



## James Irwin Maddock

March 9, 1943 - March 9, 2026

James Irwin Maddock, born March 9, 1943, slipped quietly away on March 9, 2026, just after enjoying a birthday breakfast with those who loved him.

Born to Herbert and Marjorie Maddock in Orange, New Jersey, “Jim” and his family migrated west to Houston in the late 1950s.

Jim attended Memorial High School, where he played football well—and built and raced hot rods out on Telephone Road even better, it’s said—with his crew, the VI Pack. Jim graduated in 1962.

He attended Trinity University in San Antonio, where he studied history, joined the Bengal Lancers Fraternity, and became one of the school’s night librarians as an undergraduate before graduating.

After college, Jim drove to Alaska to serve as a volunteer park ranger for the summer—an early sign of his independence and sense of adventure—before enlisting in the United States Navy. He served during the Vietnam War, a time he would later remember as one of the most formative periods of his life.

After the Navy, Jim moved to Dallas with his young family. There, he worked at Texas Instruments and at a lumberyard. Later, he ran a highly regarded Polo Grounds, worked as a mechanic in a town of just 200 people, and, before retiring, held a unique position in which he was responsible for hand-delivering great works of art—Remingtons and O’Keeffes—to places like the

Getty and New York's MoMA.

Jim never stopped fixing things for people. Many said there was nothing he couldn't fix. Throughout his life, he restored dozens of old boats and cars—most of which he rarely, if ever, captained. He loved to work on them, he'd say, more than drive them.

Jim wasn't fond of making a fuss, speaking highly of himself, or speaking poorly of others. He learned throughout his life and it showed. He lived simply and left things better than he found them. There are few if any that would disagree - that he was a good man.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa, and his son, Chris.