



James E. Parker

January 7, 1938 - April 9, 2026

James E. "Jim" Parker, 88, of Evansville, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Heart to Heart Inpatient Hospice House.

Jim was born on January 7, 1938, to Edna and Elmer Parker in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. A life-long optimist and handyman, Jim started his first business in grade school when he opened Jim's Bicycle Repair out of the family garage in Watertown, Wisconsin. In 1955, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and received awards for being an expert marksman. After his service, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he met his best friend, Linda Ritzert Parker, on a blind date, and they married on February 23, 1963. Jim worked for many years at McDonnell Douglas, moving the family to Atlanta, St. Louis, and Bowling Green, Ohio before finally settling in Evansville, Indiana. He later worked in the financial planning field. In his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his family, building furniture and birdhouses, spending time with his fellow Marine veteran friends, and volunteering for Honor Flight of Southern Indiana.

Jim lived each day to the fullest. Some of his favorite things included working with power tools, reading history books, debating current events, listening to classical music, and watching Indiana and Purdue University games. Jim could find humor in most situations and never heard a joke that he wouldn't tell. He appreciated a good meal but loved the experience of sharing a meal

with family even more. Jim truly enjoyed being around people and rarely turned down an opportunity to meet new friends.

Jim is survived by his wife of 63 years, Linda, and his three children and their spouses: Gretchen Parker (Daniel Gachotte), Catherine Parker (Scott Chinn), and Dan (Dina) Parker. He also survived by four grandchildren, Matthew Parker, Louis Gachotte, Emma Parker, and Camille Gachotte, as well his beloved Ritzert family brothers- and sisters-in-law (Doris Sanders, Evelyn Swartwout, David (Ruth) Ritzert, and Roy Ritzert), and numerous nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and five siblings: Elmer Parker, Clark Parker, George Parker, Marion Mathison, and Marie Grainger.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Rev. Lowell Will officiating. Entombment will follow in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 PM on Friday, April 24, 2026, at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street and from 9:30 AM until service time on Saturday at St. Boniface Catholic Church, 418 N. Wabash Avenue, Evansville, IN 47712.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Newburgh Healthcare, Heart to Heart Hospice, and his niece, Tajana Arney, who all provided such kindness to him in his final days. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Honor Flight of Southern Indiana (<https://honorflightsi.org>) or Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation (<https://www.htohhfoundation.org>). You can also show your appreciation and love for Jim by reading a good book, waving to a stranger, or thanking a veteran – because that is what Jim would do.

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

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

2500 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Marine Corps League presentation

APR **24.** 6:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

APR **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church
418 N, Wabash Avenue
Evansville, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church
418 N, Wabash Avenue
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James E. Parker*



Pierre Funeral Home - April 16 at 12:47 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - April 17 at 06:04 PM

SR

My "Best Friend" and "Coffee Buddy," for the past twenty-one years, you will be sadly missed. Sorry to have lost you before we resolved all the World problems. Simon (Phil) Rowland

Simon P. Rowland - April 21 at 04:46 PM

GP

Thank you for being his friend and for your very kind words.

gretchen parker - April 22 at 11:54 AM

GP

“ Gretchen Parker lit a candle in memory of James E. Parker



gretchen parker - April 17 at 03:50 PM

BK

“ Brent and Penny Keller purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of James E. Parker.



Brent and Penny Keller - April 17 at 02:43 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Parker.



April 17 at 10:36 AM



“ 180 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pierre Funeral Home - April 16 at 12:41 PM



“ So sorry to hear of his passing, I am a relative on his mother Edna's side, sending prayers!

Connor Baneck - April 14 at 09:18 PM



Thank you so much for your kind words.

gretchen parker - April 18 at 09:53 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Parker.



April 14 at 01:33 PM



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

April 14 at 01:33 PM