



James Borden Lynch

December 9, 1952 - December 30, 2025

James Borden Lynch Obituary:

James Borden Lynch, 73, died at 12:20 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Missouri Baptist Medical Center. He was born December 9, 1952 in Charlotte, NC, the son of the late Herbert Adolphus and Doris Louise (Hiller) Lynch.

Following service in the United States Army, Jim graduated from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1976, where he majored in political science and acquired a lifelong love of the North Carolina Tar Heels. He then attended the University of Virginia School of Law, graduating in 1980. There he made lifelong friends, particularly with his small section (Section L), many of whom continued to regularly share news and memories and even take trips together more than 40 years after the conclusion of their time in Charlottesville.

Although a native of the Southeast, Jim's career next took him to the frozen plains of Minnesota, where he began working as an attorney at the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis. He began as a trial lawyer and later served as longstanding counsel to numerous medical associations and medical certifying boards—including the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Board of Ophthalmology, as well as the American Board of Radiology. Here, too, he acquired not only clients but lifelong friends, particularly through his decades as legal counsel to the AAO's Ethics Committee.

In Minneapolis, Jim met, and on May 12, 1990, married Melissa Draper, who survives. Also surviving are his son, Daniel Draper Lynch of Washington, D.C., two sisters, Jane Lynch of Durham, NC and Frances Tuttle of Orinda, CA, a nephew, Tim Hultzman (Sarah Guidi) of Raleigh, NC, great nephew Theo Hultzman and great niece Linden Hultzman, cousin Herbert Harriss (Karen) of Wilmington, NC, his mother-in-law, Patricia Draper of Bethalto, and cousins-in-law Joyce Fleming (Gary) of Alton, Julie Fleming-Vambaketes of East Alton, and Dr. Jason Fleming of Carmel, IN. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his father-in-law, George M. Draper of Bethalto.

Visitation will start at 10:30 AM on Monday, January 12, 2026 followed by a brief service at 11:00 led by Father John Wykes. Burial will be at Bunker Hill Cemetery with military honors. Memorials may be made to Doctors Without Borders, World Central Kitchen, or the American Cancer Society. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home
2409 State Street
Alton, IL

Funeral

JAN 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home
2409 State Street
Alton, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Borden Lynch.*



February 08 at 03:27 PM



“ *Greg McCormick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Borden Lynch.*

Greg McCormick - February 08 at 03:27 PM



“ *Melissa--*

I was saddened to learn of Jim's death. We became close while working together on the Midwest Life cases in the 1990's. I will always carry many fond memories of him, and I am grateful for the friendship.

Jim Langdon

Jim Langdon - January 13 at 10:16 AM

DF

“ *Melisa and Daniel,*

I was privileged to get to know Jim well as a fellow Section L classmate at UVA Law School, a Statue of Frogs teammate, and good friend. Jim was always so positive and kind - I don't ever remember him saying a negative thing about someone else. In the competitive pressure cooker that is law school, Jim was cool and calm, always ready with a smile, and willing to share his knowledge. He had a maturity that stood out among us. And of course there was his sweet jump shot and athletic ability we all envied! He truly was the best of us and we miss him very much!

Dennis Fogland

Dennis Fogland - January 12 at 06:10 PM

LC

Melvin & I are sorry for the loss of Jim. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Lori & Melvin Czeschin

Lori Czeschin - January 17 at 09:08 AM

CC

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We are remembering him and all of you in our thoughts. We are sending prayers for all of you to find peace and comfort in your memories of your life with Jim. With our deepest sympathies, Mark and Colette*

Colette Cowan - January 11 at 08:27 PM

GB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Willie & Gail Belleville*

Gail Belleville - January 11 at 08:15 PM

JS

“Wow, what a shocker! I knew Jimmy for many years. I lived right around the corner from him in Charlotte and went to High school and college with Jimmy. I was just thinking about him recently for some reason. I was always impressed with Jimmy's intelligence and odd humor. He even loaned me a 35mm camera he got while in the military for a class I took at UNC. They were snatching kids for the draft as soon as they graduated back then. BC he has a '52 birth year he got it first. He was almost 3 months older and I didn't get called until the next year. I first ate broccoli and heard Richard Prior albums at his apartment in Chapel Hill. I'm sorry we didn't get together before he passed. I have tried to touch base with some from HS lately. I hope James knew the Lord. Much peace and rest to you, Jimmy. You will surely be miss. Joe

Joe Black, Sr - January 11 at 02:27 PM

MC

“Mara Burke,Carla Siegfried,Jess Ciralsky purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of James Borden Lynch.



Mara Burke,Carla Siegfried,Jess Ciralsky - January 10 at 04:09 PM



“Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Borden Lynch.



January 09 at 11:29 AM