



James "Jim" Gelner

May 27, 1935 - February 25, 2016

James "Jim" Henry Gelner, age 80, of Spirit Lake, formerly of Des Moines, passed away Thursday, February 25, 2016, at his home in Spirit Lake.

Jim was born on May 27, 1935, in Des Moines. He was united in marriage to Cheryl "Cheri" Wing on June 4, 1960, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Jim graduated from Des Moines Technical High School and attended Grand View College in Des Moines. Always creative he worked as an interior decorator, then began his own business, Visual Communications. Jim shared in ministry with his wife Cheri in several churches and presently is a member of the First Christian Church in Spencer. Jim enjoyed his family, friends, Westerns, being in Craftsman, doing Ham radio, scrapbooking, volunteering at the Playhouse, jazz and reading books. At the church he did children's time as well as leading kindergarten through junior high youth group. He enjoyed family time especially two trips to the Bahamas.

Jim is survived by his wife, Cheri, of Spirit Lake; daughter, Jennifer Gelner; son, Jody Gelner both of Des Moines; three grandchildren, Jesse, (Ashley), Taylor and Justine "NeeNee" Gelner, all of Des Moines; and one great-grandchild, Linden Gelner of Des Moines. As well as the Luong and Francic families from Des Moines.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Paul.

At this time, no formal services will be held. In honor of Jim's love of kids please consider sending Cheri your memorial contribution made out to Special Olympics or Six Degrees of Separation Removing Barriers to Education in Haiti.

Tribute Wall

Joe
Boddy

“ I am thinking Jim Gelner and his partner Jack Andrews.. were my first employers at J&J Art studio at 1620 Woodland Avenue in DesMoines.. Quite a time we had in those days.. Quite an experience for a guy fresh out of art school and wanting to work as a Graphic Artist. Jim and Jack opened my eyes to much of life and gave me an in depth education in the field of Graphic Design. If this is my "Jack" I will drink a toast to his memory.. Still wonder what happened to Jack.. The photo is how the front of J&J looks today on Google maps.. the studio was the door right on the corner. past the pillar.



Joe Boddy - November 02, 2016 at 05:38 PM

SP

“ Cheri ,Jody & Jenny---So sorry for your loss of a great guy. I know he was met at heaven's door by Don. Oh my, can you imagine the talk session they are having?

Sue Philpott - March 02, 2016 at 12:42 AM

JU

“ Gram, first I want to tell you that I love you very very much second that even though some days it didn't seem like it Gramps loved you too. That hooligan was always and will always be the King to my Princess and to your Queen. Endless westerns, a Coca-Cola bike, the Tower of Terror, and an expansive array of ties. These are some good memories. I love you Grandma sending you an eternal hug. I'll squeeze ya soon. Love Neenee

Justine - March 01, 2016 at 02:27 PM

DG

“ Cheri - sending my sympathy your way. It's been a long haul for Jim and for you. Now he's at rest, home where he belongs. We need to get together when you get a chance -

Donna Gray - February 27, 2016 at 03:51 PM

KS

“ Cheri and family,
We remember coming up to visit the family at Okoboji. We'd bring Jim's cinnamon vanilla nut coffee and he'd smile as he'd dunk his donuts. I don't know as he was to drink that coffee, but dunking seemed to be allowed. Hugs to you all.
Karen and Sharon

Karen and Sharon - February 27, 2016 at 12:44 PM