



James Offord

May 15, 1945 - March 3, 2014

James A. Offord, known to all as St. James, or just, Jimmy, passed away peacefully, on March 3rd, at home, with his life companion, Judith Chapman, at his side.

A genial host, artist, chef and restaurateur, whose first eatery, CAFE ST JAMES, successfully opened in 1984. This was followed by ST. JAMES AT THE VINEYARD, and THE VINEYARD TUSCAN GRILL. When asked if he would be opening a place "Down Valley" he would politely grin and say, "No."

When not holding court behind the bar at one of his restaurants, the Adventurous St. James loved travelling the world, bringing exotic artifacts and new taste sensations home to Palm Springs. Friends of the restaurant were charmed by his tales of trekking in The Himalaya , and the outrageous costumes he grandly wore.

James' latest food venture was JIMMY'S 5 STAR, a line of sauces for the home cook, based on some of his most popular dishes. He was particularly proud that his Coachella Valley company was made available at another local

establishment, ,Jensen's Fine Foods.

Though the lights have dimmed on this Palm Springs Icon,
and his one of a kind restaurants, the memories and laughter
will, ever, live on. One of those rare human beings who was truly loved by all.

Jimmy is survived by his sister, Susie Offord, niece, Allie Fernandez,
Brother Tommy Offord, his wife Carolyn, and Judith.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Offord*

October 05, 2023 at 09:38 PM



“ *For my forever friend St. James, love and miss you always, in my thoughts so often. Your charm and generosity touched so many lives. You may not be here, but you are always near. Love to all your family and friends*

Larry "Gas" Blaylock - March 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm struggling with the realization that our tightknit group of friends was larger seven years ago, and friends have continued to drop by the wayside. The COVID-19 pandemic has been cruel to many, and we are struggling to have a chance to experience "normal" once again. Your name still pops up in conversations when we run into friends who have lived in the desert communities for many years. We have done a fairly good job of getting together with Judith every fall to celebrate our birthdays, and yes, memories of you always flood our rendezvous. You will always be in our thoughts, and our hearts will always ache at the thought of losing such an extraordinary friend. Love, Dennis and Monique*

Dennis Sperat - March 02, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Another year has gone by and a few more of our friends are no longer with us. We lost Jimmy McShane, George Roussos and Jane diLazzaro. Monique and I will be joining Judith for lunch in a few weeks. I promise that we'll be toasting you in grand fashion. How much fun would it be if you were able to join us? I'm certain our facial muscles would be aching. Much love from all of us! Dennis & Monique

Dennis Sperat - March 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ As is oftentimes the case, I am a day late and a dollar short. I had left you a message earlier, but it appears that it has mysteriously vanished. Another year has gone by, and many of us have been dealing with the grief of mutual loved ones. We lost both George Roussos and Jane D. within the last few months, and it hasn't been easy for any of us. If there truly is a life hereafter, I hope you will miraculously meet all of our friends we have lost the past five years. We still miss you!Mucho amour,Dennis and Monique

Dennis Sperat - March 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Jimmy, time is flying by but you're always in my heart and when I think of you it is with love. ❤️

Babs Murray - March 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Another year has passed and seeing your photo on this sight reminds me you have gone. I feel you took a piece of my heart so we will always be connected. Sending love and a lasting embrace. Babs

Babs Murray - March 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Yes, another year has passed, and not without many of us missing you. Jimmy McShane is no longer with us, and Jane has been struggling through chemotherapy and radiation. It has been at least a year since we last got together with Judith, but I'll be reaching out to her momentarily. I promise we'll raise our glasses once again in honor of you and your friendship we'll forever hold dear to us.

Dennis Sperat - March 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Time passes far too quickly! We'll be getting together with Judith shortly and promise not to forget to raise our glasses in your honor. The laughs will definitely be fewer without you and the mood will be more somber than usual. How fun would it be to have the opportunity to spend a little time together just one more time?

Dennis Sperat - March 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ My dear friend, I think of you often, and the memories that we've shared. I know it's like that with all who knew you. We all have our moments and stories, That is how we really live on. I love you now, I loved you then. Shine on James, shine on.

Larry Blaylock - March 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Oh my friend, another year has passed. You are as loved today as when we could see your sweet face. And I miss you.

Babs Murray - March 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM