



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.

Upcoming 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



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



Yesterday at 02:17 PM