Holland with the Dutch National Ballet from 1973 to 1978. After that time he moved back to the states and held jobs in the machining industry. He enlisted in the United States Navy; served from 1986-1990 and was stationed in Long Beach, CA. Throughout his life, Jimmy had a myriad of hobbies including sailing, camping, woodworking, bicycling, photography, barbecuing, cooking Cajun food, spending time with his daughter, and enjoying sunny weather where he could wear a t-shirt, shorts, sandals, and a cap. Jennifer remembers her dad as a kind, loving father who encouraged her to pursue her goals and dreams. Jimmy spent the last six years of his life in Georgetown, TX.

Jimmy is survived by his mother, Barbara Kay Amelang of Pearland, TX; daughter, Jennifer Marie Amelang of Houston, TX; sisters Mary Kay Raney of Houston, TX, Anna Marie Holton and husband Michael Bruce Holton of Iowa Colony, TX, Claire Maria Kucera and husband Ricky Kucera of Sweeny, TX, brother Ernst Josef Amelang and wife Pat Amelang of Ft. Collins, CO along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Rodric James (Big Jim) Amelang and brother-in-law, Gary Alan James Raney.

Excerpts from an interview Jimmy's daughter, Jennifer conducted with Jimmy when she was in 7th grade.



Memories? "Well, I've had a lot. When I first went to Amsterdam, 'cause everything was so new and so different — such an adventure. I was on my own for the first time and the feeling of freedom. Then when I got my first sailboat and all the good times me and Joe had going camping and sailing 'cause it was so peaceful and exhilarating being on the sailboat because it was a racing catamaran. Then getting married. Then having you, and now just our time together."
"Who said it, James Taylor?" - "The secret to life is enjoying the passage of time." Not being mean. Not Arguing. Not hurting other people."