



James Warren Rayburn

September 25, 1930 - July 28, 2020

James Warren Rayburn, 89, of Evansville, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at his home.

Jim was born September 25, 1930 in Benton, KY to the late John Frank and Gania (Faughn) Rayburn. He served his country in the United States Army and retired from Bristol Myers (Mead Johnson) where he worked as a chemist his entire career. Jim was a lifelong member of Toastmaster's International Number One Club; he enjoyed spending time working on his farm in Kentucky, visiting with family, gardening and traveling.

Surviving are two daughters, Susan (Mark) Helfrich of Evansville and Jenny (Tim) Janes of Louisville, KY; one son, Kevin (Julie) Rayburn of Grandview, IN; ten grandchildren, Justin Helfrich, Stefanie Lutz, Casey Helfrich, Michael Janes, Kevin Janes, Megan Wesley, Claire Elder, John Rayburn, Riley Spencer and Lane Spencer; twelve great grandchildren and a sister-in-law, Betty Rayburn.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Leona "Lee" Rayburn; by a sister, Sue Cope and brother, John H. Rayburn.

There will be a memorial service held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at Pierre Funeral Home. Private burial will be held in Tupman Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 10:00 AM until service time on Saturday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tupman Cemetery, c/o Jeff Krieg, 7825 Old Orchard Trail, Evansville, IN 47712.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

Tupman
Red Bank Road
IN, 47720

Events

AUG 8 Visitation 10:00AM - 01:00PM
Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street, Evansville, IN, US

AUG 8 Memorial Service 01:00PM
Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street, Evansville, IN, US

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Pierre Funeral Home - August 08 at 09:13 AM



“ Among my most treasured memories from childhood are family trips to visit Uncle Jim and Aunt Leona. Their warm welcome and hospitality never changed, no matter how long it had been since we last saw them. Uncle Jim forever remained the same kind, gentle, and positive man that I remembered from when I was young. It's been lovely to read the messages from others who knew him and Aunt Leona in other aspects of their lives. To learn that my memory of Uncle Jim is so similar to those who knew and loved him is very special. Uncle Jim lives on through his children—my cousins Susan, Kevin, and Jenny—and their children and grandchildren, and everyone who was lucky enough to know him. Thank you, Uncle Jim, for touching our lives.

-Jessica Williams

Jessica Williams - August 06 at 08:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Matthew R. Ulm - August 05 at 12:58 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm Joyce and Marlin Kriegs daughter n law. DEBBIE KIBBY GLOVER. I use to clean their house along time ago. I always loved hearing stories about the farm. Now your with Lee. RIP Jim.

Debbie Glover - August 05 at 10:33 AM



“ Sad to hear of his passing and sending prayers to his family. I met Jim about 15 years ago when I visited Toastmasters for the first time. Jim suggested I give my icebreaker that night without preparation. I said I wasn't ready, but with his calm voice of wisdom and fatherly encouragement he convinced me to give it. He knew something I didn't. He knew if he could get me involved quickly I would be hooked. It worked! I just reached the DTM level and Jim's encouragement that first night and many meeting after that has had a profound impact on my life. A truly special person that will be missed. I was happy he was able to attend the kickoff event for a new toastmasters club at MJN where he retired. His encouragement has planted seeds that will continue to grow for many years. God bless!

robin wiggins - August 04 at 10:40 PM



“ Uncle Jim was such a great man. I am so sorry I can't be at the funeral to share the love I have for him. He is now in heaven laughing at Aunt Lee playing banjo. Susan, Jenny & Kevin - please understand why I can't come to be with y'all! I will each of you

Dara - August 04 at 08:17 AM



“ I was so saddened to hear about Uncle Jim's passing. I remember visiting him and my Aunt Leona in Indiana throughout my childhood and he was honestly one of my favorite relatives. He had an amazing garden, introduced us to real salted ham, and my most favorite memory was when he told me not to worry about the cemetery across the street... they were friendly ghosts. He had a way with us as kids and the world has been a better place for his presence.
~ Mary Williams - Vancouver, WA
(daughter of Jack & Noreen Williams)

Mary Williams - August 03 at 05:19 PM



“ I had the opportunity to meet Jim as a fellow member of the Evansville Number One Club, and would sometimes see him and some of his other retired friends having lunch at Mead Johnson. He was a very dear man and a great mentor in Toastmasters. He spoke eloquently and I always enjoyed hearing his stories and perspective on any number of subjects. I appreciated the way that he listened to others, gave constructive criticism, and always left you feeling better after having seen him. My prayers and condolences to his family during this time and I pray that you can gather and truly celebrate this wonderful man.

Matthew R. Ulm - August 03 at 04:28 PM



“ I was saddened to read of Jim's death. My sympathy goes to the family. I would call Jim each month for us to "catch up". He would tell me about any family gatherings that had occurred and expressed how much he enjoyed them. He would always mention how well all the family got along --never any dissension. Before this last year, there would be an update on the activity at the farm and usually some reminiscing -- like sweet potatoes being dessert when he was a kid. While I haven't seen Jim for quite a while, I will certainly miss our phone chats. Marygayle Ritzert, a former co-worker at BMS.

Marygayle Ritzert - August 02 at 10:13 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers to Kevin and his family, at this difficult time

Thomas Pressley

Thomas Pressley - August 02 at 06:28 AM



“ Jim Rayburn was a wonderful brother-in-law. My dear late sister, Lee, made a wise decision in marrying Jim back in the 1950s. As Lee's youngest brother (of three), I watched them as together they made a good life in Evansville and raised a fine, extended family, starting with their three children, Susan, Kevin, and Jenny. Jim became the patriarch of a classic, Midwestern family that represented the best of American values. My wife and I greatly enjoyed the occasional trips down to Evansville from our home in Michigan to visit them, and their visits to us. I remember how lovingly Jim took care of Lee as she gradually succumbed to Parkinson's. After she passed away, and our move to the west coast, I enjoyed talking on the phone with Jim periodically. He loved to talk and reminisce and offer his insightful observations about so many things. Jim earned a living as a fine chemist, but at heart he was a farmer and loved to talk about the joys and trials of farming. He was more than just a brother-in-law. He was a friend and will be missed.

Jack Williams
Vancouver, WA

Jack Williams - August 01 at 04:48 PM



“ I have known Jim all my life. I remember when I first saw he and Lee together as a newly married couple. I thought they were the most handsome couple ever. I saw them at family gatherings as time went on. The last time I saw Jim was when he came by my mom's(Rubye Nell Edwards) house . I was visiting her and I got to hear

some wonderful stories of the past. It really meant a great deal to my mom to have him stop by. They could probably talk for hours. Mom shared a story about my own grand daughter and after he heard the mischief my grand daughter had been up to, he declared that she was very creative and smart and would probably be an engineer some day. I will remember most his delightful laugh and upbeat attitude the most and his devotion to Lee. My condolences to the family at this time.

sara savells - July 31 at 09:50 PM



“ I first met first cousin Jim more than 70 years ago when our family would make annual summer time trips from our home in Virginia to Western Kentucky to visit the Faughns and related aunts, uncles and cousins. Fond childhood memories which have lasted a life time.

Jim and Lee also visited with Marilyn and I in Seattle on one of their trips there - and later a longer journey to stay with us in our home in Wellington New Zealand for a lovely visit.

It was always so refreshing to be with Jim and in recent years by phone to catch up on news from the Rayburns and Faughns and other relatives.

We will have many loving and fond memories of Jim and Lee - and miss them greatly.

Our love to all their family, now and in future.

Bill and Marilyn Hester (and Karen and Kevin)
Wellington New Zealand.

William Faughn Hester - July 31 at 08:02 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Kevin

Don whitledge - August 01 at 09:13 AM



“ Very sorry to hear of your Dad'a passing Kevin. Blessings and peace to all of you from all of us old friend.

Dave and Rhonda Waltz

Dave Waltz - August 03 at 10:43 AM



“ Jim was the best! I was a novice in Toastmasters Number One Club years ago when I met Jim. He was always gracious, helpful and encouraging to everyone in the group. I can't imagine that the Toastmaster experience would have been as wonderful without him. And he was a great speaker, engaging and inspiring with an adorable sense of humor. I have always since aspired to be helpful and encouraging. I don't ever think I'll achieve the same grace.

Cindy Willis

Cindy Willis - August 03 at 09:05 PM



“ Susan

When Mr. Williams our school principal would teach our 5th and 6th grade science class at Perry Heights, he seemed to always mention that your dad was a scientist. What pressure for you to make all A's.

Happy for you to have been able to enjoy him all these years, and sad for you to lose him.

Take care.

Montana

Montana Peters - August 03 at 09:41 PM