

IN EVERY FRIENDSHIP THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL

JIM KAGAN AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FRIENDS, BUT WE WERE NOT ONLY FRIENDS, BUT LIFE LONG FRIENDS

I MET JIM OVER 50 YEARS AGO, AS HE WAS A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER, MORT AND JIMMY'S FATHER, DAVID, WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MY FATHER. THEY WENT TO THE STEAM BATH EVERY SUNDAY. WHEN BARBARA RETURNED TO EDMONTON, WE BECAME VERY CLOSE FRIENDS.

HOW COULD JIMMY AND I BE FRIENDS? HE RODE HORSES, LOVED THEM AND TALKED ABOUT THEM. THE ONLY TIME I WAS ON A HORSE WAS AT AGE 3, WHEN MOST CHILDREN WERE PHOTOGRAPHED ON A PONY. JIM WAS VERY SKILLED WITH GUNS AND RIFLES AND REPRESENTED CANADA IN THE PAN AM GAMES AND THE MACABEE GAMES. I NEVER SHOT A GUN OR EVEN HELD A GUN. JIMMY WAS A SKIER AND JIM'S LOVE FOR SKIING HAD A BIG INFLUENCE ON MY SON, RICHARD, WHO NOW LIVES IN WHISTLER AND TEACHES SKIING, AS ONE OF HIS JOBS. I NEVER SKIED, BUT WE HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL IN OUR FRIENDSHIP, WHICH I CHERISHED.

JIM, MORLEY BLEVISS AND I DECIDED TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND WE PLAYED RAQUETBALL. JIM BEAT EACH OF US ON A REGULAR BASIS. MORLEY AND I CHALLENGED HIM TO PLAY AGAINST BOTH OF US. IN ALL THE YEARS WE PLAYED WE ONLY BEAT HIM TWICE. THE FIRST TIME WE BEAT HIM HE TOOK US TO DENNY'S FOR BREAKFAST.

HASHEM BROUGHT THE THREE OF US TOGETHER AGAIN IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY. JIM'S DAD, MORLEY'S GRANDFATHER AND MY FATHER SHARED THE SAME YORTZEIT DATE. FOR MANY YEARS THE THREE OF US WOULD GET TOGETHER TO SAY KADDISH AND THEN WE MADE A BREAKFAST FOR ALL THOSE AT THE MINYAN. BARBARA, I WILL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE YOUR FATHER IN MY PRAYERS DURING THE YORTZEIT.

JIM WAS SO VERY PROUD OF HIS CHILDREN, DAYNA AND DAVID AND WHEN DAYNA GAVE HIM A GRANDCHILD THERE WAS NO PROUDER ZAIDA IN EDMONTON. AT DAVID'S WEDDING BRAYDON, WHO WAS NOT EVEN A YEAR OLD, WAS DRESSED IN A TUXEDO AND WAS THE RING BEARER. JIMMY, THE PROUD ZAIDA CARRIED HIM AROUND. BOY, OH BOY DID HE LOVE HIS FAMILY.

LOUISE, EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW JIMMY FROM SCHOOL AND RIDING JIMMY WAS THE HAPPIEST PERSON WHEN YOU CAME BACK INTO HIS LIFE. HE LOVED YOU VERY MUCH AND WAS SO PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS HIS PARTNER. YOU BLENDED ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS TOGETHER. THE SIMCHAS WERE ENJOYED BY EVERYONE. YOUR WARMTH, HOSPITALITY AND CARING MADE EVERY EVENT SPECIAL AND MEANINGFUL.

JIMMY, PHYLLIS AND I WILL MISS YOU AND WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT A SPECIAL FRIEND YOU WERE TO US. WE COULD NOT FORGET THE TIME YOU HELPED US OUT IN DELIVERING OUR TELEVISION FROM THE STORE TO OUR HOME. IT WAS YOUR SUGGESTION. THIS WAS JUST ONE OF THE SPECIAL THINGS HE DID.

JIMMY, YOU WERE BLESSED WITH WONDERFUL CHILDREN, A GREAT SISTER, AN EXTENDED FAMILY AND AN OUTSTANDING WIFE.

HASHEM YOU ARE WELCOMING A WONDERFUL PERSON.

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Mel