



## James J. Tabacca

January 14, 1954 - October 27, 2022

James J. Tabacca, 68, passed away on October 27, 2022 in Los Angeles, CA. He was born on January 14, 1954 in New Britain to the late Salvatore and Jean Tabacca.

Jimmy's passion in life was his animals. He adored his dogs, cats, chickens and birds. He also had a special place in his heart for his family and friends. He will be missed.

He is survived by his sister Laura Tabacca and fiancé Jeff of Chester, Frank Tabacca of CA, Joseph Tabacca and wife Enora Paugam of NYC.

Funeral services and burial will be private. There are no calling hours. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, is in charge of arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Tribute Wall

EJ

“ I’m really hit with the passing of my friend/mentor/fellow capricorn  
And partner in adventure .....  
Just knowing that I had a fellow Italian buddy in the world made me  
happy...  
I will admit that I was young when I first meet Jim or as some of his  
friends knew him as Cora, and we never dated just went out to  
dinner lunch or movie or best times weekends at the Disco.....  
That was San Fernando Valley and Hollywood, my sister and my  
mother were very much friends with himtoo.) And because of the  
fact that he did hair and make up on cadavers , which showed how  
big his guts, and balls were (excuse my language) made him more  
interesting, and he was a great animal man, dogs,birds fish turtles  
and I can’t remember what else on his land in sunland/tujunga .....  
last place I believe he lived in?  
Anyway we enjoyed a few Diana Ross shows together  
Not too mention that he dressed like her in West Hollywood for  
Halloween and people went nuts, pictures autograph anyway we  
would always have a good cocktail together talk about music and  
men and life and I’m sure his family might remember me in passing,  
all I know is I’m gonna miss him for long, long, long time till I see  
him again .....or ? To his family I want you to know he’s like one of  
my brothers and both of them are gone too. I miss you. Jim

---

**Eduardo Fresquez jr.** - September 29, 2025 at 04:02 AM

MJ

“ Mr. Eduardo Fresquez Jr. lit a candle in  
memory of James J. Tabacca



---

**Mr. Eduardo Fresquez Jr.** - September 29, 2025 at 12:50 AM

DD

“ First of all Im so so sorry that my searching for Jimmy brought me his obituary page. My condolences to his family and many friends. I had tried to find a way to get back in touch with Jimmy years ago on line here and was never able to find hardly anyone that I use to know which to me seemed so strange. But regardless, I was never able to find a way to contact him UNTIL I ran across this page a few weeks ago and I was very sorry to see it. I use to live in LA back in the 90's. Seems so long ago yet just like yesterday to me. Time has flown by SO fast. I knew Jimmy and he was such a good person. He loved to have people over for holidays and was always so helpful and reliable and THAT is hard to find in a town like LA believe me. Anyway, as I was getting ready to move back to the Midwest I had already moved out of my apartment and had planned to stay with Jimmy for a night and, for whatever reason, I got sick and had to stay at Jimmy's apartment in Studio City for about a week before I was strong enough to drive across the country as I was planning on doing. Jimmy practically nursed me back to health because I was really sick. I recooperated and was able to finally leave. Sad to say I didnt keep in touch as I should have with people I knew back them with Jimmy being one of them. That was my mistake I have to admit because later I started wondering about those people that I use to know in LA and was never able to get in touch with them. I have to say that Jimmy was a diehard in many aspects of his life. He often told me that. I would come over to his apartment and sometimes take his 5 or 6 dogs our for a walk for him. One time me and him drove down to Laguna Beach and took his dogs with us for a strole on the beach. Im including a few pics of Jimmy and his Studio City apartment and dogs. Jimmy will be missed. So long my friend, Dan D.



---

Dan D - September 01, 2025 at 12:58 PM

KR

“ Today, October 27, marks one year since you've been gone. I think of you often and miss my friend.

Karen Rodriguez - October 27, 2023 at 08:16 PM

MM

“ Jim and I have been best friends for over 35 years and I loved him dearly. We spoke by phone every week as I now live in Florida and he was still in California. Living so far away I had no idea that he has passed. When I called I just got a message that he was unable to answer the phone right now. He was such a loving person and loved his animals so very much I hope they are being cared for by someone. MY heart goes out to his sister and brothers for the loss of such a wonderful, loving and giving person. I will dearly miss him but have some wonderful memories of the many things we shared and did together over the years. We always ended our calls with I LOVE YOU!

Marilyn Morgan - December 08, 2022 at 11:47 AM

KS

“ I will truly miss Jim's one of a kind personality. I met him over 30 years ago at my family's pet shop, and we became good friends. I will never forget going to the Queen Mary haunted event several years ago it was a blast! My daughter and I were stunned to hear of his passing, he will be missed. Thanks for being you!! Kay

Kay Sallows - December 04, 2022 at 12:41 AM

CE

“ 2 files added to the album James Tabacca



Celina - November 28, 2022 at 10:49 PM

CE

“ Jimmy made friends wherever he went. The Pet Pantry in Van Nuys is a place that Jimmy Craig and I would go to every Sunday to pick up food for our pets. Jimmy made a beautiful flower arrangement for Tiger (one of the volunteers that works there), and she had it sitting out on the table every Sunday. She was heartbroken when I told her about Jimmy, and I gave her one of the little Memorial Cards that I made. The following Sunday at the Pet Pantry, they had the Memorial Card with Jimmy's picture in two picture frames, sitting out on both of the tables, one right next to the flower arrangement that Jimmy made for Tiger. It was very heartwarming, and if Jimmy was looking down on that, it would make him smile. "Thank you Tiger"  
Celina.



Celina - November 28, 2022 at 05:03 PM

BG

He would have loved that ❤️

barbara giordano - December 22, 2022 at 04:47 PM

CS

“ I met Jimmy a few years ago through some mutual friends. Because we were both big animal lovers, we had an instant connection right from the start, and have been good friends ever since. I often helped him with projects around the house, and other times we would get together just to see, and visit one another. We enjoyed each other's company, and always called one another when we needed advice about anything.



Jimmy always told me that he was a very good judge of character. I can see that is true, because I have met some wonderful people who really cared about him. We often told each other how much our friendship meant. I am grateful for that now, because you never know when your number will be called, and someone you really care about can be gone in an instant.

Jimmy, you were a good friend to me, and I am happy that you were in my life. I will miss seeing you, and visiting with you. I will miss hearing your voice on the other end of the phone saying "Hi Honey", and working on projects together. And I can't forget about "Cameron" who was always by your side. That dog meant so much to you, he will be so lost without you. My heart breaks for him too. You will always be in my thoughts, and in my heart. I love you, and I will miss you forever.

Celina.

To Frank and Joey,  
I wish it had been under different circumstances, but I am happy that I got the chance to meet the two of you. My heart goes out to you and your family. May your beautiful memories bring you comfort and peace, and help you to get through this difficult time.  
Celina.

**Celina Strzyz** - November 21, 2022 at 06:04 PM

RA

“ To Jimmy "Smokes" family,,,I am so sorry to read about Jims passing..He grew up next to the greenhouses,,always with Uncle Billy and Val delivering..He always like staying in the back room with all of us...I went to California a few times and visited with him..He took us to Disneyland to ride a roller coaster in the dark,,He said "don't worry,," its a good ride not fast,,boy was he wrong..Also visited him when he came back to Conn..Went to lunch at the beach with him. He was always kind and loving,,sorry to have lost touch with him...His smile was always great...

*so sorry for you all...Rosemay Agostinucci,,,""Sandelli Floirst"*

---

**Rosemary Agostinucci"Sandelli"** - November 07, 2022 at 02:30 PM

GG

“ Rest In Peace my old friend. See you on the other side.  
Condolences and prayers to Jimmy's family and close friends.

---

**George Garner** - November 06, 2022 at 10:24 AM

LT

“ 3 files added to the album James Tabacca



---

**ILaura Tabacca** - November 06, 2022 at 06:13 AM

BG

*Wonderful pictures ❤️. Your brother was the best, I will miss him forever . I hope you and your brothers find comfort that so many friends loved him*

barbara giordano - November 06, 2022 at 11:22 AM

SN

*“ To The Family and closest friends of James Tabacca, wishing you strength and peace during this dark hour. I only knew Jim on a professional level for 15 yrs (I called him Tabacca). He enjoyed life, his dogs and music.*



*His skills in the funeral home was simply put, amazing. He was master of the trade that neophytes would pull wisdom and insight from his skills. The stories - where do I begin. I would always leave laughing because he told the story with much detail and humor.*

*As funeral service is changing and families are forgetting or not being told of the value of that final good bye and viewing, Jim was one of the many restoration artists who took out the time, put in the long hours to make sure there was a peaceful open casket for a viewing.*

*We are not able see him laying in repose, and admire his well combed hair or well groom goatee - we will just use our imagination and say “he is Casket Ready”. Lol. Like many of our dear friends who have transitioned onward, we must release you too Jim. Rest well dear sir, and farewell on your journey.*

*Shun Newbern, CFSP  
Jurupa Valley, CA*

Shun Newbern - November 06, 2022 at 12:41 AM

LS

“ *This world lost an Angel... miss you every day. You will always be in our hearts* ❤️



---

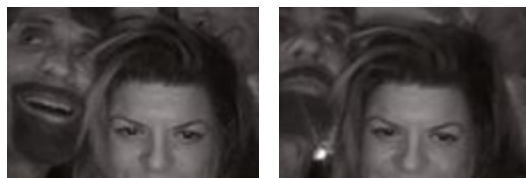
**lina shahian** - November 05, 2022 at 02:52 PM



“ My wife Karen and I were friends of Jim's for 20+ years, and it's fair to say that we liked him from the moment we met. I used to tell him that he could be actor Willem DaFoe's stunt double, he'd laugh and say something like "Honey, DaFoe never looked this good on his best day!" and that was Jim!! Probably my favorite thing about Jim was that he was always 100%, unapologetically himself, authentic to the bone!! Jim was one of those people that provoked a response, and if you knew him you either loved him or hated him, either way, Jim knew it too, he just didn't care what other people think! Which is a pretty rare trait. Jim could be loud, brash, abrasive, and completely over the top! But he was also kind, thoughtful, loving and fiercely loyal to those he cared about. If you were his friend it was for keeps. Oh, and did I mention he was Italian? That was something Jim was very proud of and would make sure you knew it!! He was an animal lover too and always had them in his life. There are so many more things I could say about Jim, he was unlike anyone else I've ever known, and I was honored to be his friend, we often told each other that we loved each other (which I am grateful for) and even though these last few days I can't help but cry when I think of him, he always made me laugh when I was around him. Goodbye Jim. You were loved, you will be deeply missed, and you are fondly remembered.

Love always,  
Bob and Karen

(The photos are Jim, Karen, and me NYE 2018)



---

**Bob Yost** - November 05, 2022 at 12:07 AM

BG

“ *Laura and family. sorry to hear of jims passing. he will be truly missed.may u find confort in this time.*

*Bob& Sue Gionfriddo Bluffton S.C.*

---

**Bob&Sue Gionfriddo** - November 04, 2022 at 06:14 AM

MR

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Jim on the few occasions he did trade at Mission Hills. He did amazing things with hair and cosmetics. He was very sociable, nice and had the best stories. He is very much missed.*



---

**Michelle Read** - November 03, 2022 at 11:36 PM

BG

“ I’m so sorry your wonderful brother has left us, I’m sure you are heartbroken. Jim was like my brother also and I will miss him forever. He was a very kind person and made friends everywhere.

Jim and I were best friends for over 30 years, we met at work and it was instant love and friendship. Every year we would go to Paradise Cove in Malibu to enjoy the beach and have a cocktail.

We cooked at each others houses, our dogs played together, we went to musicals. Our last concert together was Diana Ross, who Jim adored.

5 years ago I moved to Missouri and we stayed in touch through FaceTime usually drinking wine and laughing and then crying when it was time to hang up.

He was one of a kind❤️



---

**Barbara Giordano** - November 03, 2022 at 03:14 PM



Thank you Barbara for sharing these wonderful pictures of Jim with the rest of us.

---

**Bob Yost** - November 04, 2022 at 11:13 PM



*My wife Karen and I were friends of Jim's for 20+ years, and it's fair to say that we liked him from the moment we met. I used to tell him that he could be actor Willem DaFoe's stunt double, he'd laugh and say something like "Honey, DaFoe never looked this good on his best day!" and that was Jim!! Probably my favorite thing about Jim was that he was always 100%, unapologetically himself, authentic to the bone!! Jim was one of those people that provoked a response, and if you knew him you either loved him or hated him, either way, Jim knew it too, he just didn't care what other people think! Which is a pretty rare trait. Jim could be loud, brash, abrasive, and completely over the top! But he was also kind, thoughtful, loving and fiercely loyal to those he cared about. If you were his friend it was for keeps. Oh, and did I mention he was Italian? That was something Jim was very proud of and would make sure you knew it!! He was an animal lover too and always had them in his life. There are so many more things I could say about Jim, he was unlike anyone else I've ever known, and I was honored to be his friend, we often told each other that we loved each other (which I am grateful for) and even though these last few days I can't help but cry when I think of him, he always made me laugh when I was around him. Goodbye Jim. You were loved, you will be deeply missed, and you are fondly remembered.*

*Love always,  
Bob and Karen*

---

**Bob Yost** - November 04, 2022 at 11:51 PM

BG

*Bob you described jJim to a "T". As jim would say" Honey that's me "!!!*

---

**barbara giordano** - November 06, 2022 at 01:39 AM



*Thank you Barbara, that means a lot!! Jim told me about you many, many, times, so I know you were very close to him. Whenever he was going to get together with you he would say "I'm excited that I'm having lunch with my best friend Barbara tomorrow she's also my hairdresser!! Mmmmmm hmmmmm. Yep! Can't WAIT to see Barbara!!" In the very dramatic way only he spoke...*

---

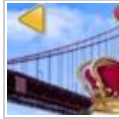
**Bob Yost** - November 06, 2022 at 02:34 AM

DM

*I met jim in the late 80s .  
Never said goodbye without telling me he loved me. always felt  
Beautiful around him because he treated me like a woman.....  
He had a gratefulness about Him and I am so grateful and blessed he  
loved me .  
I love you Jim ,and Diana Ross  
❤️*

---

**Deborah Moreno** - December 13, 2022 at 09:41 AM



*I am so shocked and sad to hear of Jim leaving us. We Worked  
together and would laugh hysterically at things we would say or conjure  
up, we would give each other silly funny special names etc. I will never  
forget running into Jim at "Ross's Show" he loved her so much and so  
dedicated. He was as dedicated to her as much as he was to his  
friends. It's been awhile since I saw or spoke to Jim as I left California  
but can hear his voice in my head like he was next to me. He was truly  
a great loving person to people and fur babies. Fly with the angels and  
I know you are with your baby Bette Davis as well as alll your other fur  
or feather babies...See you again "Honey" Jim. A wonderful person ..to  
man an creatures XXX*

---

**VICTOR MESCE** - February 07, 2023 at 05:47 PM