

**James Robert “Jim” Nikstad (FCAS 1983)
1949-2017**

Community and education advocate, Jim Nikstad died July 7, 2017, at his home in Wausau, Wisconsin, surrounded by his devoted family.

Nikstad was born in Superior, Wisconsin, the third of eight children, and grew up on the family farm. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in physics from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and after served in the U.S. Army (1972-1974).

He married Emalyn Tucker in 1976, the same year that he received a master's in statistics from Marquette University.

Nikstad was a fervent duplicate bridge player, becoming a Life Master with 1,225 master points and the Wisconsin Upper Michigan Bridge Association player of the year in his division four years running (2013-2016). Wherever he traveled, be it South Texas, Alaska or Edinburgh, Scotland, he and his wife would find a bridge game. In their retirement, the couple taught bridge lessons and shared their love of the game with many students, making many friends along the way.

Nikstad is survived by his wife, three children, three grandchildren, his siblings and their spouses, four aunts, one uncle, his in-laws and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and sister, and his father-in-law.