



Dr. James Lowell Babcock

April 7, 1939 - June 12, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. James Lowell Babcock at age 86 after a battle with cancer. He was born on April 7, 1939 in Bluffton, Indiana to the late Harold G. and Margaret Babcock. He graduated from Warren High School and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Indiana University in 1961. He married Lancy Lynn Maish in 1963. He subsequently attended Indiana University School of Medicine. Following an internship at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, he was stationed at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Santa Ana, California. He then served as a lieutenant in the Navy at Marble Mountain in Da Nang, Vietnam for a year. Jim returned to the United States and completed a residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Indiana University and Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, California. He served on faculty at Indiana University for 4 years and then spent the remainder of his career practicing in Bluffton, Indiana. James and his late wife, Lynn, retired to Santa Fe in 2008 after falling in love with the unique culture and landscape.

Jim was a passionate outdoor enthusiast, happiest when surrounded by nature. He loved hiking and fishing in the Wind River area of Wyoming, skiing anywhere in the Rockies or backpacking under the stars. He was known for his adventurous spirit and his deep appreciation for the natural world.

He was an avid reader and spent his free time immersed in newspapers and books. He had an expansive personal library containing books on a wide array of topics ranging from politics to history to theology. His hunger for knowledge

was insatiable and he was always eager to explore new worlds and ideas. He shared his love of reading with others, encouraging a passion for literature in family and friends.

His beloved wife preceded him in death in 2017. Three loving children survive him: Dr. Rebecca Bair (Brant) of Santa Fe, Julia Lynn Whitmore (Brian) of Palisade, Colorado and Michael James Babcock (Wendi Sams) of Avondale Estates, Georgia. He is survived by four grandchildren: Benjamin and Lauren Whitmore, and Katherine and Sophie Bair. He is also survived by his sister, Emmalee Wade and his brother, Dr. George Babcock (Janice.)

Jim's kind and gentle spirit will be sorely missed by all that had the privilege of knowing him.

A celebration luncheon is planned for noon Friday, August 8, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton.

The family is requesting contributions to either the Santa Fe Animal Shelter or the Food Depot in lieu of flowers.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends are welcome to send online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Celebration Luncheon

AUG 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
215 East Dustman Road
Bluffton, IN 46714

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Multiple memories of "Dr. Jim"...he was a great doctor and I learned so much working around him.
He will be missed.
My condolences to his family.

Cathy Halterman - July 07, 2025 at 04:35 PM

MH

“ We'll always be grateful for Jim and his care for his patients ... my Dad was one of them. He was part of a wonderful family.....Mary Ann Holmes and father Lester Preston

Mary Ann [Preston] Holmes - June 20, 2025 at 11:41 AM

KB

I was a nurse on the orthopedic ward at Bluffton Hospital, I helped take care of Dr. Babcock patients after surgery and their hospital stay, Dr. Babcock was a wonderful Dr, but had a temper when something went wrong with his patients, due to the compassion he showed for them, his patients loved him and his nurses working the floor. Kathy Sorg Byrd .

Kathy Sorg Byrd - June 28, 2025 at 09:26 AM

RD

I very seldom look for or read obituaries. It's just something that saddens me so much.....I just find it easier to find out later. I was searching for my long time friend Bev Blessing's service time and date when I saw this. I was shocked to see it. When someone moves away, you only have a memory/picture of how they were. I was shocked that he was 86. Dr Jim Babcock, caring, athletic, gentle, humble.....That was him. What a great example for all of us.

Doug Durr

Ray D Durr - July 09, 2025 at 12:58 PM