

James Byron Neighbors/1954 — 2006

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Longtime Ridgecrest resident James Byron Neighbors passed away Tuesday, May 23, 2006, at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. He was 51.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, May 30 at 6 a.m. at Calvary Assembly of God, 800 W. Upjohn Ave. Pastor Chuck Hobson will officiate. Military rites will be conducted by the U.S. Navy Honor Guard, China Lake. There will be a reception immediately following the service. Inurnment will be in Lawton, Okla.



James Byron Neighbors

James was born Dec. 25, 1954, in Wichita, Kan. He grew up in a military family and lived in several different towns. However, he spent his formative years in Lawton, Okla.

James served in the U.S. Navy from 1974 to 1980, then worked as a welder at NAWS. He had lived in Ridgecrest since 1979. He became an office manager following a liver transplant in 2000.

James was associate pastor at Calvary Assembly of God, and served as youth pastor from 1994 to 1998. He was part of their Christian writer's club and also became an ordained minister and did couple's counseling.

James became interested in many hobbies throughout the years. Some of his favorites included fishing, hunting, arts and crafts, and he loved playing his harmonicas.

He loved his family and friends. He loved his church and making people laugh. He fought a long hard battle and thought of others the whole way through. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him and will forever remain in our hearts.

He is survived by his fianc/, Nina Sunseri; son, Dustin Neighbors; daughter, Dena Meyer; son, Caleb Neighbors; grandsons, Ethan Neighbors and Jason Meyer, all of Ridgecrest; parents, Chalmers and Helen Neighbors of Lawton, Okla.; sister, Shelly Scott of Lawton, Okla.; brother, Gary Neighbors of Elgin, Okla.; sister, Gaye Neighbors, sister, Lina Tungit; brother, Donald "Tommy" Neighbors; brother, Marvin "Rusty" Neighbors, all of Lawton, Okla.; brother, Leslie Neighbors of Melzo, Italy; and sister, Ginger Lee Newman of Houston, Texas.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Hepatitis C Awareness Inc., P.O. Box 3122, North Hollywood, CA 91609. Please check their Web site at www.hepcaware.org. Jim will be honored on the Web site.

Private cremation and arrangements provided by Holland & Lyons Mortuary, 371-1376. Media information provided by the family.