

BEFORE THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re JAMES MICHAEL KUZMA )  
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 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

2018 CE Form 1

**ORDER DECLARING FINANCIAL  
DISCLOSURE FINE UNCOLLECTIBLE**

This matter came before the Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on Friday, September 10, 2021, in the matter of James Michael Kuzma. Section 112.3145(8)(g), Florida Statutes, assesses an automatic fine of \$25 per day on each person who is required to file an annual Statement of Financial Interests (CE Form 1), but whose form is not timely filed, up to a maximum of \$1,500.

1. James Michael Kuzma served as a member of the Division of Emergency Management – Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials, and an employee of Space Florida and, as such, was required to file a 2018 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, no later than September 1, 2019.

2. James Michael Kuzma's CE Form 1 was received late, resulting in an automatic fine of \$150.00.

3. Under Section 112.3145(8)(j), Florida Statutes, any fine that is not waived by a Final Order of the Commission, and remains unpaid more than 60 days after the Notice of Payment

Due is transmitted, must be submitted to the Department of Financial Services as a claim, debt or other obligation owed to the state.

4. Under Section 17.20(3)(b), Florida Statutes, an agency may request an exemption when assignment to a collections agency would be inappropriate. The agency must provide a written request, explaining the reasons the agency believes the account should be precluded from collections.

5. In August of 2021, the wife of the deceased confirmed that James Michael Kuzma passed away on February 5, 2021.

6. On its own motion, the Commission determines that the \$150.00 fine assessed against James Michael Kuzma is uncollectible and requests that the Department of Financial Services consider it to be exempt from collection.

**DONE and ORDERED** by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on Friday, September 10, 2021.

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Date Rendered

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JoAnne Leznoff  
Chair

JL/dw

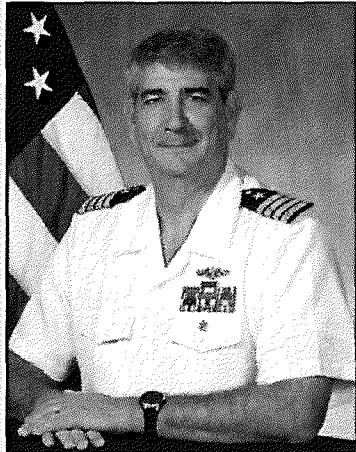
cc: Claims for Collection, Department of Financial Services

24763

Provided by Beckman-Williamson Funeral  
Homes and Crematory

# Captain James "Jim" Kuzma U.S. Navy Ret.

February 8, 1961 ~ February 5, 2021 (age 59)



James Michael Kuzma, born February 8th, 1961 in Steubenville, OH, passed away unexpectedly on Friday February 5th, 2021. He and his wife of 36 years, Karen, have been residents of Cocoa Beach since 2008.



In addition to his wife Karen, he is survived by his four children, James Michael II (Andrea Pinzon-Garcia), William Jordan (Patricia Kuzma), Lauren Rose (Aaron Possinger) and Candace Marie and five grandchildren, Ariana, Lillian, Camilo, Adelaide, and Maverick. He is also survived by his mother, Catherine Kuzma, and mother-in-law, Candace Jordan.

The third child of four, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the US Naval Academy (1983), a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the Catholic University of America, and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF).

He served 28 years with the US Navy before retiring in Cocoa Beach in 2011. His first assignment was the USS Jacksonville SSN 699. He went on to Naval Sea Systems Command serving during 1988-90 as a Fleet Liaison and Systems Test Director for various submarine Combat and Weapons System Program Offices. He served as Engineering Officer on the USS Newport News SSN 750 from 1991 to 1994. In 1994, he was assigned to the CINCLANTFLT Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. He served as the Executive Officer on USS Atlanta SSN 712 from October 1996 to July 1998 before reporting to Submarine Warfare Division of the OPNAV staffer where he served as Submarine Combat Systems Requirements Officer. Following that he assumed command as the Commanding Officer of the USS Boise 764 from March 2001 until October 2003. He went on to serve as

## Services

### VIEWING

Thursday  
February 11, 2021  
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Beckman ~ Williamson  
Funeral Home  
Cocoa Beach, FL

### FUNERAL MASS

Friday  
February 12, 2021  
11:00 AM

### INTERMENT

Friday  
February 12, 2021  
2:00 PM  
Cape Canaveral National  
Cemetery  
Scottsmeer, FL

Deputy Director for Operations on the staff of the Commander, Naval Submarine Forces from 2003-2005. From October 2005 to August 2007, Captain Kuzma served as Special Activities Division Chief on Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance staff before attending ICAF from August 2007 to June 2008. He rounded off his impressive Naval career as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit in Cape Canaveral (2008-2011). However, he went back to work shortly later at Space Florida as the Senior Vice President and General Manager in 2011 until the day he passed away.

Captain Kuzma's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards). While at the Naval Academy he was a member of the USNA Basketball team from 1979-1983. He was an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Penguins, Tampa Bay Lightning, and US Naval Academy sports teams. His favorite pastimes were going to the various amusement parks and live concerts, and rejoicing in silly antics like playing pranks and YouTube videos of the Village People, Baby Shark, and Minions during dinner. Most of all, his special joys in life were spending time with his five grandchildren, children and wife.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Captain Kuzma's memory be made to Wreaths Across America. <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/> (<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/>)