

## **Eulogy Remarks**

I'm up here because the topic was in the program and no one else came forward. The class of '58 is definitely part of the silent generation. Either that or the military drilled into us one important precept: never volunteer.

What can i tell you about Jim? Being Italian, you already know that he had all the God-given traits: he was handsome, smart, funny, and caring. We were kind of like twins. I know that talking about Jim is like preaching to the choir, so i won't, though i think your singing could use a few practices.

Jim loved art and music and devoted many years as choral director in addition to the classes he taught and also worked in the recording industry in Los Angeles. Also, most of us can attest to that love from the many gifts he painstakingly prepared and gave to us—both in sound and print.

Like those two disciplines, Jim was ethereal, hard to define, but you knew what you liked about them.

Watching and talking to him over the years you could agree that he took the two great commandments to heart: he loved his god before all else, and loved his neighbors as, and so often, better than himself. I believe that, like many saints, he really was poor and humble of spirit.

His careers and life had one common goal: helping others.  
He followed his heart.

If there is one negative, it is that he cared too much, but in his book of life, I believe that the entries on the right-side overflow with good things he has done, and St. Peter had an easy decision to welcome him in.

I believe that God takes us when the work he put us here to do is accomplished and he brings us home to our reward. If that's true I will be here about another 50 years.

Though we are sad that we are left behind, I am happy for Jim, who has entered his new life with unimaginable joy renewing friendships with family and thousands of people waiting to greet him and laugh with him again. No more fears, worries, pain and sickness. Almost makes me want to get up a group now to at least make a visit. But, all we can say is *bon voyage*, Jim, 'til we meet again.

Because jim was unable to fulfill that impossible dream of peace while people rage, scream and fight with each other every day, its up to us to carry on for him.

I hope you will join with me in singing our last hymn of hope. Jim would like that.