



## James D. Jensen

February 2, 1950 - November 14, 2024

James (Jim) Dorgan Jensen, 74, of Arnolds Park, Iowa died Nov. 14, 2024, at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. A Celebration of Jim's life is scheduled for Friday, December 13 from 4-6 p.m. at The Arnolds Park Museum. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at [www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com](http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com)

Jim was born February 2, 1950. He grew up at the family resort, Jensen's Sunset Beach Cottages. Jim's love for Okoboji began here while giving sailing lessons, regularly attending Roof Garden summer dances and competing to earn sailing trophies. Winters throughout his life were spent in Lauderdale By The Sea, Florida.

After graduating from Arnolds Park High School in 1968 Jim earned a BS in Business Administration-Marketing in 1972 and his MBA in 1974 in Marketing from the University of Iowa.

In the summer of 1971, Diana Boyt and her father rented a sailboat from Jim at Jensen's Sailing Center on West Lake Okoboji. That meeting was the beginning of fun years of dating at the University of Iowa, followed by a wonderful 50-year marriage.

Jim owned Jensen's Sailing Center. In 1979 Okoboji Boats purchased

Jensen's Sailing Center and Jim became sales manager for Okoboji Boats. In 1986 Jim and Diana purchased Okoboji Boats. In 2001 Jensen's sold Okoboji Boats to Parks Marina.

Jim absolutely loved working at Okoboji Boats. His customers were his friends and his co-workers were family. He enjoyed seeing boaters making memories at the lake.

From 2001-2020 Jim captained the Queen II excursion boat. During that time, Jim joined son Michael selling real estate in 2009. After several years Jim and Michael founded Jensen Real Estate in 2014. They enjoyed working together for 10 years.

Jim served on the Arnolds Park City Council for 46 years. Jim deeply enjoyed his city council service – he devoted his time and talent to the city of Arnolds Park. His love for the area can be seen in many municipal projects.

He was the Commodore of the Okoboji Yacht Club in 2003 and served as secretary of the Yacht Club for 40 years.

It was important to Jim to take care of those he loved. He cherished his family; he found great joy in his children and grandsons.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Diana; daughter Kate, partner Tamasa Alexander and sons T.J. and Grant; son Michael and wife Kira and sons James and Jack; brother Larry Jensen, nephews Lawrence and Steven and his wife Leah and their daughters Lena and Maxine and brother-in-law Duane Zahradnik and his daughter Amy. Also surviving are sisters-in-law Bridget Olson, niece Caroline Baker; Jean Tool (Don), and niece Kelli Oswald, nephews Ryan and Adam Tool; Sheila Nelson (Bob) and Lauren and Ross Nelson; and brother-in-law John Boyt (Margaret), and Taylor and Devlin Boyt. Jim has also been blessed with grandnieces and grandnephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Lawrence and Annette Jensen, stepfather Jack Neighbor, his sister Marilyn Zahradnik, in-laws Jim and Gloria Boyt, brother-in-law Dan Olson and aunt Pearle Jensen Osher.

Memorials may be directed to the Arnolds Park Library Foundation, Box 556, Arnolds Park, IA 51331 or to the Jim Jensen Memorial Fund/City of Arnolds Park, Box 437, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331.

# Cemetery Details

## Okoboji Cemetery

HWY 71  
Arnolds Park, IA 51331

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Arnolds Park Museum  
243 Broadway St.  
Arnolds Park, IA 51331

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ Jim doesn't know me, but he is the reason I have the life here in Spirit Lake that I do. He, and his family, are blessings in my life. If it wasn't for Jim telling my dad to "make an offer" at our now family cabin in Little Emerson Bay (former Williams' house). We were vacationing with one of our 2 weeks a summer renting a family cabin across the bay at Camp Okoboji  
If it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't have been able to spend 2 summers in college up here job shadowing and working.  
If it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't have lived here between college and grad school. I worked 3 jobs that summer: served at Mint (helped with Michael's and Kira's rehearsal dinner!), bartended at The Inn, and summer help at the Abbie Gardner cabin.  
If it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't have looked back here for my first job out of grad school and rotations.  
If it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't have met my current husband when I worked for UDMO WIC.  
If it wasn't for Jim, we wouldn't have our now 8 months old baby girl.  
If it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't be living in Spirit Lake with my family.  
If it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't be giving back to our community as the dietitian at the Spirit Lake VA clinic.  
Thank you, Jim. Your memory is a blessing in my life forever.  
Kallen (Anderson) Augustad

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**Kallen Augustad** - December 14, 2024 at 03:16 PM

JK

“ my deepest condolences to Jim's family and friends



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**Julie Kaatz** - December 13, 2024 at 04:24 PM

DS

“ I grew up on Lake Okoboji. The Jensens were good friends of my parents. They vacationed together in Florida during winter months. I remmember sailing against Larry & Jim. They were always far ahead. When I would come back to Okoboji, Jim was one of the first people I would contact. Ofcourse we would have to eat at Tuesdays! At one point my wife & I looked at property on the lake...Jim was so gracious to spend time with us. I was also at fraternity brother of Jim's. Peace, Grace, & Mercy to the Family!  
Dave Snyder

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**Dave Snyder** - December 13, 2024 at 09:52 AM

SW

“ Spencer W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James D. Jensen.

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**Spencer W.** - December 12, 2024 at 07:14 AM

JK

“ Jane Kauzlarich sent a virtual gift in memory of James D. Jensen



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**Jane Kauzlarich** - December 11, 2024 at 03:27 PM

KO

“ I've appreciated all the time I've been in Jim's company. I can still hear his laugh. He was always quick with a smile, entertaining story, or thoughtful word, and has created a wonderful family with Diana that I feel blessed to know. Sending lots of love through this difficult time.

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**Kelli Oswald** - December 10, 2024 at 09:55 PM



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

December 10, 2024 at 09:41 PM



“ Ken Farmer lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen



Ken Farmer - December 08, 2024 at 10:43 PM



“ I was so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. He has been my friend since I was old enough to have friends. Our friendship was probably cemented when we both got into trouble with Mrs. Hargens, our kindergarten teacher. We swam, sailed, played backyard football, raked leaves and varnished sailboats every winter. The Jensen household was a welcoming gathering place growing up. Over the years we saw one another rarely, but whenever we met it was like no time had passed. No one was kinder or more gracious than Jim, except perhaps his wonderful wife Diana. My heart is with her, Michael and Kate and the grandchildren. I will always be grateful for Jim's friendship. -- John Campbell-Nelson

John Campbell-Nelson - December 06, 2024 at 11:59 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James D. Jensen.*



December 04, 2024 at 10:14 AM



“ *JEFFREY W VANDER SLUIS lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



**JEFFREY W VANDER SLUIS** - December 03, 2024 at 07:33 PM



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

December 03, 2024 at 04:51 PM



“ *Larry Gjerde lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



**Larry Gjerde** - November 26, 2024 at 04:12 PM

JL

“ *Jill Longest lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



Jill Longest - November 25, 2024 at 02:17 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James D. Jensen.*



November 25, 2024 at 12:31 PM



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

November 25, 2024 at 12:31 PM

JS

“ *Jeff And Andrea Schwarck lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



Jeff and Andrea Schwarck - November 24, 2024 at 03:56 PM

JS

*Our deepest sympathy to the Jensen family.*

Jeff and Andrea Schwarck - November 24, 2024 at 03:57 PM

WS

*Being 4 years younger than Jim, he was one of those 'older kids' that we all looked up to. Jim gave me my first job when, at 12, or I was 13, I would give sailboat rides to adults at Jensen's Sailing Center. I would rig the X-boat while Jim would walk the customers to the end of the dock. I would cheerfully say "Hop on" and the customer(s) would ask where was the instructor. Jim would smile and say "Walt is your instructor!" Thank you Jim for being such a wonderful role model to so many of us kids.*

Walt Spevak - November 24, 2024 at 06:36 PM

WD

*“ Deepest sympathy to the Jensen family. I have good memories of Jim when I was in veterinary practice in Spirit Lake, and later purchasing a boat from him. He was definitely one of the good guys.*

Wendell Davis - November 24, 2024 at 09:02 AM

JO

*“ Diana, Michael, Larry and all of the Families,*

*We are very sorry to hear of Jim's passing.  
The world lost a truly good man with a heart  
for service to others.*

*Blessings and comfort to you all.*

Jim & Kristi O'Neill - November 24, 2024 at 08:15 AM



LL

*“ Lisa Studer Lloyd lit a candle in memory of  
James D. Jensen*

lisa Studer Lloyd - November 23, 2024 at 02:33 PM



KS

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Jensen family. A bright light to our community has just gone out. Jim had a way of lighting up room with his presence. Our hearts go out to his family at this time of loss. May God welcome him to his eternal home.



Kate and I Bob Shaw - November 23, 2024 at 12:51 AM

JB

“ Jaime Berning lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen



Jaime Berning - November 22, 2024 at 06:18 PM

TG

“ I so enjoyed know a very wonderful mam. I met Jim when I sold advertising & always enjoyed hearing his stories. Jim was one of the very special people.

Twyla Garnmeister - November 22, 2024 at 05:27 PM

DR

“ Doug And Barb Ricke lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen



Doug and Barb Ricke - November 22, 2024 at 03:22 PM

LY

“ Lynne sent a virtual gift in memory of James D. Jensen



lynne - November 22, 2024 at 01:26 PM

LY

*Jim will be missed by so many in the lakes region. His smile was contagious ---- if only we could all be like that! Go in peace.*

lynne - November 22, 2024 at 01:29 PM

JC

“ *A great member of the Okoboji family. We appreciate his service to the yacht club and Arnolds Park. He served for over 20 years as secretary of the yacht club and was commodore. Jim sold me my first sailboat in 1967 and my first ski boat in 2002. Lots of great memories of Jim. Prayers for his family. Jim and Linda Coddington*

Jim Coddington - November 22, 2024 at 12:54 PM

GB

“ *Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



Greg & Dee Baloun - November 22, 2024 at 11:57 AM

MD

“ Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley sent a virtual gift in memory of James D. Jensen



Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley - November 22, 2024 at 11:54 AM

RN

“ My deepest sympathies to Jim’s family. Prayers to family and friends.



Rhonda Nelson - November 22, 2024 at 11:26 AM

VM

“ Vicki Vos Milverstedt sent a virtual gift in memory of James D. Jensen



Vicki Vos Milverstedt - November 22, 2024 at 11:03 AM

BR

“ So sorry to hear of Jims passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. We know he will be so missed by everyone.

Bob and Rita Reimers - November 22, 2024 at 10:12 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James D. Jensen.*



November 22, 2024 at 09:58 AM



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

November 22, 2024 at 09:58 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We were fraternity brothers at Iowa. Wonderful guy with always a smile on his face. He will be missed.*  
*Ed Harjehausen*

**Ed Harjehausen** - November 22, 2024 at 09:49 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Jim will be missed.*

**Mary K Donovan** - November 22, 2024 at 08:19 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about Jim's passing! Sending thoughts and prayers! Such a nice person definitely will be missed!! 🙏🙏🙏*



**Mandy Sykes** - November 21, 2024 at 10:30 PM

KC

“ *Kathy St. Clair lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



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**Kathy St. Clair** - November 21, 2024 at 09:43 PM

JW

“ *Jerry & Kathy Welter lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



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**Jerry & Kathy Welter** - November 21, 2024 at 09:21 PM

LM

“ *Luann Mehan lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen*



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**Luann Mehan** - November 21, 2024 at 06:27 PM

LM

*My sympathy to Jim's family.*

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**Luann Mehan** - November 21, 2024 at 06:27 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing . What a great guy. A boss and friend to Jerry and I both . RIP Jim



Sally Haas Martens - November 21, 2024 at 05:30 PM

KB

“ Kris Berning lit a candle in memory of James D. Jensen



Kris Berning - November 21, 2024 at 04:55 PM

MR

“ Jim, we are going to miss you. The City of Arnold's Park would not be what it is today without your time and dedication to making our great city what it is today. Thank You for all your years of service to our community.

Matt Richter - November 21, 2024 at 04:19 PM

DC

Diane, may you be comforted by all who share your grief.

Donna Chaplin - November 23, 2024 at 10:08 PM

LG

Jim was a true gentleman. I bought 2 boats from him several years ago and he was such a good person to do business with. He will be missed by many friends in the Okoboji area. Loren Gustafson

Loren Gustafson - November 25, 2024 at 09:32 AM