



James Elekes

May 21, 1958 - November 26, 2013

Murrells Inlet

James Joseph "Jim" Elekes, Jr., 55 of Indigo Creek formerly of Franklin, NJ died Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at St. Francis Roper Hospital in Charleston, SC.

Born in Denville, NJ, he was the son of Anna M. and James J. Elekes. Jim received his BA in Political Science/Communications, MPA with a specialization in Public Policy and, his M.Ed in Leadership and Educational Administration. Less than one year after receiving his BA Jim became totally blind due to complications with insulin-dependent diabetes which developed after a bout with childhood maladies. Despite his disability, Jim completed his MPA (1989) and, at that time was the only disabled individual to have completed the Masters in Public Administration Program offered by Seton Hall University's Center for Public Service Administration. Since the loss of his sight, Jim's accomplishments toward advancing quality of life and mainstreaming individuals with disabilities include:

Community Education Officer, NJ Commission for the Blind/Visually Impaired, working with former Seton Hall President, Bishop John Dougherty to establish the Electronic Information Educational Service (EIES) of NJ which was NJ's first Radio Reader Service providing "on-Air" broadcast of newspapers, magazines and other periodicals to the State's print disabled population;

Accessible Services Coordinator, NJ TRANSIT-Bus where he authored the agencies first comprehensive plan for access to public transit services for people with disabilities; Chairperson, NJ Governors Committee on the Disabled, Policy/Legislative Sub-Committee; Vice Chairman NJ Commission Recreation for the Disabled; Chairperson of the Paper Mill Playhouse, Disabled Theater Access Committee; private Consultant; Presidential Appointee/Public Member, United States Access Board, Washington, DC where he was its Liaison to the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC), co-authoring "Accessibility/Usability Standards for voting technologies procured by States to enable disabled voters to cast votes independently. Jim also served as the Board's Chair, Transpiration Committee, leading activities to update Federal regulations for access by people with disabilities.

Presently, Jim devotes his energies to Trans-Access Associates, LLC the consulting firm he founded in 2005 to meet an identified unmet need in academia, public and private sectors to aide in physical and programmatic barrier removal, mainstreaming people with disabilities into all facets of activities of daily life.

Since graduation, Jim has focused time and expertise on enhancing the quality of life for individuals within the community, responding to all request for his knowledge, skills and abilities to resolve seemingly irresolvable problems. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree.

Surviving in addition to parents of Franklin, NJ and his brother, David Elekes and wife Suzanne of Ft. Wayne, IN; nephew, Dan and personal assistant, Anita Kiser. James was preceded in death by his brother, Michael whom he received a kidney from, grandparents, Anna and Joseph Jugan, Anna and Joseph Elekes and a favorite aunt, Catherine Jugan.

Services will be 10:00 AM, Saturday at St. Michael Catholic Church.

The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00, Friday at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel.

Memorials may be made to Junior Diabetes Foundation, 26 Broadway, New York, NY 10004 or Seeing Eye Dog Foundation, PO Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963.

Sign guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Center
11528 Hwy 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29588
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Service

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM.

St. Michael Catholic Church

Tribute Wall

GT

“ We are so sorry to hear of Jim’s passing and will keep Jim, his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers. I served with Jim on the U.S. Access Board where we became friends and always appreciated Jim’s knowledge and passion and his drive to make the changes necessary so people with disabilities could have equal opportunity to live life to the fullest. Jim epitomized the notion of taking obstacles that are placed in our path and turning them into opportunities. Jim focused not only on how to make his life more accessible but also what could or should be changed that would make life better and more accessible for a much wider segment of the population. We learned a lot from Jim and will always remember and appreciate his passion, determination and drive to make the world a better place. Thank you Jim so very much, for dedicating your life to a higher cause and as a result, benefitting so many due to your efforts, rest in Peace my friend, you will be sorely missed, God Bless you and your family, GT (Gary Talbot)

gary talbot - January 07, 2014 at 12:30 PM

AB

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. Please accept my deepest sympathy. May you find comfort from your memories, as well as God’s word the bible. Why do people we love die? Romans 5:12 says: “That is why, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.” How loving of God to promise what is found at Revelation 21:4 which says, “And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

A. Bell - December 12, 2013 at 03:05 PM

HK

“ Rest in peace my dear friend and classmate. Always enjoyed our special talks; you were a wealth of knowledge and information.
Helen Kovach

Helen Kovach - December 04, 2013 at 01:15 PM

SM

“ Mr. & Mrs. Elkelles, and your family; I offer my deepest condolences for Jim's loss. I will miss my friend.

Scott Mele

Scott Mele - December 04, 2013 at 07:07 AM

GU

“ Jim was a unique and special person.... Always outgoing and driven when I knew him in college and after. A dedicated friend and a strong advocate for his beliefs and those in need. His is a voice that will be missed by those that knew him and those who he defended. May those who knew him celebrate his life. May his family be comforted by the knowledge that others knew and respected him... He walks in the shadow of G_d and watches over you...

- G.A. Taylor

Guy - December 03, 2013 at 07:38 PM

RD

“ My prayers are with Jim's family and loved ones.

Rob Dowd

Rob dowd - December 03, 2013 at 12:23 PM

T.

“ The family and friends of Mr. Elekes have my deepest sympathy. Please allow the God of all comfort to see you through the grieving process. He promises to bring an end to all pain and suffering. Even death will be no more. We will even have a chance to see our dead loved ones again. - 2 Corinthians 1:3,4, John 5:28,29

T.C - November 29, 2013 at 11:53 AM

BW

“ The Elekes Family have my sincere condolences, James set a wonderful pattern for other with disabilities to follow not to give up but to live life to the full, even if not disable, We all can look forward to the Creator promise at Isaiah 33:24 "And no resident will say; 'I am sick'." Continue to find strength in each other.

B. White - November 29, 2013 at 07:16 AM

CL

“ My sincere condolences to you on Jim's passing. He and I have know it other for over 20 yrs and I have know no finer man. The world will be a little less bright without him. I will miss him.

Chris Lisiecki - November 28, 2013 at 01:31 PM

MB

“ I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Elekes family. May those precious memories of your dear loved one James be foremost in your hearts and minds along with this wonderful promise that Jesus made at John 5:28,29. Again, my sincere condolences.

M B - November 28, 2013 at 04:48 AM