



James L. Small

June 28, 1940 - January 31, 2021

Former Mayor James L. Small, 80, of New Castle, died Sunday, January 31, 2021 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, following an extended illness from incurable cancer of the prostate, attributed by the Veterans Administration to his exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

He was born June 28, 1940, in Shelbyville, the son of the late George and Delight (Holdermann) Small. He was Mayor of New Castle from 2008-2011 and prior to that was City Court Judge, having been appointed in 2006 by Governor Mitch Daniels to preside over that Court. He and his wife, Jacky, had returned to New Castle two years earlier with the sole intention of retiring among friends and “watching the corn grow and the sun rise and set.”

He graduated from Culver Summer Naval School in 1957, New Castle High School in 1958, and Hanover College in 1962, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma Scholastic Honor Society and Alpha Phi Gamma Journalism Honor Society. He was commissioned in 1962 at U.S. Naval Officers Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and graduated from Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, in 1966, where he studied the Russian language for one year.

He was a Naval Officer from 1962-1972 and was stationed throughout the United States and in the Philippines and Germany. While home-based in the

Philippines, he was away from the home most of the time in charge of communications intelligence detachments in the Vietnam Theater of Operations over the two-year period from 1966-1968. He was awarded three Air Medals and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" while serving with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron-1 (VQ-1) Detachment, Da Nang, participating in 68 aerial reconnaissance missions north of the DMZ.

His last tour of duty was at NSA, where he was the training officer for communications detachments deployed on submarines. While in that position, he also was the officer-in-charge of detachments on two submarine patrols.

From 1972-1995 he was a research engineer with the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute (IITRI) in Annapolis, Maryland. Following retirement from IITRI as a Senior Engineer he and his wife, Jacky, worked for nine years as professional gardeners, maintaining a large estate overlooking the Severn River in Arnold, Maryland, for most of the time.

He was a member of Rotary Clubs in Annapolis and New Castle for 40 years and had sung in a number of Episcopal Church choirs, the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel Chorale, the Bach Meistersingers in Annapolis and the 180-voice Annapolis Chorale, which performed The Messiah in Carnegie Hall two months after September 11, 2001, and, more recently, the Saint Anne and Presbyterian Church Choirs.

Surviving are his wife, Jacqueline Margaret (Corcoran) Small of Edinburgh, Scotland, whom he married on February 13, 1965, in Silver Spring, Maryland; son, James M. Small, of Pasadena, Maryland, and daughter, Julie K. Wright, of Glen Burnie, Maryland; two brothers, Robert H. Small of Annapolis, Maryland and George M. Small of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; four grandchildren; one great-grandson; three nephews and one niece; and many cousins.

A traditional Anglican Funeral Service will be conducted at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at the First Presbyterian Church, the Small family church, with the Pastor Rod Smith officiating. Burial will follow in South Mound Cemetery with military honors, horse-drawn caisson, and bag-piper.

Friends may call from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021 at Sproles Family Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Henry County Community Foundation Flex Fund Donate Online Here (<https://www.henrycountycf.org/james-l-small/>) or to the New Castle First Presbyterian Church. You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of James L. Small.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery

505 Bundy Ave.
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-6850

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Service

FEB 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
1202 Church St.
New Castle, IN 47362

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Jim, was a remarkable man. I served with him in Rotary. Discovered my Family History today that he gave me on April 28, 1992. Send his family warm regards. Scarlett Breeding

Scarlett Breeding - November 01, 2021 at 02:40 PM

VI

“ I had the honor to work with Mr. Small while serving on the City Council. He was a good, kind, and honorable man. He helped me grow in many ways both personally and professionally, and I owe him a debt of gratitude for the example he provided. He will be sorely missed by those who knew him. Please accept my and my family's deepest condolences. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Vaughn Reid III - February 14, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Jim, I have fond memories of the Small family living just up the street from me as a child. My brother and I were friend with Jamie and Julie and I remember Jim building a playhouse under their basement steps. I have some photos of Jim and Jackie and the kids at a neighborhood picnic in Annapolis in the 70s. My prayers and thoughts are with the family at this time...may God give you comfort.

Sue Ridout-Moore, former Annapolis neighbor, now residing in Chestertown, Maryland

Sue Moore - February 12, 2021 at 06:25 PM

TF

“ *Our sincere condolences on your loss.
The Ridout family, your former neighbors on Sumner Road in
Annapolis.*

The Ridout family - February 11, 2021 at 10:29 PM

RO

“ *Jim was my manager on my first engineering job. He was kind and
patient and generous. Prayers for Jacky and family.*
Rose D'Altorio

Rose - February 11, 2021 at 08:33 PM

CT

“ *Jimmy , We are sorry for the loss of your Dad . May his journey to
heaven be a peaceful one.*

Mike & Charlotte Tippett

Charlotte Tippett - February 10, 2021 at 05:30 PM

CF

“ *Cecile Small & The Currier Family purchased the
Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James L.
Small.*



Cecile Small & The Currier Family - February 09, 2021 at 02:14
PM

SN

“ Steve, Cynthia, Aaron, and Noah purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of James L. Small.



Steve, Cynthia, Aaron, and Noah - February 08, 2021 at 05:53 PM

BC

“ Brother George Small . . South Carolina purchased the *Reflections of Glory Wreath* for the family of James L. Small.



Brother George Small . . South Carolina - February 07, 2021 at 11:43 AM

MW

“ I loved Mr and Mrs Small as soon as I met them when they came to New Castle to live. My life has always been a little brighter for knowing both of them. Mrs SmallMay God Give you and your family Strength during this difficult time. Love, Hugs and Prayers are sent your way!

Marilyn Ward-Humbles - February 05, 2021 at 03:50 PM

BY

“ Dear Jackie and family it was an honor to serve in his cabinet when he was mayor I will not forget how we worked to make New Castle a better place he was a dear friend thank you Mayor Jim for believing in me may God be with you on your journey home may God bless you and your family

Bobby York - February 04, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James L. Small.



February 04, 2021 at 06:18 PM



“ May the Lord be with you and yours at this time of loss. Though the voice is quiet, the memories live on. Cassie Bowers of St. Anne Church

Cassandra Bowers - February 04, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ Jacky, I am so very sorry. Prayers with love. Jean Ann

Jean Ann Hill - February 04, 2021 at 10:13 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was a kind man.

Christian Miller - February 03, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ Love. Harmony and Holly Downes



Holly Downes - February 03, 2021 at 03:30 PM

BH

“ *Rest In Peace Mr. Small, thank you for all you did for our Community*



Beverly & Robert Holwager - February 03, 2021 at 02:06 PM

LG

“ *We were so very sorry to hear of the passing of our friend Jim. He will be missed, but he will always be remembered! Praying God's grace and comfort for your family during your time of loss. God Bless!*

Lee and Julie Grear

Lee and Julie Grear - February 03, 2021 at 02:02 PM

NF

So sorry to hear about Jim's passing. I know the family will have so many wonderful memories as will we who knew him for too short a time. Keep singing Jim. How we loved having you sing in our choir. We are also so proud of your Navy service too.

Jacky, our condolences. We will not be back in New Castle until the spring and will hope to see you then. Sending our prayers to you now.

Tom and Nancy Fisher

Nancy Fisher - February 04, 2021 at 04:14 PM

CM

“ *So sorry to hear of his passing.
My mother, Lesley Reece, thought so highly of Jim and Jackie.*

Cheryl Miller - February 03, 2021 at 01:11 PM

JC

“ *Jim Small was a great mayor and great New Castle citizen. We grew up not far from each other and he told me once he delivered the Courier-Times to my house! My condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed. Joy Constantino*



Joy L Constantino - February 03, 2021 at 11:34 AM

RD

“ *Ricky Davis lit a candle in memory of James L. Small*



Ricky Davis - February 03, 2021 at 04:09 AM

BM

“ *Dear Jacky and family,*

Im so glad I got to know Jim. He was a great asset to our community, as Mayor, citizen and good neighbor. We have lost a very good friend. You and Jim made a great team and we have all been blessed since you made New Castle your home.

You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers for God to ease your sorrow and give you peace.

Beverly and Duane Matthews



beverly matthews - February 02, 2021 at 07:38 PM