

## James "Jim" Hellquist

February 3, 1943 - October 26, 2020

James Kenneth Hellquist, 77, passed away on Monday, October 26, 2020 at Glenbrook Hospital. He was born Feb. 3, 1943 in Waukegan, IL and had been a resident of Libertyville since 1972. He graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Jim was widely known and highly regarded in his field of labor relations.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Lynne Blakesley Hellquist; 3 children, Kristin Hellquist (Michael Cunningham) of Chicago, Bridget Lesinski (David) of Munster, IN and Erik Hellquist of Libertyville; 4 grandsons, Alex, Cole, Max and Parker. He is also survived by his sister, Carlene Walt, and his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carlington and Marcella (Albrecht) Hellquist.

Jim was an avid sailor/accomplished racer and the Commodore of the Waukegan Yacht Club. His biggest joy was sailing with family and friends. He especially enjoyed Wednesday night races on his beloved boat Spitfire with his son Erik.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life, to be held in the spring of 2021. Memories may be shared at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com). A memorial fund is also being planned to share his love of sailing with others.

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ We are sad that Jim is gone. We walked our dogs by his home in Libertyville many times, and his two daughters were about the same age as two of our sons. John was on Ed Weller's sailboat (Speculator) that raced against Jim in the WYC sailboat-races every Wednesday for many years.

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**John O'Gorden** - May 18, 2021 at 09:33 PM

BM

“ Just recently heard that Jim passed away. I sat on the opposite side of the table from him. He was USPS, I was APWU. It was always good to see him and I, too, learned a lot from him about integrity. Bill Manley, APWU retired

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**Bill Manley** - February 19, 2021 at 05:13 PM

KS

“ When I first met Jim, he was larger than life; a man of unbelievable talent, history, persuasiveness and humor. I had the privilege of spending two full days with Jim, one-on-one in Tampa about 17 years ago. He was supposed to be teaching an advanced arbitration advocacy class, and for some reason, I was the only one in attendance.



What a blessing it was for me. Jim taught me incredible things about labor relations and arbitration advocacy, telling me story after story of his experiences. But what I remember most from those two days are his kindness, sincerity, generosity and an astounding passion for sailing. I too am an avid boater/fisherman and I absolutely loved hearing his sailing stories. Those two days were one of the greatest experiences in my career.

My heart, prayers and thoughts go out to Jim's entire family. I know with confidence that he is telling the same great stories, just in a different place. I also know that he is at peace and I pray for that same peace to comfort the entire family during this most difficult time.

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**Keith Stanton** - November 23, 2020 at 11:25 AM

BA

“ I will always remember Mr. Hellquist as one of the Bedford Lane dads who helped make childhood "on the lane" perfect. Whether it was helping run the Fourth of July parade or a Door County camping trip, he helped take our childhoods from ordinary to extraordinary. And, of course, we'll never forget his passion for sailing. Sending love to the entire Hellquist family.

*Brooke (Kemper) Alholm*

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**Brooke Alholm** - November 04, 2020 at 07:15 PM

JC

“ I have been fortunate to have known Jim many years, dating back to time spent in Milwaukee. The loss of Jim will be felt by many and span the entire country. His abilities to advocate cases were unmatched, his determination for success unwavering and he generously shared both his time and knowledge. May the memories of his wonderful personality and many contributions be celebrated by all. I will miss my conversations with Jim. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Hellquist family during this difficult time.

*Jeff Conway*

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**Jeff Conway** - November 02, 2020 at 07:13 PM

ES

“ RIP my old WTHS friend and classmate  
You carried the nickname “gunner” very well firing off those far out shots long before the 3 point line became part of the game of basketball.

*Good times, great memories*

*Ed Shultis WTHS Class 1961*

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**Ed Shultis** - October 31, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ My favorite memory in recent years was sitting with Jim and Erik on the porch of the Lake View Hotel on Mackinac Island, waiting in the darkness for Spitfire to finish the Mac. I was walking down the street on my way to the beach and he saw me and invited me to sit with them. He kept dozing off, then he'd wake up and say, "How close are they now?" I'd check the tracker on my phone and tell him, we'd talk about other things, and then he'd drift off again. It was such a lovely, peaceful time-I really needed some company at that moment and I was so happy to see them.. I will never forget it.

*Jim was larger than life and Jon and I will always treasure the time we have spent over the years with him, as well as the rest of your family. Hugs to you and we look forward to honoring him and spending more time with all of you next season.*

*Jon Johnson and Sue Berry*

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**Sue Berry** - October 31, 2020 at 10:48 AM

BP

“ I was a student of Jim's in my early years in Labor Relations. Jim's willingness to share his extensive labor relations knowledge, experience and arbitration skills became the solid foundation for many successful labor professionals. I value most of all working with Jim over the past thirteen years because I came to realize I could not have asked for a better colleague and friend. I will always remember Jim with respect and fondness.

*Barbara Phipps*

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**Barbara Phipps** - October 31, 2020 at 08:13 AM

RA

“ Jim will be remembered by me as one of my most valued mentors in the early years of my employment as a Labor Relations Professional. He taught me how to advocate cases way back in 1985, and in 2019. . . . I became the person Jim reported to at work. He ALWAYS made me laugh when we would talk about old times, and he was a constant reminder of many difficulties we went through over the years to get to where we are today. He was one of a kind. An icon. Someone who I admired from the first time I met him those many years ago. I will miss him . . and I am proud to have called him my friend.

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**Rick Acker** - October 30, 2020 at 02:34 PM

NB

“ Our neighborhood will not be the same without Mr. Hellquist. We've been neighbors for many, many years and will miss seeing and chatting with him. Please accept our deepest sympathies. We will be keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

*The Bonamarte Family*

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**Nikki Bonamarte** - October 30, 2020 at 01:03 PM

JA


“ As a labor relations representative, I crossed paths with Jim for over 20 years of my postal career. For the last three years of my career, I worked directly with Jim and spent a lot of time traveling around the country with him on various assignments. Wherever we went he knew where to go, where to eat, and if they had a yacht club where we would often eat lunch or dinner. He was a great travel partner where his stories and humor were always present and welcomed. He was bigger than life to me and I am so fortunate for my time with him.

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**Jim Ambrogio** - October 29, 2020 at 08:31 PM

MB

“ *What a wonderful man. The world has shifted a bit, and the sailing community will never be quite the same. We will miss Jim’s wisdom, his humor, his talent, his stories (at least 7 lifetimes’ worth?), and his golden heart. Jeff and I join countless others in mourning the loss of “our” incomparable Skipper. Sending love to all the Hellquists from Jeff & Mary Lynn Bernacchi.*



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**Mary Lynn Bernacchi** - October 29, 2020 at 05:44 PM

SG

“ *Jim was in USPS Labor Relations for a very long time. He would come to town at Headquarters and he was always so nice to me. What a great man. To the family of Jim Hellquist, you have my deepest sympathy, and I will be praying for you.*

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**Sharlene Grimes** - October 29, 2020 at 02:53 PM

EP

“ *My earliest memories of sailing involve Jim. He was a mentor and friend. I will always remember him fondly. My condolences to the Hellquist family.*

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**Eric Pace** - October 29, 2020 at 02:31 PM

CC

“ *Condolences to the Hellquist family. I very much enjoyed learning from Jim in the area of Labor Relations. I will miss him.*

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**Chris Christiansen** - October 29, 2020 at 01:42 PM

CH

“ *My sincere condolences to your family. Jim had been our Wednesday night sailing adversary for years. His fiercely competitive nature, friendship, accomplishments, and dedicated contributions to sailing on the Great Lakes will not be forgotten.*

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**Chris H** - October 29, 2020 at 12:39 PM

MB

“ *We're very sorry to hear about your Dad. We know how close you were. Think of happy memories. Mary and Ed Burke*

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**Mary Burke** - October 29, 2020 at 11:12 AM