



**H. James (Jim) Brown, Economist and Director, Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, 80**

H. James (Jim) Brown, a longtime Harvard University professor and an accomplished and innovative expert on planning, urban development, housing and land use policies, died Sunday, January 24, 2021, at age 80 in New York City. He was also an avid sailor and Parrothead.

Brown was born in Indiana and grew up in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in economics, and subsequently spent a year at the London School of Economics as a research student. He completed his Ph.D. in economics at Indiana University in 1967, and held a post-doctoral fellowship at the university's Institute for Applied Urban Economics. For the next two years, Brown was a research associate in urban economic studies at the National Bureau of Economic Research in New York.

In 1970, Brown was appointed assistant professor and assistant chairman of the city and regional planning department at Harvard University. In 1976, he was promoted to full professor, and in 1981 became chairman of the department. In 1982, Brown was also named director of the MIT-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies, which had been established in 1959. The center was reorganized in 1984 as the Joint Center for Housing Studies, a collaborative venture of the Kennedy School of Government and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard. The center is considered the most prestigious research center on housing in the country. Brown initiated the center's much-followed annual report, *The State of the Nation's Housing*. In 1993, he was honored with the Carballo Award, an annual, student-nominated award recognizing a member of the Kennedy School faculty for dedication to teaching.

Building on his strong ties in the academic and business worlds and the public sector, Brown chaired the 1993 and 1995 sessions of the Housing Leadership Conference, a national forum for discussing and debating major issues affecting the housing industry. In honor of his work on

housing issues, Brown was named to the National Housing Hall of Fame in 2002 by the National Association of Home Builders.

In 1996, Brown left Harvard to become president and CEO of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, which works to improve quality of life around the world through the effective use, taxation and stewardship of land. Under his leadership through 2005, the Cambridge-based institute built and expanded its programs in Latin American and China, while bolstering its research and educational offerings.

Brown took up sailing with an unbridled passion during the 1980s. When he wasn't working and following his retirement, he could frequently be found on the waters of New England and the Caribbean with his wife, Cynthia, and family and friends. A longtime resident of Cambridge, he later lived with Cynthia in Cape Ann and New York City, with a beloved summer home in North Haven, Maine. He attended many Jimmy Buffett concerts after catching the sailing bug and found warm fellowship among the Parrotheads. He chaired the Schooner Ernestina Commission created by the State of Massachusetts to preserve, restore and operate a historic Grand Banks fishing schooner that ultimately embarked on several exploratory voyages to the Arctic from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Brown is survived by his wife, Cynthia; daughters Kimberly Woodwell (William) of Staunton, Virginia; Kristine Mahar (Dan) of Lafayette, Colorado; Heather Brown (John LaFargue) of Eureka, California; stepsons Mark Nichols of New York, New York, and Sebastian Nichols of Aina Haina, Honolulu; his grandchildren Brian Mahar, Josie Woodwell, Rachel Mahar, Dean Woodwell and Matthew Mahar; and his former wife Laura Gallant of Staunton, Virginia.

The family is arranging a private memorial ceremony. Memorial contributions can be made to Caribbean Educational & Baseball Foundation ([baseballdiplomacy.org](http://baseballdiplomacy.org)/PO Box 40010, Providence RI 02940).