



## Jim Behrends

June 16, 1963 - August 5, 2023

James Darrel “Jim” Behrends, 60, of Mason City passed away as the result of a tragic accident on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Jim was born on June 16, 1963 to Darrel and Anna (Swaar) Behrends as part of a multi-generational family of farmers in Mason County. Farming was in his blood, and he thoroughly enjoyed it. As a young man, he was actively involved in 4-H and the Future Farmers of America. He pursued his education at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1985 with a dual bachelor’s of science in animal science and agronomy. Jim will always be remembered by those who loved him for his kindness, his strong work ethic, his far-ranging talents and interests, and his caring, loving dedication to his wife and family. Jim was a devotee of Star Trek, he enjoyed making models with Legos and cartoons, and he loved animals and cared for them in exceptional ways. Jim loved to laugh and tell a good joke (or a bad one). He was a craft beer enthusiast and enjoyed sharing that with others who appreciated good conversation and laughs, most recently sitting on his back patio with his beloved cousins Lisa and Molly Steffens. Jim was devoted to his wife and family. He met the love of his life, Leonda Markee, in Room 0 of the Sycamore Lodge. They were married on December 16, 1989 in Havana. After their marriage, Jim and Leonda moved to New York City and lived in New York and Connecticut for the next 27 years. During those years, he and Leonda became parents to their two precious daughters, Kim and Liz. His keen analytic skills were utilized as a systems technician at Konica Minolta Business Systems for over 20 years. In 2015, he returned to

farming at the family farm in Mason City. Jim deeply loved his wife, Leonda. They were inseparable and she is left to mourn him. He also leaves his precious daughters Kim (James) Haywood of Rushville, and Liz M.B. (Adi) Yadav, of Medford, Massachusetts. Nothing gave him greater joy than his three grandchildren: Pearl Haywood, A.J. Haywood, and Akira Yadav. He is survived by his parents, with whom he farmed, Darrel and Anna Behrends of Mason City, his sister Martha (Mark) Konzelman of Medina, Ohio, his German brother, Jan (Frauke) Wenzelburger, his sister-in-law, Linda Markee, his nephew and niece, Nathan Markee and Alisha Markee-Ala, all of Easthampton, Massachusetts. Jim's surviving extended family includes: his uncles and aunts, Darwyn Behrends of Mason City, Joe (Mary Rose) Behrends of Urbana, Bob (Sarah Jane) Swaar of Greenview, Kathy Swaar of Lincoln, John Swaar of Shelbyville, and his many cousins. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Walter and Florence Behrends and Mac and Elsie Swaar, his uncle Bill Swaar, and aunt Roselyn Behrends. A Memorial Service honoring Jim's life will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City. Coffee and pie will be served at the American Legion in Mason City after the service. Visitation will be held on Friday, August 11, 2023 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM also at the funeral home. Memorial contributions can be made either to the Illinois Junior Hereford Association or the Mason County Pets without Parents, 29926 Illinois Rt 10, Mason City, IL. 62664. Online condolences can be left at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com). Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City is in charge of the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Mason City  
603 East Chestnut  
Mason City, IL 62664  
(217) 482-5959  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Memorial Service

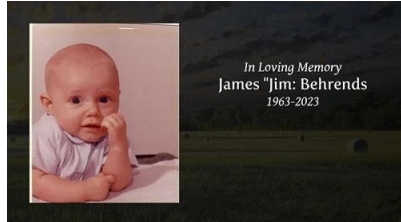
AUG 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Mason City  
603 East Chestnut  
Mason City, IL 62664  
(217) 482-5959  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jim Behrends



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Hurley Funeral Home - August 11, 2023 at 01:48 PM

PS

“ Hey there, my condolences for your loss. Jim was an absolute great friend. He was an awesome individual and i miss him more than ever.

Pauli

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paul santangelo - August 13, 2023 at 03:53 PM

SB

“ Sending our thoughts and prayers your way. I was so saddened to hear about the tragic accident. I haven't seen Jimmy since he was a baby and you were over at R.P. and Mildred's house when we were there with our new baby, Mark, , who was just a little older than Jimmy at the time. We took a photo of both babies lying side by side. The years have passed far too fast, and I am sure he will be greatly missed, That was over 60 years ago . What a fine man Jimmy turned out to be and such a good farmer and help to his Dad. I can only imagine your grief at his loss., Please know we are sending love and prayers to you, Darrel and Anna Marie, as well as to Jim's family.. Wish we could be there also, with the rest of the Roll family as you have been like family to all of the Roll's, May God bless you and bring you peace in your wonderful family memories. Shirley (Rae Roll) Barrow and Family.

Shirley Barrow - August 11, 2023 at 10:34 PM

AM

“ Almut M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Behrends.

Almut M. - August 11, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 10, 2023 at 08:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jim Behrends.

August 10, 2023 at 08:16 PM



“ Lee and Karen Lathrop purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jim Behrends.



Lee and Karen Lathrop - August 10, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ Lee and Karen Lathrop planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Behrends.

Lee and Karen Lathrop - August 10, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 10, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 10, 2023 at 04:45 PM

LH

“ *Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Jim Behrends*



**Larry and Mary Hundt** - August 10, 2023 at 01:46 PM

CM

“ *Cheri Muller lit a candle in memory of Jim Behrends*



**Cheri Wilcoxen Muller** - August 10, 2023 at 07:11 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.*



August 09, 2023 at 08:26 PM

DA

“ *It was an honor and a pleasure to share some craft beer with Jim on a regular basis at the Bald Buddha. His smile and stories will be missed. -Daren/Karen*

**Daren** - August 09, 2023 at 08:17 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 09, 2023 at 06:19 PM



“ Kelly J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Behrends.

Kelly J. - August 09, 2023 at 03:52 PM



“ The Hagan and Fahs family sends our deepest sympathies.

Dorothy Fahs - August 09, 2023 at 03:09 PM



“ RON QUINONES lit a candle in memory of Jim Behrends



RON QUINONES - August 09, 2023 at 01:56 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 09, 2023 at 01:39 PM

PG

“ You and your family have my deepest sympathies for this loss of your loved one.



Patricia Gilbrath - August 09, 2023 at 12:03 PM

ML

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I'm praying for your family as you deal with this great loss. Marilyn List and family

Marilyn List - August 09, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 09, 2023 at 08:32 AM

JB

“ Condolences to Leonda, AnnaMarie, Darrel, and his entire family. Jim was always a special guy, so kind and loveable. I remember his and Leonda's wedding like it was yesterday. RIP Jim and to the family may my prayers bring you peace and comfort.  
John Busciacco  
Port Charlotte, FL

John Busciacco - August 09, 2023 at 07:56 AM

KB

“ Kai B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Behrends.

Kai B. - August 09, 2023 at 04:55 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 09, 2023 at 03:54 AM

JA

“ Jan A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Behrends.

Jan A. - August 09, 2023 at 03:35 AM

DW

“ Dirk Wenzelburger purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jim Behrends.



Dirk Wenzelburger - August 09, 2023 at 03:14 AM

DW

“ Dirk Wenzelburger planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Behrends.

Dirk Wenzelburger - August 09, 2023 at 03:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.*



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August 08, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jim Behrends.

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August 08, 2023 at 08:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.*



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August 08, 2023 at 08:24 PM



“ *Remember Jim from the great days at the Store Front Theater in Havana. Condolences to the family.*

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**Pat Harris** - August 08, 2023 at 07:57 PM



“ *Leonda I am so deeply sorry for your loss  
I will keep you in my prayers  
Lydia (Clifford) Poler*

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**lydia Poler** - August 08, 2023 at 07:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jim Behrends.

August 08, 2023 at 07:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 08, 2023 at 07:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jim Behrends.

August 08, 2023 at 06:22 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.



August 08, 2023 at 06:22 PM

NE

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Leonda and all of Jim's family. He was a great guy and a pleasure to know.*



Nancy Elliott - August 08, 2023 at 05:24 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.*



August 08, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Behrends.*



August 08, 2023 at 04:58 PM

ML

“ *Very sorry for the loss of Jim. Prayers to his family and close friends. He had a wonderful corny sense of humor that we all remember.*

Matthew Lowers - August 08, 2023 at 04:47 PM

GG

*I never met Jim, yet I will mourn the man I never knew through the love of my dear family friend Leonda. My heart aches for his wife and family.*

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**Glenna Glenn** - August 08, 2023 at 05:12 PM