



## James "Jim" Bakula

November 3, 1938 - May 21, 2020

On May 21, 2020, James Leonard Bakula, loving husband and father of four children, passed away at the age of 81. Preceded in death by parents, Delores and Leonard Bakula, and daughter-in-law, Juli Bakula. He is survived by beloved wife, Roxanne, and children: Thomas Sr., Cindy (Eric) Neuenschwander, Mark (Deb McNeil), and Holly (Meko Sr.) Stocker. He cherished his grandchildren: Thomas Jr., Theo, Janae, Sam, Meko Jr. and Jordan. Additionally, sister Connie (Gary) Hochsprung and nieces and nephews.

Jim attended Ascension Grade School, DeLaSalle High School, and graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a Bachelor's in Political Science and Economics and a Master's degree in Education, including a post graduate program at Harvard. He was an educator, the Teacher Center Director, and Curriculum Specialist for Osseo Area Schools, District #279. Jim had a passion for basketball and spent his summers coaching at a variety of basketball camps. A highlight was coaching the DeLaSalle Islander's state championship team in 1988. He was a lifelong teacher, coach, and mentor. Jim advocated for social justice and equal rights through political activism. He co-created the Flora Rogge Memorial Scholarship, which became part of the Osseo Area Retired Educator scholarship fund.

After retirement, he and Roxanne spent their time golfing, traveling, and volunteering

within the community. Jim valued lifelong friendships, including the DeLaSalle alumni, colleagues, fellow basketball coaches, and his cousins. He had great stories of their times together. Jim was so proud of his children and grandchildren and loved being involved with their activities. Outside of spending time with family and friends, he was an avid reader, sports enthusiast, University of MN Gophers sports fan, and lifelong student. We will miss his upbeat demeanor, infectious laugh, and engaging personality.

A celebration of life will take place later this year. In lieu of flowers or gifts please contribute to the DeLaSalle Scholarship Fund Endowment Make a Gift, One DeLaSalle Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55401 or the Osseo Area Retired Educator scholarship fund, c/o Community Education 11200 93rd Avenue N., Maple Grove MN 55369.