James John (Jim) O’Hara III, of Hollywood, FL died unexpectedly in his home in the early morning of July 11, 2019. Jim was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Jim was born in Rochester, NY in 1948, to James John II and Norma Lee (Harris) O’Hara. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in 1971 and earned his Masters of Architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1973. Jim remained active in the Harvard GSD community, serving on the Alumni Council and engaging with the South Florida chapters in recent years.

As a manager of International Design and Construction for several global companies, Jim’s work took him all over the world. Whether in India, China, South America or Paris France, Jim may have arrived as a stranger, but always left with lifelong friends. When he was not traveling for work, he traveled extensively for pleasure with his favorite travel companion and wife of 47 years, Mary Jo.

Jim’s true joy and passion was his family. As a proud father, Jim provided endless support, encouragement, and unconditional love to his children. To his cherished grandchildren, he was BopBop, and loved nothing more than to swim with them or cuddle up and read stories. He used to say that the only thing better than being a parent was being a grandparent!

Jim was an avid boater, he served as a member of the board at Gulfstream Sailing Club and enjoyed “floater-boater-ing” with family. He loved skiing, scuba diving, dancing, and music (especially Brendan’s!). At the end of each day, while looking out over the Atlantic from the little beach bungalow Jim and Mary Jo called home, surrounded by loved ones, Jim would look around glowing with his perfect mixture of sentimentality, humor, humility, and a life-long sought satisfaction and raise his rum and lime with a toast to us all, “Chi sta migliore di noi.”

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo (Strutz), daughter Caite Rainwater (Chris), sons Michael (Leena) and Brendan; three sisters Megan Porter, Adrian Sterling, and Valerie O’Hara; as well as his adoring grandchildren Charlie, Leo, Isabelle, and Josephine and many nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, aunts, and uncles.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Hollywood, FL on Tuesday, July 16 at 2pm.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to an architecture scholarship at St. Benedict’s Preparatory School (Newark, NJ) in Jim’s name.

https://www.sbp.org/giving/ways-to-give

Jim O’Hara Memorial Scholarship
C/O Office of Advancement
St. Benedict’s Preparatory School
520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102