

Teresa Downs, one of Jim's co-workers at EPA

I was fortunate enough to share an office with Jim for over ten years. When working on a project, Jim focused intently on the task at hand, sometimes to the exclusion of more mundane things like what time it was or the location of his glasses. One day I noticed that he was looking through his desk drawers, his pockets, and his tote bag. I asked him what he was looking for; he said it was his glasses. When I simply said "Jim", he smiled and said "They are on my head, aren't they?" He was right--they were. Jim liked re-tell that story and it always made him chuckle.

I would like to share the words of another co-worker, John Jamula, because they truly capture how all of us felt about Jim:

In the 20 years that I work with Jim at EPA, I never saw him get angry, although there were many times when it would have been justified.

I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. He was the kindest, gentlest person that I ever knew.

When it came to programming, there was no one better than Jim. He could pull data from the most obscure places very few people even knew about, and produce the perfect report for management. And when I would ask him "How the heck did you do that?" he would just smile and say....Magic. He truly was a magician when it came to computers.

He had a great sense of humor. He could see humor in the most difficult situation. He was just a fun guy to be around.

When he retired, EPA became a sadder place to work. It just wasn't as much fun anymore.

On April 11, the world became a sadder place when Jim left us.

If there are computers in heaven, they are in good hands now.