



James A. Kearney

November 25, 1955 - May 16, 2026

James Alfred Kearney, a beloved father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on May 16, 2026, in Spruce Lake PA . Born on November 25, 1955, in Staten Island, James was the cherished son of the late Michael and Faith Kearney (Gardella).

James lived a life rich in love, laughter, and adventure. He shared 33 memorable years with his former wife, Deborah Pierce, whom he married on August 16, 1980, in Las Vegas. Together, they raised three wonderful children: Megan, Douglas, and Michael. Though they parted ways in 2013, their shared journey left an indelible mark by creating 3 amazing children. James later found love again with his fiance, Angela Coyle, who predeceased him.

James was a proud graduate of Susan Wagner High School, class of 1973, and continued his education at the College of Staten Island and Pratt Institute, where he studied mechanical engineering. His professional journey was as diverse as it was distinguished. Starting as a delivery boy for his Poppa's Meat market Freddy's Market He then spent his summer as a lifeguard for the NYC Parks Department and went on to serve as a diesel hydraulic mechanic, New York City firefighter, and owner of Poolside Construction Company. He later became an aircraft deicer, owner of D&M Utility Company, and held roles with OSP and CSFSM. Until his passing, he served as a NYC Licensed Site Safety Manager, a testament to his lifelong dedication to safety and service.

James was a man of many passions. He was a proud member of the Carpenters Union and Fire Riders, where he formed friendships that lasted a lifetime. He had an adventurous spirit, whether riding his motorcycle, working on cars and boats, setting track for the high Jump records in his youth at Farrell, or skiing the slopes of Colorado. His lake house was a haven of warmth, where he played pool on his grandfather's table, fishing, and cherished every moment with family and friends.

His piercing blue eyes, quick wit, and charming personality lit up every room he entered. James's ability to connect with people from all walks of life was a true gift. His kindness and generosity were unparalleled, touching countless lives. To his children, he was an invincible hero, embodying the spirit of a "man's man" in every sense of the word.

Left to honor his legacy are his beloved children, Megan Rodriguez, Douglas Kearney and Michael Kearney, Daughter In-law Marisa Lopez and Son In-law Arnaldo Rodriguez Jr. and his treasured Grandchildren, James E. Rodriguez, Stephen G. Rodriguez, Kahlan M. Rodriguez, and Theodore James Kearney. James is also survived by his brothers, Joseph M. Kearney, Thomas J. Kearney, and Christopher J. Kearney; sisters-in-law, Marie Kearney and Dionne Kearney; nephews, Robert Kearney and John Kearney; and his extended family of FDNY brothers and sisters.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to all who join them in saying farewell to a man who embraced life with open arms and a generous heart.

In his Dad's words, James believed, "Life is hard, and once you figure that out, it gets a little easier." While we grieve his passing in private, we celebrate the memories and stories that will keep his spirit alive within us. His legacy of love, laughter, and resilience will forever be a part of us all.

A gathering to celebrate James's remarkable life will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. at John Vincent Scalia Funeral Home, located at 28 Eltingville Blvd. A Prayer Service will take place on Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **23**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

MAY **23**. 5:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of James A. Kearney* ”



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - May 22 at 03:37 PM

MR

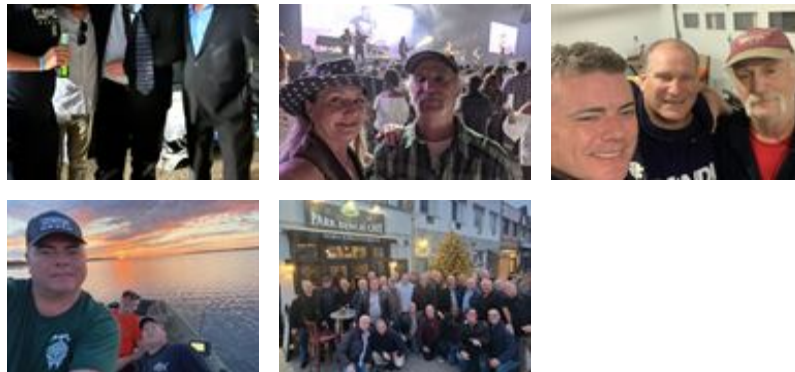
“ *Love you daddy* ”



Megan Rodriguez - May 28 at 02:33 PM



“ *44 files added to the album Life Tributes* ”



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - May 23 at 03:25 PM

PO

“ I am saddened to hear of Jimmy’s sudden passing. I met Jimmy in 1974 as he was a friend of my brother’s. Our early years of knowing each other brought memories of the Swiss Chalet, impromptu parties at the Connolly’s, Megan as the first baby born amongst our group of friends. At this most difficult time, may the wonderful memories lighten your hearts. Hugs and prayers for comfort.

Patty Bilotti O’Rourke - May 22 at 10:30 PM

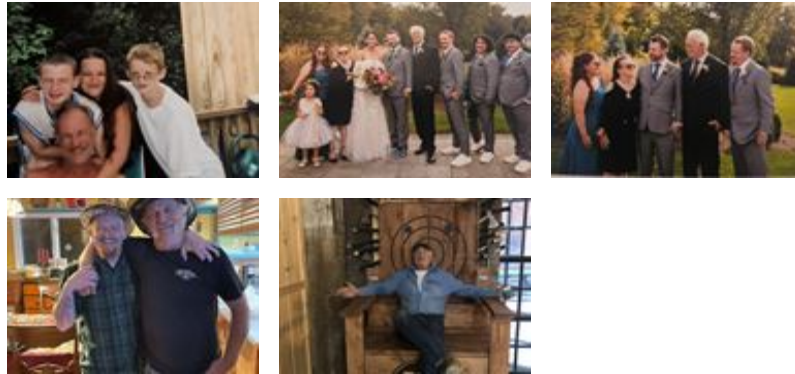
M(

Your brother must be John. I just was going through pictures and was one of him a dad at a party before he left for Colorado

Megan Rodriguez (Kearney) - May 25 at 10:24 AM



“ 59 files added to the album Life Tributes



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - May 22 at 03:32 PM

FL

“ From Linda purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James A. Kearney.



From Linda - May 22 at 12:02 PM

PC

“ Dear Kearney family,
I moved to SI a block away from Jim in the summer before entering 2nd grade and became friends, adventuring into the "big" forests out back behind our homes, camping, basketball and track teams. We continued our friendship into high school. After graduation, I was a ranger at Gateway Nat'l park and he stopped by the Miller Field office one sunny day and said, "there's an FDNY test, let's take it". Jim inspired a bunch of us to do this together. We all passed and all of us spent our careers in Brooklyn. A couple of years after 9/11, I talked Jim into joining us in the div of training to teach search; years later we both retired within a week of each other. We kept in touch through the years, he staying with me a few days, and I planned on visiting him next month. I spoke with his brother Joe a few days ago for a few hours, reminiscing about Jim. I cried after that call thinking about the finality of my relationship with Jim. I wished he had just a couple more years.
I'll miss him dearly,
Pat Clancy

Pat Clancy - May 22 at 07:07 AM

M(

I'm sorry Pat I tried to reach you but the number I called was disconnected. My dad loved you

Megan Rodriguez (Kearney) - May 25 at 10:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James A. Kearney.

May 22 at 06:38 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of James A. Kearney.



May 22 at 06:38 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James A. Kearney.



May 21 at 02:17 PM