



## James E. Linder

April 26, 2020

James Edward Linder, 69, of Woodbridge, VA, passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

James (Jim) was born in Harrisburg, PA on July 9, 1950. After graduating from John Harris High School, Jim enrolled in Tampa University. Unfortunately, as an out-of-state resident, Jim was unable to afford the tuition to finish his degree and was forced to drop out after 2 years. He returned to Harrisburg and went into retail management. With his dreams of faraway lands and high professional aspirations undiminished, Jim enlisted in the US Army to be a Cold War linguist in the field of military Intelligence. In June of 1976, Jim shipped off to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO for boot camp. A few months later, he married Jeanne Brienzo and reported to his first duty station at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) to learn Russian in Monterey, California. In California, Jeanne gave birth to Damion. After graduating from DLI's 18 months Russian Language program, the young family was assigned to Ft Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1977. Soon after, sons Seneca (1978) and the twins, Jared and Jerel (1980) were born.

In 1980, Jim was sent back to DLI to learn Czech in order to carry out his mission in Munich, debriefing intercepted Czech defectors and refugees crossing into Germany. Excelling in his career, Jim was selected for the Warrant Officer program. After graduating in 1985, Jim moved to Ft Hood,

Killeen, Texas for three years. Afterwards, he returned to DLI to learn German for 12 months before assuming his new mission in Stuttgart Germany as the XO of 518 Battalion at Coffey Barracks, Ludwigsburg.

In 1990, Jim deployed to Saudi Arabia to serve in the Gulf war; charged with running a POW camp where he interrogated captured Iraqi combatants. Here in this capacity, Jim was awarded the Bronze Star for performing above and beyond his call of duty in a combat theatre.

In 1992, Jim was assigned to Bolling Air Force Base, Maryland as a Balkans Operations Officer overseeing the Intelligence operations in Albania, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, Romania and Bulgaria. Jim retired from the Army after 20 years of service in 1996. Not yet finished with Intelligence, Jim became a HUMINT Collections Manager at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). There, he worked with Defense Attaché Offices to produce and disseminate thousands of Intelligence reports to NATO and the Intelligence Community. Here, he finished his Bachelor's Degree in Military Intelligence from the Defense Intelligence University (DIU).

In 2009, Jim became the first HUMINT Career Manager at Quantico, VA, where he served as a career counselor, and guiding young Intelligence analysts on their professional paths. Although Jim learned 3 languages and traveled to many countries, the highlight of Jim's career was helping others with their own.

In 2016, Jim was diagnosed with a form of blood cancer known as Multiple Myeloma that he valiantly battled for 4 years. In his final days, with the help of at-home-hospice, he was cared for around the clock by his family to ensure he remained content and comfortable. He passed away peacefully knowing he was dearly loved while his wife of 43 years held his hand.

Jim is survived by his wife Jeanne Linder, his four sons (Damion, Seneca, Jared and Jerel), his mother, Ella Woodward, his brother, Lyndon Kirkland, and his sisters, Debbie Ridgeway and Denise Kirkland. He is also survived by his 2 nieces (Thais and Indira Ridgeway) and his 9 grandchildren. He will be truly missed by his family and those who knew him well.

# Tribute Wall



“ *James E. Linder*

---

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Today I was thinking about the many good people I served with in the Army over the years and Jim came to mind. Hoping to reconnect, I searched for him online and his photo came up in connection with his obituary. I am saddened to learn of his passing nearly one year ago. Jim and I served at DLI in the Russian program, and we encountered each other years later on another assignment. From the beginning I was impressed with his personality, his intelligence, and his commitment to do well. Bruce MacKay, a mutual friend, said it well in his comments below. I share my condolences with Jim's family and my gratitude to him for living a good life and being the kind of person the rest of us could look up to.*

---

**Richard A Manwaring** - April 24, 2021 at 10:39 PM



“ Today, I learned that my friend and colleague, Jim, has left us. There was a season when he worked for me, and a more engaged and energetic worker would be very hard indeed to find. Jim defaulted to a smile - even when the work environment was frantic - and his ability to help others laugh often defused a tense situation. He was a pleasure to work with, and our world has lost a remarkable soul with his passing. On the other side, he's causing others to remember how to laugh - and looking forward to being joined by family and friends.

*Godspeed, Jim.*

*Bruce MacKay*

---

**Bruce MacKay** - August 31, 2020 at 06:29 PM

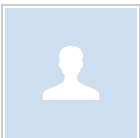


“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Linder.*



---

June 05, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Linder.*



---

June 05, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Linder.*



---

June 05, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ *I am just now finding this out and while my heart is heavy, it knows that Jim is now with his ancestors. Jim, you are a good man whom I am glad to have as friend. You looked out for me in so many ways and for that I am grateful. You are always remembered, always honored, and always celebrated!*

*May your journey in this new chapter remain as bright and true as you ever have been. Deepest love and wishes of restored peace to your family, that they know you rest in love.*

*Shannon*

---

**shannon** - June 02, 2020 at 05:59 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James E. Linder.*



---

June 01, 2020 at 02:34 PM

GS

“ I met Jim at DIA, we had different lanes in the road but occasionally they crossed and often paralleled.. Jim was gracious to me as I was new to the Desk Officer biz, and we were both former Army Warrants and became fast friends. Last time I saw him was when he visited us at CENTCOM, I was so glad to see him it kind of startled me. I was even more startled to see this wonderful vibrant man taken from us so abruptly. My sincerest condolences to his family. See you on the other side Jim.  
Glenn

---

Glenn Stearns - May 28, 2020 at 11:12 PM

MD

“ Very fond memories of Jim. He also worked in our HUMINT management office and always displayed professionalism and team work traits. My prayers to the family for continued strength. He is at peace, looking at us with a smile. R.I.P. dear friend 🙏🙏

---

Martha Duncan - May 24, 2020 at 11:33 AM

FH

“ I first got to know Jim Linder way back when he was a CW2 and I was a buck sergeant Army interrogator with the 504th MI BDE at Fort Hood. That was back in the mid-1980s. I remember tooling around northern Germany with him in a Jeep during a REFORGER exercise we were on in 1987. Good times. Jim was a consummate professional, with an awesome sense of humor. He was just a wonderful human being. I can't believe he's gone now. I will say a prayer for him, and for his family. Those who knew Jim will certainly miss him. I know I do...and will for a long time to come. My condolences.

---

Fred Hoffman - May 17, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ Gable Gift Box was purchased for the family of James E. Linder.



---

May 17, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ Jim and I worked together at the Defense Intelligence Agency in the Clarendon building. I have thought of Jim many times over the past 15 years since I retired. Out of the blue his face would just pop up in my mind, and I would remember how kind he was to me. Some people you always remember. You remember them not just because they were wonderful to work with, but you think of them because they were such good, decent, and honorable human beings. You wonder what happened to them and how they are doing. Jim was that and much more to me. I am deeply saddened to know that he has passed. For me and for many others, he will always be with us, and will forever be a part of us, in spirit. May he rest in peace. Er war ein guter Mensch.

Dr. R. Thomas Loyd, Ph.D.

---

**R. Thomas Loyd** - May 17, 2020 at 05:35 AM



“ I used to work for him many years ago. I kept an email he sent me telling me what a good job I was doing. He allowed me to do a JDA for two years when others wouldn't. He was kind and a good boss. May he Rest In Peace and his memory be a blessing.

---

**Shannon Wendell** - May 17, 2020 at 02:03 AM



“ *Rest In Peace, Jim. Thank you for your many years of dedication to our nation and the intelligence field.*

*I first met Jim in Munich, he worked with my former spouse debriefing Czech refugees. He and his lovely and vibrant wife Jeanne made us feel welcome in Munich and eagerly showed us around, making sure we were learned how to use the S and U Bahns. Many dinners and much laughter shared during our tour. Our tours are not numbered by years but by friendships.*

---

**Tamara Oster** - May 16, 2020 at 01:06 AM

IS

“ *To Jeanne and family: Deeply sorry for the loss of your husband, father, and our dear friend. Theresa and I second the beautiful write up of LTG Patrick M Hughes and CW4 (R) Thaddeus Czuprynski about Jim, our friend. Our friendship started at Ft Bragg and continued in Munich, then a dozen years at DIA where Jim was our desk officer when we were stationed at the US Embassy Zagreb, Croatia, at a time when the country was at war. We had infinite number of questions coming from our HQ, Pentagon and other places. Jim was always there to help and provide assistance. We kept in touch and hosted Jeanne and Jim after he retired as a civilian and planned to get together more often, but it looks like the Lord had a need for a superb leader, Army Officer, Patriot, and friend to all that he met. Military Intelligence Corps best describes Brother Jim: Always out front, with Integrity; Moral Character; Professional Competence; Selflessness. You will all be in our hearts and prayers.*

*CW5 (R)Ivan Sarac and Theresa Sarac*

---

**Ivan Sarac** - May 15, 2020 at 05:08 PM



“ I met (at the time) CW2 Linder in Stuttgart, Germany during REFORGER in '89. He was the first Warrant Officer I ever met.

*During the exercise, we walked into a small German village, and Chief Linder was giving out MRE candy to the local kids who had never seen a black man before. As we got closer to their home, the children, who didn't know he spoke German, began yelling to their mother, "Mama, mama, da druben kommt da Negger!" (Mom, mom, yonder comes the black man!)*

*He walked into the village laughing his head off. What a wonderful man. He will be missed.*

CW3 Dave Freeman

---

Dave Freeman - May 15, 2020 at 04:35 PM



“ To Jim's Family and Friends: So sorry for your loss. Jim was a great intelligence professional. His selfless service to our nation will I hope always be a great source of pride for all of you. It has been my experience that officers like Jim who can not only work and excel in English, but who also have the ability to do so in other languages and cultures, are often under-appreciated and sometime penalized by those who cannot achieve this ability, In Jim's case, I think he was not only appreciated but celebrated for his unique faculties. I hope you will find solace in that assessment. Please accept my sincere regard for Jim as recognition of his superb service in what is otherwise a shadowy and little understood occupation. We'll meet at the next rally point Jim. Montana 6 Out!

---

LTG Patrick M Hughes - May 15, 2020 at 12:31 PM

TC

“ Sincere condolences to Jeanne and family... Jim was one of the finest human beings I ever met. We shared several commonalities... we were the same age [he was a month older]; we were both Russian linguists; we were both appointed as Warrant Officers in 1985; we were both assigned to the 511th MI Battalion in Ludwigsburg; and we went to DESERT STORM together. Both before and after the Gulf War, Jim, Jeanne and my family broke bread many times. Jim had a very calm and soothing demeanor... never heard him say a bad word about anyone. He was a superior mentor to all. We stayed in touch over the years and I was very pleased to see his great success in the Intelligence Community... he certainly deserved it.

*This is very sad news to me as I regarded him so highly. He will be sorely missed.*

*To Jeanne and family, please take solace in knowing that Jim was a great man and a faithful husband and father.*

*Sincerest regards. Thaddeus sends.*

*THADDEUS CZUPRYNSKI  
Chief Warrant Officer 4  
United States Army (Ret)  
Special Operations/Intelligence Corps*

---

**Thaddeus Czuprynski** - May 15, 2020 at 09:32 AM

JA

“ *Jim was a mentor to me when I first arrived at Quantico. He was kind, joyful, and dedicated. I was so lucky to have his guidance.*

---

**Janna** - May 15, 2020 at 07:39 AM



“ For anyone that knew my Dad.

*For who he was was, he was awesome guy. As my Dad, he and I may have looked alike but we were two totally different people. However different we were for the most part we loved a lot of the same things. Family, Comics, Anime, Movies, and food (Well not chicken livers, yuck!!)*

*I wasn't even sure how to share this, or even if I wanted to share this, but lately people have been contacting me, and asking how the family is doing, and so I have told them about my Dad's passing. For the OG 5, it has been a pretty smooth transition as the support for my Mom has been strongly supported by younger brothers Jared, Jerel, and Seneca. They have been the corner stones of support.*

*I haven't been able to truly acknowledge my feelings about his passing, mainly because I feel like I have either been preparing for this mentally for the last year or I am emotionally shut off when it comes to the totality of my Father and who we were as Father and son. Lol.... that maybe years of therapy I am not sure I needed. Hahaha.*

*A little about my Dad that may not have been covered in here. When we were kids he would play "MONSTER" when we would go to bed. All the lights in the house would be off and about 5 to 10 minutes later after we were tucked away we would hear the growling of a monster slowly, heavily creeping up the stairs coming to reach for us. This would last for about 10 minutes as he would crawl, slither on the floor, wait, and then reach out and get us. This would drive my Mom nuts!!! I think that's why I loved it even more!!*

*There were other times where (which I can account for) he would say, "come on" lets go to get some burgers, and it would be me and him on a quest for burgers, which would lead to some comics for purchase the same day. There were the haircut days, where we would talk (well he would talk about) the importance of different*

*things in life (ie education, working hard, and always being the best at what you do).*

*The education part was our biggest rift between us. When it came to absorbing knowledge he was like a waterfall to an aquifer and I was a slow dip against a sheet of metal. I think if I had shared his osmosis like ability to learn we would have had a better Father/Son bond. However where we alike, was the ability to never accept the lesser in anything. Always expect to get the best, set that bar higher, when most people are just getting by day to day doing the minimum we were always shooting for something greater. In that regard, he was the greatest example.*

*At the end of it all I could always count on him to support me in my lowest times (although it would come with a lecture most of the time), and I will be forever grateful, and I will forever miss his presence, his laugh, his voice, his hugs, his sense of humor (even when he thought his jokes were funny) his prominence declaring himself the L.G.*

*Dad, there is no question how much I will miss you, but for now my wall goes back up to shut all of this emotion up for now, but when I think of you I will always, always remember you fondly, lovingly, respectfully, and I will always strive to bring honor to our name.*

*I love you Dad,  
Peace Out  
First Born (Day Day)*

---

**Damion Linder** - May 11, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James E. Linder.*



---

May 08, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ *Jeanne and family, Many of us, Jim's at-work friends, knew of Jim's deep love for all of you. He was tremendously proud and often talked of you. As you know, Jim was so kind and approachable, he made friends everywhere he encountered people. I am proud to be counted as one of his friends. May the Lord comfort you in the memories of Jim's kindness and loving demeanor.*



---

**Kevin Shaw** - May 07, 2020 at 09:24 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



---

**Sheila Jolivette** - May 06, 2020 at 11:29 PM



*My Sister Brenda L. Rice and I Faye M. Kirkland is sadden learning of James passing. We know that your hearts will be comforted with God's Love, hoping to see y'all one day.*

---

**faye kirkland** - May 07, 2020 at 12:13 AM

SJ

“ *Sheila Jolivette lit a candle in memory of James E. Linder*



---

**Sheila Jolivette** - May 06, 2020 at 11:22 PM

SJ

*We are so thankful that Mr. Linder loved Miss Andi like she was his own daughter. He was such an inspiring, caring, giving, and helpful father-in-law to her. RIP Jim...*

---

**Sheila Jolivette** - May 06, 2020 at 11:37 PM

SJ

“ We, the members of the Jolivette family are saddened to learn about the passing of your spouse and father. We are thinking of you and will continue to lift you and your family members up in prayer during this period of bereavement. Please let us know if we can assist you in anyway.

*Additionally, remember to cherish your memories of him and family experiences. Lastly, we leave you with this poem as an expression of our sympathy and to let you know that we care.*

*Miss Me, But Let Me Go*  
*Author Unknown*

*When I come to the end of the road,  
and the sun has set for me.  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little—but not too long,  
and not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that was once shared.  
Miss me, but let me go.  
For this is a journey we all must take, and each must go alone.  
It's all a part of the master's plan, a step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick of heart, go to the friends we know.  
Bear your sorrow in good deeds. Miss me, but let me go.*

*Lovingly,*  
*Gerard and Sheila Jolivette*



---

**Sheila Jolivette** - May 06, 2020 at 11:12 PM