

James Brown

November 23, 1943 - March 1, 2023

James Brown, 79, of Topeka, Illinois, passed away peacefully at his residence surrounded by his loving family, Wednesday evening, March 1, 2023. He was born November 23, 1943 in Salem, Indiana, to the late Bruce and Hilda Akers Brown. He married Judy Callis on November 23, 1970 in Peoria, Illinois. She survives. James's parents died while he was young and his Aunt and Uncle, Fern and Frank Knight raised him to adulthood.

He worked at Caterpillar as a Machinist until he retired in 1995. He then taught math at I.C.C. for two years. In his spare time James loved working on small engines.

In addition to his wife Judy A. Brown, he is survived by five daughters, Paticia (Danny) Gordon, of Forest City, Aimee (Mike) Britton, of Havana, Michelle (Gary) Gossage, of Topeka, Angela (Scott) LiCalzi, of Delavan, and Jennifer (Frank Brackney) Brown, of Manito.

Along with his parents, James was preceded in death by a sister, Patsy Hinegartner, and three brothers, Robert, Donald and Roger Brown, and his Aunt Fern and Uncle Frank Knight.

The visitation will be held at the Maas-Hurley Funeral Home, 301 S. Washington St. in Manito on Monday, March 6, 2023, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm with a Celebration of Life Service with Military Honors to follow in Bluebird Park in Forest City, starting at 4:30 pm.

Following the celebration, Cremation Rites will be accorded, and the family will have a private inurnment in the Forest City Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Hill-Palmer American Legion Post 561 in Manito.

Please visit www.hurleyfh.com for more information and to leave messages of comfort and condolences online for the family.

Maas-Hurley Funeral Home in Manito, (309) 968-6157 is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Forest City Cemetery

Forest City, IL 61532

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Maas Hurley Funeral Home - Manito
301 S. Washington St.
P.O. Box #442
Manito, IL 61546
(309) 968-6157
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Celebration of Life

MAR 6. 4:30 PM.

Blue Bird Park
Forest City, IL

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Aunt Judy, and girls. Sending condolences. Much love and many prayers for each of you. Always good memories of Uncle Jim. So sorry we weren't there. We just weren't aware. Donald Brown's #2 daughter, Sue. 💔



Susan Rocke - March 12, 2023 at 08:29 PM

TA

“ To Aunt Judy, Patricia, Aimee, Michelle, Jennifer and Angie... words cannot express how much my heart breaks for all of you. There are health reasons which caused my absence from Uncle Jim's services, however my heart and mind were full of the lifetime of childhood memories he left with me, so many that I will always cherish. I will always recall so many weekend cookouts and overnight sleep overs our family shared. My love to you all, always. Tawnia Greene-McGinnis.



Tawnia - March 07, 2023 at 03:41 PM

TC

“ I'm deeply sorry for Jim's passing. He was a real character and could always make you laugh. I pray you're coping and wish you better days ahead. May his legacy and memory never be forgotten.

Tommy Crawford - March 06, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Brown.*



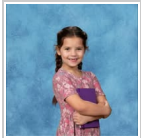
March 06, 2023 at 07:01 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of James Brown.*



March 05, 2023 at 05:39 PM



“ *Judy and girls
We are so sorry for your loss. Jim will be missed but now you carry him in your hearts. Sending hugs and prayers.
Norma Gourdier and family*

Norma Gourdier - March 05, 2023 at 07:47 AM



“ *Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of James Brown*



Larry and Mary Hundt - March 04, 2023 at 09:47 PM

PH

“ *Patty Heinhorst lit a candle in memory of James Brown*



Patty Ann Heinhorst - March 03, 2023 at 08:06 PM

Bird
Bird

“ *I'm Robyn Brown, daughter of Robert, Uncle Jim's oldest brother..Im so sorry for your,our loss, he was definitely a character,Uncle Jim will be missed!!! He always had a come back,he loved to tear us kids,lol..love and light to the family .*



Bird Bird - March 03, 2023 at 01:20 PM

LE

“ *Love Martha and Earl purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Brown.*



Love Martha and Earl - March 03, 2023 at 01:12 PM

CB

“ *Dear Angela and your entire family..I am so sorry for your loss..I will keep you all in my prayers. deepest sympathy. Christine Mammen Bluhm*

Christine Mammen Bluhm - March 03, 2023 at 02:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Brown.*



March 02, 2023 at 07:03 PM



“ *Amy and Phil Fountain lit a candle in memory of James Brown*



Amy Sondag and Phil Fountain - March 02, 2023 at 06:29 PM