



James "Jim" Higgins

April 28, 1951 - April 19, 2023

James "Jim" William Higgins, 71, of Milford, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, in his home surrounded by loved ones and supported by Hospice, after almost two years of battling lung cancer.

A Rosary Service will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Visitation will follow the rosary service from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford. Per Jim's wishes, cremation will take place following the services and the burial will be held at a later date in the Calvary Cemetery in Milford. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritalakefuneralhome.com

Jim was born on April 28, 1951, in Mason City, Iowa, and was adopted as an infant by William "Bill" and Lorene (Tunis) Higgins of Waterloo, IA. During his childhood, he spent much of his time at the Tunis Speedway, owned by his grandparents Judd and Marie Tunis. He graduated from Columbus High School in Waterloo, in 1969 and then attended the University of Iowa. After briefly working at Country Cobbler in Des Moines, he returned to Waterloo, working for his father at Iowa Business Machines, Inc., later becoming the owner and President.

Jim met the love of his life, Nancy (Lemon) Higgins, when he returned to Waterloo. They married on June 16, 1973, at St. John's Catholic Church and

raised three children together. Jim and Nancy moved to the Okoboji area permanently in 2011, where he opened Jim's Handyman Services.

Throughout his life, Jim was an active volunteer in his community, earning the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame Award from the Governor in 1996 for his significant contributions to Special Olympics, the Boys and Girls Club, and Metro Exchange Club. He spent 28+ years coaching the St. John/St. Nicholas Eagles football team, winning the championship more than half of those years. Jim's commitment to nurture, guide and teach responsibility to youth and individuals with disabilities made a significant impact throughout the course of their lives, and upon his family, who often joined him to volunteer.

A huge music buff, Jim spent time restoring old cars, playing golf, boating on Lake Okoboji, and cheering on his kids and grandkids in all of their activities. A natural salesman, he could talk to anyone, loved to tell stories, especially about his grandchildren, and had an endless amount of comic relief in any situation. While many will remember the wit and jokes Jim liked to share, he was most proud of his community involvement and the family he and Nancy built.

Jim's memories will be cherished by his wife, Nancy Higgins of Milford, Iowa; children: Jenn Bleil of Coralville, Matt (Sara) Higgins of Spirit Lake, and Josh (Tara) Higgins of Des Moines; 9 grandchildren: Maci, Bode, Natalie, Ty, Aaron, Ashton, Jackson, Adelyn, and Charlotte; and sister Barbara Higgins of Waterloo, IA; and extended family.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Lorene Higgins; grandparents, Judd and Marie Tunis; and great-aunt, Lois Tunis.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the "Jim Higgins Memorial" for distribution to their favorite charities including St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Catholic Charities and Special Olympics

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

225th Street
Milford, IA 51351

Previous Events

Rosary

APR 26. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Robinson Funeral Home
2317 32nd Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
robinson@spiritlakefuneralhome.com
<http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

APR 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Robinson Funeral Home
2317 32nd Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
robinson@spiritlakefuneralhome.com
<http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

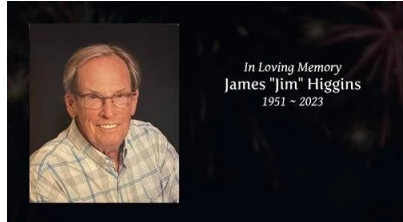
APR 27. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Higgins*



Robinson Funeral Home - April 25, 2023 at 03:49 PM

EG

“ *My sympathies to Jim's family.*

Eric Gardner - May 14, 2023 at 09:12 PM

CM

“ *Cathy Merritt lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Higgins*



Cathy Merritt - April 28, 2023 at 10:17 PM

ME

“ *Melanie lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Higgins*



Melanie - April 26, 2023 at 07:09 PM

ME

Matt, thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. Thoughts and prayers to all of you. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Melanie - April 26, 2023 at 07:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 26, 2023 at 01:58 AM

TL

“ Jim was a good man especially to my son Cory who played sports for him and eventually took over the coaching duties in football. I remember riding in his convertible during the Waterloo Days parade. Tom Little

Tom Little - April 26, 2023 at 01:51 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 25, 2023 at 11:24 PM

LJ

“ *Lewis Johnson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.*



Lewis Johnson - April 25, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.*



April 25, 2023 at 05:36 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.*



April 25, 2023 at 03:28 PM

AB

“ *Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during this difficult time. Jim was a great guy and we were thankful to know him!*

Farnsworth Electronics

Anji Barnard - April 25, 2023 at 01:55 PM

JB

“ *Jeremy Bleil purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.*



Jeremy Bleil - April 25, 2023 at 10:48 AM

YB

“ *Your friends at MidWestOne Bank purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.*



Your friends at MidWestOne Bank - April 25, 2023 at 10:15 AM

SH

“ *My deepest condolences on the passing of your loved one. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sarah Herrero*

Sarah Herrero - April 25, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.*



April 25, 2023 at 12:02 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 24, 2023 at 06:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 24, 2023 at 06:21 PM



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



April 24, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ *Our condolences to Nancy, and Barbara and all of Jim's family. He was one of a kind.*

John and Mary Kay Beecher - April 24, 2023 at 12:49 AM

DD

“ Jim was my football coach at St. John's in the mid '70s. One of my first encounters with someone who had a genuine passion for what they were doing. He taught me a lot about believing in my God-given talents. Wonderful memories for me at a very impressionable age. Prayers and blessings to Nancy, his children, grandchildren and close friends. Jim was a unique human being.
-Dave Duggan

David Duggan - April 23, 2023 at 06:57 PM

SW

“ Sending hugs and prayers to Nancy and the family. Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. My son Mike played football at St. John's - and that's only one of the ways we remember Jim & Nancy. God bless you.

Sharon Weber - April 23, 2023 at 03:24 PM

CL

“ I have many great memories of times we shared both in Waterloo and at the lake RIP Jim and wish I had found out sooner. Prayers to Nancy and the Family
Charlie Laipple

Charlie Laipple - April 23, 2023 at 09:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 22, 2023 at 05:24 PM



“ So Sorry to hear of Jim's (personally, always Jimmy to me) passing. Having met Jim, along with parents Bill and Lorene, along with sister, Barbara way back in the early 50's, he was one of the original 'guys' in neighborhood. As children, we played all the 'games' in the long-time vacant lot next door. Jim was a year or so younger, (a big deal when you are 8!) and a bit smaller for a very short time. He grew quickly. 'Jimmy' was always a great teammate had a great sense of humor, and was very much an equal source of ideas for 'non-criminal' mischief. We did it all, window peaking, window soaping, ring and run door bells, throw water balloons at cars/buses, sketched rides, and.....even now, some things unmentionable. All fun. The 'old' neighborhood changed after several years; we grew up. As adults, we remained friends through for over 50 years. Jim was a 'participant' in any conversation...a smart guy, a quick wit, generous....a lot of fun. Although partially gone, he lives on, a pal who always is. Bless your family.

Steve Cortright - April 22, 2023 at 03:05 PM

NN

“ Jim was a people person, so full of life, so proud of his family, quite a guy!

Nancy Finn Nie - April 22, 2023 at 07:39 AM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 21, 2023 at 07:38 PM



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



April 21, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 21, 2023 at 08:50 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Higgins.



April 21, 2023 at 07:49 AM