

Hello everyone, I'm Dale Beech and I'm one of Jim's nephews. I'd like to share a few memories that I have of Jim that reveal how selfless he was, how much he was loved and how much I looked up to him.

I'm 32 now but I can remember Jim and Pat being a part of my life since I was a young child. A couple of my earliest memories are of them attending different events that I was involved in, whether it was a soccer game, basketball game or school graduation. Since everyone here knows Jim and Pat, you're probably aware of how much they enjoy documenting the world and their experiences by taking pictures and video. Well in the 80's and 90's, when I was growing up, recording video wasn't something that everybody was doing on their iPhone. Back then, if you wanted to take a video of something, you had to shell out a lot of money for a giant, shoulder mounted VHS camcorder that looked more like a rocket launcher than a video recorder. And I knew that when Jim and Pat were in attendance at one of my events, if I ever had trouble spotting Jim on the sidelines of a soccer game or in the audience, all I had to do was look for the guy with the massive camcorder on his shoulder and Jim would be underneath. While I've never been a fan of having my picture taken, as my mom can attest, I love looking back and reliving the experiences that Jim and Pat captured.

At Witt Family Reunions, Jim and Pat were instrumental to organizing events, taking pictures and documenting all of the activities that took place. For as long as I can remember, my Dad and I would play in the golf tournament on Saturday, and if there was one thing I could count on that day, besides my horribly high score, it was Jim being there a 7am to take pictures of the golfers on the first tee and he'd be back on the 18th green as the game finished, cheering everyone in and capturing the smiles, or in my case, the frown, on everyone's faces.

When I think back, it was always like that with Jim and Pat, they were there to share the happy moments and to document everyone's life experiences. But they did more than just take pictures and video, they were deeply involved in people's lives, sharing stories and restaurant tips and travel plans for the future, especially of Disney World. They enjoyed listening to others share their experiences with them, which I feel is a rare attribute in this fast-paced world where so many people care more about themselves than others. But for Jim, he always put others first and took the time to listen.

I'm so happy my children were able to meet Jim and get to know him before he passed. In fact, just days before he went into the hospital, my two sons and I were able to visit him at his home where he experienced the love between two young siblings again, something I know he cherished with his own brothers and sister. What I miss most about my Uncle is his smile, embracing hugs and most of all his love. But I also treasure having Aunt Pat living nearby to us who will always be a part of my Family. I'd like to end on a quote that I think reflects Jim's life very well: "The Things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy". Thank you.