



James F. Williams

NOV 7, 1933 - JUL 29, 2003



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James (Jim) Frederic Williams, 69, died Tuesday, July 29, at Springdale Health and Rehab Hospital in Springdale, AR.

Jim was born November 7, 1933 in Moorhead, MN to James F. and Gladys (Forsness) Williams, the first of ten children. He spent his summers during grade school years in Greenbush, MN on his uncle Harold Forsness's farm. While in high school, he spent summers in Georgetown, MN with his great uncle Frances Wambach. In 1945 the family moved across the state line to Fargo, ND where Jim grew into an active teenager. His family often rented cabins on various lakes where he fished with his grandmother and dad. Besides fishing, he also loved to hunt, swim, and ski. During high school, he worked at a gas station driving the wrecker truck, a job that was the source of many adventures. He graduated from Fargo's Shanley High School in 1951.

Jim was drafted into the Army two weeks before the end of the Korean War. After Basic Training at Ft. Riley, KS, he spent eighteen months in Germany driving a wrecker truck (again). After completing his tour of duty, Jim returned to Fargo and attended Interstate Business College where he met his future wife Jane Evans, daughter of Erwin and Melba Evans of Ulen, MN. He then attended Wahpeton State School of Science in Wahpeton, ND for two years, afterwards taking a job with the VA Hospital of Fargo in the spring of 1957.

Jim and Jane were married August 31, 1957, and lived in Fargo for the next three years. During that time, Julie, the first of five children, was born in 1958. In 1960 they moved to nearby Sabin, MN where Keith was born in 1961 and Tim in 1964. Jim transferred with the VA Hospital to Fayetteville, AR in 1966. Over the next few years they completed their family when Daniel was born in 1969 and Tina in 1970. Jim finished his career with the VA Hospital in 1990 as a Personnel Management Specialist.

Jim often took his family camping and on sightseeing trips throughout the country. Together, they also attended ballgames, swim meets, and band concerts. Jim was always a handyman around the house- fixing and building just about anything, including patios, decks, a carport, and



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two extra bedrooms for his growing family. He always had time for neighbors and friends, completing home improvement jobs for them when needed. Upon retirement, Jim and Jane spent the next ten summers in Ulen where he continued doing handyman jobs and visiting with extended family members and friends.

A quiet, faithful man, Jim lived for God and family, and his integrity was seen by all. He is survived by his wife Jane of Fayetteville, AR; daughter Julie (Peter) Stensgard of Woodbury, MN; son Keith (Martine) Williams of Springdale, AR; son Tim Williams of Houston, TX; son Danny (Laura) Williams of Springdale, AR; and daughter Tina (Eric) Brown of Rogers, AR. He also leaves ten grandchildren: Luke, Phillip, and Leah Stensgard; Meaghan, Spencer, and Madeline Williams; Alexandra and Abigail Williams; and Isaac and Levi Brown.

He is also survived by his mother, Gladys Williams of Fargo; sisters Jean Wold, Kathleen McCroskey, Joan Schuh all of Fargo, ND, Peggy Antonelli of Raleigh, NC, , Jane Lamont of Minneapolis, MN Deborah Hinderliter of Franklin, TN, Laura Jaffee of Eads, TN; brothers Greg Williams of Fargo, ND Mike Williams of Fargo, ND; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim will be greatly missed, but we all rejoice in where he is now.

Funeral services will be held Monday, August 4, 2003 at 11:00 AM in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ulem MN with burial to follow at the West Cemetery of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

To sign the online quest book go to www.nelsonberna.com.

Visitation Date Time July 31, 2003 Noon until 9:00 PM with the family present to greet friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM Visitation Location Nelson-Berna Funeral Home Service Date Time August 4, 2003 11:00 AM Service Location Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ulen, MN



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EP

Esther (Knopfler) Parker posted:

Jane, I'm so sorry to hear of your great loss. I will think of your family often.. My condolences, Esther

August 30 at 10:15 AM

JS

Jane Lamont (Sister) posted:

When I think of our dear brother Jim I think of Phil. 4:8 & 9..."whatever is true,...whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,...think about such things...put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Jim practiced a life of goodness, decency and honesty and he shared in the peace of God his entire life. Now he is with our Heavenly Father and his earthly father and enjoying eternal happiness. Jim, you led a good life and your light shines on.

August 30 at 10:15 AM

LS

Laura (Williams) Jaffe (Sister) posted:

My brother Jim's nickname for me when I was very young was "Bones". He was an especially nice big brother who had wonderful qualities like patience, humility and a strong love of family! In the early 1960's he and Jane (his wife) took me and my sister on a "real adventure", to Yellowstone National Park. It was my first big trip, and started my love of travel. I remember how meticulously he used to detail his car, and I loved to "hang out" with him while he did it. He was a great example of how to live life gracefully, quietly and honestly. I loved and respected him very much, and because love is eternal, I know he's joined our Dad in Heaven and we'll be with him, again.

August 30 at 10:15 AM

MB

Mike Williams (Brother) posted:

My most sincere condolences to Jane and the kids. I've admired Jim my whole life and will continue to learn from his great example through the rest of my life. He enjoyed the everyday things like, working outdoors, helping a neighbor, visiting with friends and family, eating a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich. He took pride in providing for and raising his family well. In his relations with anyone, his word was his bond. This is an uncommon and sorely missed quality in today's world. I'm very proud to be his brother and I will continue to think of him often, knowing he's living eternally happy with God.

August 30 at 10:15 AM



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Peggy Williams Antonelli (Sister) posted:

Jim, I'll be missing you! One story, of many, illustrates his love and familial devotion. Brother Greg and I were around 8 and 10 years of age when Jim, just home from his military service, treated us to a tour of the Wisconsin Dells and then to a visit with Grandma Thompson in Watoma, Wisconsin. I know that most 20 year olds wouldn't want to be spending their new freedom toting around little brothers and sisters, but it was just so typical of Jim and his love for his family. He leaves us with fond and grateful memories as well as a wonderful and loving wife and family. Thanks, Jim, for being my brother. I love you. Keep a careful eye on all of us! Peggy

August 30 at 10:15 AM



GB

Greg Williams (Brother) posted:

Jim was twelve years older than I. Among my earliest memories is a game he played with me when I was 4 or 5. He would walk up to me, bend down on one knee, put a hand on each of my shoulders, look straight into my eyes and say, "WHAT IS THE REASON? TELL ME THE REASON!" I would say, "I don't know. I don't know what it is." He would shake me not too hard, but not too gently either, and say again, "I NEED TO KNOW THE REASON. TELL ME THE REASON." I would laugh and laugh and say I don't know. He would repeat the words and I would laugh again. I loved it and he knew it. That's why he did it. About that time he worked at a service station down town. He walked to and from work. One day I was in the back yard and I saw him coming across the nurses' ground behind our house. There was a wire fence covered with vines across the back of our yard; an impenetrable barrier to me beyond which I thought must lie many of the mysteries and adventures of the world. Jim was walking straight for the fence, and I wondered how he would get across. To my amazement he simply put his hand on a fence post and without losing stride swung himself over. He made it look so easy and I wondered if I would ever be able to do that. A little later he was drafted into the army and when he left I had to sleep alone in a room for the first time. For several nights after he left I had an awful nightmare. Terrible, dreadful-looking men armed with knives and clubs and swords were trying to fight their way to my bed while Jim was fighting as hard as he could to defend me. I would wake up crying and terrified. Whenever it happened my big sister Jeanie would come into my room and stay with me. After a few weeks the nightmares went away. Jim's and Jean's love had defeated those monsters so completely they have never dared return to torment me. Jim moved on to marry, raise five wonderful children and live the life of a responsible, loving man. Out of nowhere he was struck by that insidious, merciless disease that we all knew would eventually kill him. The week before he died his wonderful wife and I talked about how unfair it was. But it occurred to us that perhaps the finest of our kind are willing to take on this kind of burden so that someone else wouldn't have to. Jim would do that. On July 29th my big brother crossed life's final barrier, a mysterious barrier that all of us will find our way across eventually. I believe that Jim crossed just as easily as he did our backyard fence all those years ago. Only this time on the other side was not just a wide-eyed little kid, but Our Lord Jesus Christ who walked up to him, put a hand on each of his shoulders, looked straight into his beautiful brown eyes and said, "Welcome, Jim. Well done! Now, take a look around. THIS IS THE REASON."

August 30 at 10:15 AM

JN

Joanna Narum (Niece) posted:

Uncle Jim was such a kind, friendly, pleasant and all around nice person. I always looked forward to seeing him and his family during their summer visits. He was so much fun to have down at our lake cabin, and we will miss him very much. Jim was the best.

August 30 at 10:15 AM



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BA

Bill Hancock (Acquaintance) posted:

We are thinking of you all at this time of sorrow.

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RW

Robin S. Holland (Co-Worker) posted:

I was so very sorry to hear that Jim had passed away. He was a kind and helpful man. I worked for him during the early 80's at the VA. He was very detailed and extremely wise. My prayers are with his family.

August 30 at 10:15 AM

SL

Susan Williams (Sister-In-Law) posted:

When I think of Jim and getting together with all the Williams', I always remember trying to find a quiet spot to visit with Jim. He was such a soft-spoken man, and so easy to visit with. Sweet, kind, sincere and with an easy smile are just a few of the ways I will remember him. Soft voice-BIG heart! My husband occasionally reminds me of some "handyman" advice given him by his big brother, Jim: "You know, you don't have to buy the most expensive (tool, appliance, materials, whatever), but DON'T buy the cheapest you can find, either. It'll come back to haunt you!!" :~) He will be missed by so many. With love, Susan

August 30 at 10:15 AM

AW

Anita Brewer (Co-Worker) posted:

Just wanted to say how sorry I was to hear about Jim. He was a great person to work with and was always very helpful to me. My prayers are with Jane and his family. May God comfort you and give you peace.

August 30 at 10:15 AM

DW

Debbie Ingraham (Co-Worker) posted:

Jim helped me transfer to the VA back in June 1972. This was "home" and I was glad to be back. I later worked with Jim in Personnel Service and was his clerk for a while. I'm still at the VA 33 years later. Jim was a very detailed person and he knew the regulations. When he told you something, you knew it was correct. He was a good person to learn from. I'm glad to have known him.

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KL

Kathleen And Bud Mccroskey (Sister And Brother-In-Law) posted:

My brother Jim always took very good care of his possessions. One unfortunate day (I was pretty young] I knocked over his prize belonging, his bike. Well, let me tell you his was really mad at me but to be honest that's the only time I saw him lose his temper. All my memories of him are of a kind and good man and I'll miss him terribly. He was a wonderful brother. I love you, Jim. Your sister, Kathy

August 30 at 10:15 AM

JF

Joan, Larry, Rob And Tracy Schuh (Sister And Family) posted:

Dear Jim, you've left us with so many wonderful memories. As a little girl, I remember the trips to the lake, the amazing camping trip to Glacier, the "kids" parties you and Jane threw for us. You've been such an example for all of us in living a life with faith in God, integrity, hard work and quiet humility. You've left a legacy with your wonderful family and have touched all of our lives in such a meaningful way. Our comfort is knowing that you are with our Maker in Heaven now. Your spirit lives on in all of our hearts. Love, Joan

August 30 at 10:15 AM

DN

Debbie, Rob, Kristin, Brad And Matthew Hinderliter (Sister, Brother In-Law, Niece And Nephews) posted:

Jim, You lived life with faith, love of family, integrity and hard work. Each of our lives have been touched by you. Your gentle spirit is alive within the hearts of those who love you. Our comfort is knowing you are with your Heavenly Father in His Holy Place forever. We love you, Debbie, Rob, Kristin, Brad and Matthew

August 30 at 10:15 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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