



James Mark Hilliard

December 4, 1953 - March 26, 2026

James “Mark” Hilliard of Conway, South Carolina, passed away surrounded by the love of his family on March 26, 2026.

Mark was a talented landscape, wildlife, and fine art photographer who spent his life capturing the beauty of the natural world. He served in the United States Navy, worked for Eastman Kodak, and later followed his passion for photography. He was also a ham radio operator, storm chaser, and weather enthusiast who loved technology, learning, and exploring the world around him.

To his family, Mark will be remembered most for his kindness and calm nature. He had a way of making people feel supported and cared for, and he brought a steady presence to those who knew him.

His family is grateful for the opportunity to care for him and to be with him in the end. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness and love that will continue to live on in all who knew him.

His youngest daughter, Megan Steljes, and her entire family had a special bond with Mark. To his grandson Jordan, he was “Poppy,” a mentor and travel companion who shared his love of photography. To Lilly (his granddaughter), he was her “best friend,” and the two shared a deep connection, including a

love of dachshunds—she has promised to care for his beloved puppy, Willow. They also both loved Jeeps (specifically the “Lilly Jeep”). To grandson Alex, he was “Marky,” reflecting their own special relationship grounded mostly in playing toys and cuddling.

Ellen Ross-Hilliard, his former wife, was a source of loving support throughout his illness. Her kindness and willingness to be there for him meant a great deal to Mark. He continued to consider her family and deeply valued the time they shared together.

In addition to those closest to him, he is survived by his oldest daughter, Jaime Goldman, and her daughters, Amelia Goldman and Evelyn Goldman of Florida, who held a special place in his heart. He is also survived by his sons, Ryan Rossi and John Ross; his brother, Steven Hilliard; as well as many cherished grandchildren who all brought him great joy.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Lisa Hilliard, a beautiful, fun, free-spirited, and loving soul; his parents, Milliard and Vera Hilliard; and his sisters, Lora Lee Hilliard and Mary Ann Cathorall.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Coastal Cancer Center, Embrace Hospice, and Journey Church for their compassionate care, support, and kindness shown to Mark and his family.

A gathering to honor and celebrate Mark’s life will be held at Journey Church on April 18 at 11:00 AM. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:30 AM. He will be laid to rest at Hillcrest Cemetery in Conway, South Carolina, in the Veteran Section, as he wanted.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is serving the family.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Mr. James "Mark" Hilliard please visit our Sympathy Store.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
office@hillcrestcemetery.com
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Journey Church
10607 SC-707
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
(843) 357-2100

Celebration of Life

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Journey Church
10607 SC-707
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
(843) 357-2100

Inurnment

APR **24**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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