
Captain James Lovell Tribute

Brilliance Kindness Optimism

Marla Friedman - August 9th, 2025

A blank page stares at me. Where do I begin and how can I find the appropriate words....



Captain James Lovell passed away at 97 August 7th.



I had the great honor and privilege to collaborate with Captain Lovell on three oil portrait paintings and two portrait sculptures over the period of a decade. His positivity and broad world view made every moment joyful. Captain Lovell brought with him such extreme optimism that you were left to believe anything was possible. His kindness radiated through his eyes ~ always a sense of the young boy in wonderment of the world around him. There are many accolades about Captain Lovell and all of them are true. I can only add that this artist is forever thankful to have known and worked with such an extraordinary, brilliant, generous, kind, beautiful human being. Who inspired my art and my life. Thank you Captain Lovell.





Your legacy and spirit continue to bring joy and inspiration to the world. As you did on Apollo 8 when you and your crew were the first humans to orbit the moon. And on Apollo 13 when the entire world came together to rejoice your safe return to our good earth. Your life inspires as a magnificent, brilliant North Star. The very best of who we are and, with a dream, dedication, perseverance and sheer optimism, who we can be.

