



## **James Eugene Stangarone**

**July 1, 1939 - August 1, 2023**

James Eugene Stangarone passed away from natural causes on August 1, 2023, in Northridge, California. He was born on July 1, 1939, in Connellsville, Pennsylvania to Eugene and Stella Stangarone. He was the older of 2 sons and grew up in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. Jim was a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults). Because Jim's parents were Deaf, he knew from a young age he would serve the deaf community in some way.

Jim received his BA in Education from Indiana State College, Pennsylvania in 1961, and MA in Deaf Education from the University of Kansas in 1962. His first job was at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) in Jacksonville, IL which launched him into a lifetime career in Deaf Education. After two years at ISD, new opportunities brought him west to teach at the California State School for the Deaf in Riverside, CA.

In 1967, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a new Federal postsecondary program was established at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY. This was a unique opportunity for Jim, and he accepted the challenge to be part of it.

Jim was a member of the original staff that implemented the NTID program at RIT in 1968. He held a variety of positions during his 20-year career. He was the first director of NTID Interpreting Services and coordinated the first Interpreter Training program in the country in 1969. He had a lead role in setting up Support Services of interpreting, notetaking and tutoring for deaf students in RIT mainstream classes. He assisted with the development of a nationwide network of secondary programs for the deaf and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to facilitate NTID's recruitment and Admissions process. He taught Sign Language to RIT faculty, staff and deaf/hard of hearing students.

Jim was actively involved with the Deaf Community at the national level during his lifelong career. He was a Board member for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and served as President of RID. Additionally, he was on the of the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf (CAID) Board for six years.

Jim was held in high regard by NTID colleagues, students, and alumni as well as educators of the of the deaf across the country for his meaningful contributions to the Deaf Community and the Field of Deaf Education.

August 1988 brought a new opportunity for Jim and his lifelong partner, Ron Corder, so they headed west to San Diego, California. Jim began a 9-year career with the San Diego Unified School District working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

In 1997 Jim and Ron moved to Buena Vista, Baja Mexico and enjoyed retired life, cooking, canning, entertaining and being involved in the Mexican community on the Sea of Cortez. After Ron's death, Jim moved back to California in 2018 to be close to good friends and "family" until his death.

Jim had a dynamic energetic personality; he was passionate about his work and his life. He was a mesmerizing storyteller, loved an audience and happily shared many intriguing stories over the years. He loved to cook and enjoyed entertaining. An avid gardener, he took pride in the beautiful roses from his garden. Jim's life was a gift to those who were fortunate enough to share it with him. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Jim was predeceased by his parents Eugene and Stella Stangarone and his lifelong partner, Ron Corder. He is survived by his brother William (Bill), (Dee) Stangarone of Windsor, Colorado, nieces Nikki Stangarone Mosley also of Windsor, Jennifer Dinges Stangarone of Bozeman, Montana and cherished lifelong friends Liz O'Brien (NY), Dennis Russell (AZ), and the Carl J Kirchner family (CA). Jim was laid to rest at sea on August 25, 2023, by the Neptune Society.

**Please direct your memorial donations in honor of Jim to the following organizations.**

**NTID Alice Beardsley Endowment Scholarship**

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Office of the President

52 Lomb Memorial Drive

Rochester, NY 15623

**RID Laurie Nash Deaf Parented Interpreter (DPI) Scholarship**

WWW. RID.org

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

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