



James "Jim" Kline

April 20, 2026

James "Jim" Kline passed away on April 20, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born to George and Mary, Jim grew up in Williamsport, PA, where he later returned to marry his lifelong partner, Martha. They shared over 66 years of marriage, raising three sons and building a family legacy that brought him immense pride.

After graduating from Lehigh University, Jim completed U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School. He served on the admiral's staff in Yokosuka, Japan—an assignment he often described as one of the Navy's smartest decisions (not assigning to a ship)—and later in New York City before being honorably discharged at the rank of lieutenant.

Jim began his professional career at Corning Glass, where he worked in accounting and production management and contributed to early innovations in chemically strengthened glass, now widely known as Gorilla Glass. He later joined Lapp Insulator Company, retiring as Finance Vice President and Controller in 1995 after a long career in manufacturing finance and leadership. In retirement, Jim and Martha traveled the world, visiting friends in the Czech Republic and exploring destinations including Egypt, Jordan, China, Thailand, Australia, South America, and much of Europe. Jim also continued part time accounting work for small businesses for 15 years.

A dedicated member of the United Methodist Church of North Chili, Jim served as finance chair and led the monthly Community Pancake Breakfast

for more than 15 years. He was also the longtime author of the beloved Pancaker News, where his dry wit and gentle humor kept volunteers smiling as much as informed. Jim's ability to lighten a room—often with a perfectly timed one liner—was one of the many gifts he shared with those around him. He also served as Committee Chairman for Boy Scout Troop 292 and was the proud father of three Eagle Scouts and grandfather to another.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife, Martha; his sons, Jim and Mike; seven grandchildren, Jay, Michael, Zach, Sarah, Kyle, Brianna, and Katie; and two great grandchildren, Owen James and Hannah. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Mary; his brother, Curt; and his son, Robert.

Jim's legacy lives on through his family, his service, his humor, and the many communities he strengthened throughout his life.

Family and friends are invited to Jim's Remembrance Service on Sunday, Sunday, April 26th at the United Methodist Church in North Chili, NY at 12:00pm. Interment, Monday, April 27th at Wildwood Cemetery, Williamsport, PA at 1:00pm. Donations in Jim's name may be made to the Disabled American Veterans <https://support.dav.org/campaigns/JLK>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **26**. 12:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church of North Chili
2200 Westside Drive
Rochester, NY 14624

Tribute Wall

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“ *Mr. Kline was remarkable at running the monthly UMC of North Chili Pancake Breakfast, as my family attended it for numerous years up until late 2025. He created a friendly environment and fostered community growth and engagement. His work was highly impactful and created memories that will last a lifetime.*

Anonymous - April 27 at 03:32 PM

RB

“ *My best friend's dad Jim was smart, funny and at times playfully irreverent. All attributes I greatly admire. He took great pride in his sons and I believe largely responsible for the excellent father's they all became. Were I born in a different place and time I could easily imagine being best friends with him, or any of his sons. He always made me feel like family.*

I have countless memories with him, most all involving some laughter. Yelling "Up in front" with him at an SU football game that was going poorly. Showing me how to use ai on his computer. Bringing him a lemon birthday cake. Or so many others...

I celebrate his life and mourn his loss. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten by friends and family.

Robert Bogart - April 26 at 06:47 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Kline.*



April 25 at 11:56 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Kline.

April 25 at 11:56 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Kline.



April 24 at 02:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Kline.

April 24 at 02:40 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Kline.



April 23 at 10:50 PM



“ One of my memories of Jim was his rescue of the monument in honor of Kline family who donated land for Camp Kline Boy Scout camp. It now sits in thy Lycoming County Historical Society.

Arthur Kenneth Patterson - April 23 at 08:03 AM