



James "Jim" Golden

July 27, 1952 - May 24, 2019

James "Jim" Golden, 66, of Okoboji passed away on Friday, May 24, 2019 at the Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, June 24, 2019 at Gull Point State Park.

Jim was born July 27, 1952, in Austin, Minnesota, but spent nearly all of his early years in Sioux City. There, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, graduated from Heelan High School and met his wife Theresa, with whom he'd eventually share 44 years of marriage.

After graduating from the University of Iowa, Jim worked as a child abuse investigator in Winnebago County and he and Theresa served as foster parents. The couple moved to Okoboji in 1978, and Jim launched a new career in carpentry.

The fingerprints of Jim and Golden Construction are on homes, buildings and landmarks across the Lakes Area, including the Queen II, which he helped build in the mid-1980s. He was a master woodworker with exceedingly high standards – particularly for himself. No matter how small the project, Jim pushed himself to fine-tune his skills and create beautiful and lasting work.

Jim prided himself on his gruff exterior, but he cared deeply about the people in his life and in his community. He served for several years on the Okoboji Fire and Rescue Department, including as a diver on its Underwater Search and Rescue team, and on the Okoboji City Council. Jim was a member of the Camp Foster YMCA board, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Kindred Hospice and Kinship, and was scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 152.

Later in his career, Jim turned his attention to energy efficiency in building and affordable housing. He served as executive director of the Energy Efficient Building Association, where he helped write the Energy Star certification program for homes and helped shape

the national discussion on sustainability and efficiency in construction. Later, as director of the Lakes Area Community Land Trust, Jim helped secure affordable homes for people of moderate incomes and founded ReNew, a re-used building materials store that helped fund the Land Trust's work. In his retirement, he built hand-crafted wooden music stands that are used by musicians across the country.

Anyone who encountered Jim knew he was a formidable presence with strong opinions on nearly everything, from architectural design to politics to the film catalogue of John Wayne. (In Jim's house, most major holidays were an occasion for a screening of "The Quiet Man.") Jim's greatest pride was his family, who will greatly miss his humor, wisdom and generosity.

Jim is survived by his wife, Theresa; daughter Erin (Josh) Zimmerman of Minneapolis; son Ben (Naomi) Golden of La Crosse, Wisconsin; grandson Gus Zimmerman; father James Golden, of Sioux City; and six siblings. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth Golden.

Previous Events

Service

JUN **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Gull Point State Park
1500 Harpen St.
Milford, IA 51351

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Dear Theresa and Family,
Prayers to you in this time of sorrow with the passing of Jim. May the Lord be your comfort and strength in the days ahead. We will not be able to make the service, but know we are praying for you.

Sincerely,
Linda and Steve Scott and Family

Linda Scott - June 23, 2019 at 07:59 PM

SF

“ Sherry Fuhrman lit a candle in memory of James "Jim"
Golden



Sherry Fuhrman - June 22, 2019 at 05:36 PM



“ Blessed Heart was purchased for the family of James "Jim"
Golden.



June 22, 2019 at 12:49 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



max - June 18, 2019 at 09:44 AM



“ Theresa, Erin, and Ben.....we just found out about Jim’s passing tonight. We are so grieved by this! We reminisced about Jim and your family and the great neighbors you were. I loved the walks and bantering with Jim on issues. Our prayers are with you.

Paul, Ali, Annie, Ella, Lydia Wofford. (No chickens)

Paul Wofford - June 04, 2019 at 12:05 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear about Jim's death. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Beverly Petrick - May 30, 2019 at 06:04 PM

SO

“ We are so very sorry to hear about Jim passing. A loss to the community. We wish his family loving peace.

SHEILA OVE - May 30, 2019 at 04:17 PM



“ Sue Haburn lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Sue Haburn - May 29, 2019 at 11:00 PM

PC

“ My heart is aching for you Theresa and your family!! Many thoughts and prayers for you all. Jim always had a smile on his face and wanted to do so much for other people!! If you need anything, just say!! Warmly, Polly

Polianne Connors - May 29, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Golden.



May 29, 2019 at 12:26 PM

MS

“ *Marci Stoller lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden*



Marci Stoller - May 28, 2019 at 06:17 PM

LJ

“ *Larry And Mary Ann Jansen lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden*



Larry and Mary Ann Jansen - May 28, 2019 at 11:02 AM

SM

“ *Theresa, Ben ,Erin & Family, Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He's been a neighbor and friend. Jim was a man of principal and passion , committed to his family. Thinking of you in our prayers. Steve & Anna*

steve moore - May 28, 2019 at 10:30 AM

AW

“ *Annie Woods lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden*



Annie Woods - May 28, 2019 at 10:13 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Golden.*



May 28, 2019 at 09:22 AM

KE

“ Theresa and family, we were so saddened to hear about Jim’s tragic accident. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Janet and Jim Keck

Keck - May 27, 2019 at 08:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Golden.



May 27, 2019 at 06:12 PM

MM

“ God bless the Golden/Boever Family. So sorry for your loss. Jim was a good man. You will be in my prayers. Love, Margaret (Hart) and Mel Molitor, Spencer Iowa.

Margaret Molitor - May 26, 2019 at 11:50 PM

BS

“ Our sincere sympathy to Teresa and her family on the death of Jim. He did so much for others. May he rest in eternal peace. Bob and Kate Shaw



Bob and Kate Shaw - May 26, 2019 at 11:42 PM

DB

“ My sympathy to your family.

Dayle Broocks



Dayle Broocks - May 26, 2019 at 10:31 PM

NM

“ Norm Meinking lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Norm Meinking - May 26, 2019 at 10:16 PM

BW

“ Bwforbes46@gmail.coming lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Bwforbes46@gmail.coming - May 26, 2019 at 09:29 PM

LS

“ Larry, Karen And Summer Stoller lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Larry, Karen and Summer Stoller - May 26, 2019 at 06:11 PM

RH

“ Theresa and family, I am so sorry for your sudden loss. Jim accomplished so many great things and he will be missed by many. If you'd like to talk, please don't hesitate to call. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Bert

Roberta Hersom - May 26, 2019 at 05:58 PM

BB

“ Bonnie Boetel lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Bonnie Boetel - May 26, 2019 at 05:12 PM

BB

Sure will miss seeing him at work!

Bonnie Boetel - May 26, 2019 at 05:11 PM

JS

“ Jeff And Andrea Schwarck lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Jeff and Andrea Schwarck - May 26, 2019 at 03:28 PM

KG

“ Sadden to hear the news. In my nearly 4 decades at the Camp Foster, I have worked with hundreds of contractors of every trade. Only a small portion I would consider "craftsman".
Jim was one of them. Rest in peace my friend.

Kevin Godfredsen - May 26, 2019 at 01:45 PM

KG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Keith Golden - May 26, 2019 at 01:32 PM

MD

“ Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley - May 26, 2019 at 12:57 PM

RN

“ Prayers to Jim’s family. Always enjoyed hearing Jim’s stories, when I shopped at Renew.. a good person gone too soon. He will be missed by many. 🙏🙏



Rhonda and Dave Nelson - May 26, 2019 at 09:31 AM

SR

“ Jim was a good man and a kind man and so devoted to you. Through the years I have seen the closeness of your family and the deep love you have for each other. My heart is with you, Theresa, Erin, and Ben, and is breaking for you.

Susan Ruth - May 26, 2019 at 04:47 AM

MI

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mike - May 26, 2019 at 12:18 AM

KF

“ Ken Farmer lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Golden



Ken Farmer - May 26, 2019 at 12:11 AM

JC

“ Theresa and family, We are so so sorry to hear about Jim’s accident. Our prayers go out to you. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. Dennis and Joyce Colton

Joyce Colton - May 25, 2019 at 04:26 PM

CM

“ We are so very, very sorry to hear of our neighbor and good friend's tragic death. He will be greatly missed in the neighborhood. Condolences from the bottom of our hearts to Theresa, Ben and family and Erin and her family. May you find strength in each other.
With love from Jock and Chris McDonald

Christine McDonald - May 25, 2019 at 03:31 PM

LN

“ Theresa and family. We are so sorry for your loss. Prayers for all of you during this very difficult time. ...Lon and Cheryl Noble

Lon and Cheryl Noble - May 25, 2019 at 03:29 PM

AK

“ We are so, so sorry to read of Jim's accident....Hugs to all of you... Tom & Annette Kalkhoff

Annette Kalkhoff - May 25, 2019 at 02:53 PM

JP

“ Theresa, Erin, Ben and family, extending our heartfelt sympathies and prayers at this difficult time. I will never ever begin to tell you what JIM and your family has meant to our son. He has been a mentor, encourager, role model, friend and second dad to Tyler for many years. Thank you for sharing him with our son. Praying for peace and comfort for you all and that your faith and shared memories from those around you will help you through the days ahead.

Jay and Lori Pedersen - May 25, 2019 at 12:35 PM

DB

Theresa, Erin , Ben, and family, We are sending our sympathies to you at this difficult time. We are so sorry to hear about Jim and are heartbroken for you. Theresa , we will always remember the good times we had with you both from our AEA days. Praying for strength and peace for you in the days ahead.

Deb and Bill Basler - May 26, 2019 at 01:16 AM

JA

“ We’re so sorry to hear about Jim! He was James first boss after finishing school at Sheldon for construction and taught him a lot! He was also the first to take James to Canada fishing and get him hooked on the Canadian walleye! He will be missed!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you!

James & Marsena Hubbard

James - May 25, 2019 at 11:48 AM

RH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of sorrow.*

Roger Hargens - May 25, 2019 at 11:27 AM

DR

“ *Doug And Barb Ricke lit a candle in memory of James
"Jim" Golden*



Doug and Barb Ricke - May 25, 2019 at 10:39 AM