



## James "Jim" Cummings O'Donnell

September 17, 1936 - January 8, 2021

James (Jim) Cummings O'Donnell of Yonkers, New York passed away on January 8, 2021 in Salisbury, North Carolina, where he called home for the past 10 years.

He was born September 17, 1936 to James Cummings O'Donnell and Nancy Cuddy O'Donnell. Jim is survived by his children John, Catherine, Christy and Kim and six grandchildren, as well as his sister Nancy O'Donnell O'Brien of Lafayette, California and her husband Peter, their four children and eight grandchildren.

Jim maintained lifetime, close friendships with classmates from Gorton High School in Yonkers, New York. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. His initial job with JC Penney led to a lifelong career in the furniture industry. Later in life he partnered with Carley van der Kloet, his high school sweetheart.

There were few topics that did not interest Jim, and he satiated his intellectual curiosity by voraciously reading both fiction and non-fiction. In 2018, he initiated and led a book club in a local prison which was then emulated at other nearby prisons.

Jim was an avid and skilled golfer and loved spending time outdoors walking.

He was an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous for 45 years. His intellect, wit and sparkling blue eyes will be missed by all who knew him.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the O'Donnell family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

PB

“ *I got to know Jim through my work as a librarian at Rowan Public Library. He was truly a special man and a joy to talk to. It always brightened my day whenever he'd stop into the library. Rest in peace, Jim.*

*Paul Birkhead  
Salisbury, NC*

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**Paul Birkhead** - February 03, 2021 at 06:14 PM