



## James Tait

March 4, 1925 - April 8, 2011

James Ballantyne Tait, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away Friday, April 8, 2011. He was born March 4, 1925, in Janesville, WI, to James and Robina Tait. His parents were first generation Scottish immigrants who set his feet upon the path he would take in life: of service, accomplishment, and a love of the outdoors.

Jim graduated from Andover Academy in 1943, proudly entering V-5 flight school, and serving as a Navy pilot in WWII. Jim went on to Yale University under the GI Bill, graduating in 1949 with a degree in math and chemistry. While there he enjoyed sports, playing on the golf and football teams. Jim loved music as well, especially jazz, and played sax and clarinet during his years at New Haven. He went on to graduate school at MIT. Shortly afterward he married his high school sweetheart, Jane Beck, of Janesville, WI.

Jim had a PHD in life. He came to love the Northwoods during his teenage summers, when he worked at the Trout Lake Golf Course and Little Bohemia. Hunting, fishing, camping, and canoeing were life-long passions. Golf was his first love and the focus of his social network. One foursome golfed together every year for forty-nine years. He continued to love airplanes and flying and nurtured this love through both recreation and business.

In his professional life, Jim served as president of Rock River Woolen Mills which had been formed in Janesville, WI, in 1848. Jim's father had managed to get the mill going again after the depression, and Jim agreed to manage it after his father's death. Jim used his experience as a pilot to fly to Europe to

buy wool. In the 1960's Jim moved the plant to Brownwood, Texas. It was the largest woolen mill in Texas. They made wool blankets for the army, designed wool for women's high fashion clothing, and were the exclusive manufacturer of wool blankets for Braniff Airlines. During the family's years in Texas, Jim was active in national politics.

In the 70's Jim and his family returned to WI. Jim worked for the accounting firm Wipfli Ullrich in Wausau for several years before starting his own real estate company. He was joined in the company by his son Jim. Jim Tait Real Estate has been operating for 37 years.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; Jane, his wife of thirty-four years; and his brothers Jack and Bob.

Jim is survived by his wife Kay; children Jim Tait, Kyle Tait, Ann (Stephan) Brown, Scott (Pam) Cisney, and Sean Cisney; and grandchildren Trysten Cisney, Travis Cisney, and Nick Tait. His sister Nancy (Don) Milbrandt, his brother Bill (Judy) Tait, and their children survive him also.

Friends and family are invited to honor his memory at his funeral service to be held at St. Matthias Church, Hwy 51 @ Chicago Ave., Minocqua, WI.

Visitation will be from 11:00-12:00 at St. Matthias prior to the 12:00 service on Tuesday, April 12. A light luncheon will be served following the service in the church hall. Memorials may be made to St. Matthias' Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 936, Minocqua, WI 54548 or Ministry Home Care, Dr. Kate Hospice, P.O. Box 770, Woodruff, WI 54568.

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ Greetings Kay and Jim Jr.,  
We wanted to express our condolences and sorry to hear of your loss of a wonderful man.  
Also, we just read about the news in the Lakeland Times and so sorry we didn't attend the service on Tuesday. I sure would of been there if I knew earlier. As you were there when my father died. I feel really bad.  
I know he'll be missed by all of you and your family and friends.  
Please take care and know that he is in a MUCH BETTER PLACE (golfing again).  
Thoughts and prayers go out to all of your family.  
Mary, Rick, Billie Jo, Lori, Heather, Debbie and Craig.

---

**Mary Kimmerling and Vilas Title Service Crew** - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

AW

“ I have many memories of Jim coming to Iowa to hunt with my Dad and brother. He meant a lot to our family. I know my Dad and brother couldn't wait for Jim to come and hunt with them. My sister and I would get to visit with Jim in the evenings after the guys would come in from hunting. It was short visits for us girls, since the guys were always so tired after hunting all day. We would have suppers together, usually chili to warm the guys up after being outside in the cold. I remember Jim bringing gifts whenever he came. I remember sausage and cheese baskets from good ole Wisconsin. Nice boots for my Dad since his were falling apart and his feet would freeze and a nice gun for my brother, which he was estatic about. I remember making trips to Wisconsin to visit Jim and Jane and their black lab Springer. I got to meet Kay and her boys years later. Such a wonderful family!!! I feel very blessed to have known Jim, and will miss him very much!!

---

**Amy Welch** - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM