

*Search Site*

**NBC**

# 10, dies at 69

by NBC 10 NEWS  
Saturday, June 22nd 2019

AA



*Remembering Jim Taricani*

Long-time NBC 10 investigative reporter Jim Taricani passed away Friday. He was 69 years old.

Jim left a legacy of more than 30 years of reporting at NBC 10, uncovering corruption in politics and shining a light on Mob activities.

Search Site

*personified excellence in journalism covering organized crime and government corruption with unwavering courage for nearly four decades, Jim was fair, thorough and compassionate. He was committed to the highest professional standards. Yet he remained humble and curious, accessible to everyone regardless of their position.*

Arrangements were not immediately announced.

Taricani almost didn't pursue a career in journalism.

As a young 20-something, Jim Taricani was pursuing a career in music.

"I was in college, bumming around with some bands, back in the '70s," Jim recalled in an interview in 2014.

He was trained on classical trumpet. He figured radio might be a good fallback career, and in that interview, he said he got his first broadcasting job at the radio station in West Warwick.

## Remembering Jim Taricani

### *Search Site*

When investigative reporter Paul Sussman left journalism to become a lawyer, Jim took over that role. Many of his stories were about the Rhode Island Mob and its leader, Raymond L.S. Patriarca.

Jim's I-Team investigations showed us sides of the Mob we had never seen before: an exclusive interview with an actual Mafia hit man, another with a mob figure who helped pull off a multimillion-dollar vault robbery.

And he showed us those Mob figures with the exotic names -- names like "Bo-Bo," "Baby Shanks" and Anthony "The Moron." The nicknames that would be riotously funny were their business not so terrifyingly deadly.

We saw Jim's confrontational, but fact-based interviewing style during his investigation of illegal waste dumping in Coventry, Johnston and elsewhere in the 1980s, with the Mob getting a cut of the dumping fees.

Jim also uncovered a scandal at the then-Department of Children and Families: young male wards of the state in downtown Providence unsupervised at night selling themselves for sex.

Other stories included the flow of illegal immigrants from Guatemala to Rhode Island, and the illegal sale of black market guns.

Jim scored the first television interview with Claus von Bulow after his retrial on charges of attempting to kill his wife, Sunny, ended in acquittal.

"He was a fascinating character," Jim said of von Bulow.

Jim also tracked banking crisis figure Joe Mollicone to Utah, thanks to a tip.

"I got a phone call out of the blue from a guy in Salt Lake City, Utah. And he said, 'I just saw your story on CNN.' I said, 'Yeah.' And he said, 'You know that guy in your piece? The guy you call Joe Mollicone? That guy's name is John Fazioli. He was my roommate here in Salt Lake City,'" said Jim as he recounted the story.

Jim jumped on a plane.

"There was so much speculation, he went to Italy, or he was all over the world and people were like hiding him, and he was no further away than Salt Lake City for two years," Jim said.

### *Search Site*

Jim left NBC 10 in 1995 to pursue a new career as press secretary to the newly elected Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Almond. Disgruntled by politics, he was back at NBC 10 about two years later.

He dealt with a personal medical need -- the need for a new heart.

## Jim Taricani

*Jim Taricani received a heart transplant in 1996.*

After a heart transplant, he got right back into circulation and a year or two after that, investigated, and became part of, the Plunder Dome corruption investigation.

Jim released a secret undercover videotape of a top Cianci administration official accepting a bribe, and found himself sentenced to four months of home confinement.

## Taricani became part of Plunder Dome story

## Search Site

*Jim Taricani became part of the Operation Plunder Dome story when he refused to reveal the source of an undercover FBI videotape.*

That experience pushed Jim to advocate for a reporter shield law, testifying before Congress in 2007. But it never passed.

After his release, Jim spent nine more years heading the NBC 10 I-Team until his retirement in 2014.

Loading ...