



James E. Fowler

October 5, 1953 - June 1, 2026

James E. Fowler, a dedicated EMT and firefighter, loving husband, proud Poppy and proud Navy veteran, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 1st, 2026, at the age of 72. Born in Alton, IL, on October 5th, 1953, James spent his life serving his community in Godfrey, IL, where he resided with his beloved wife, Laura A. Fowler.

James was preceded in death by his parents, James D. Fowler, Bessie Irene Fowler his sons Jeremy (Kristi)and Jason (Becca), brother John, brother in law Butch Reed and sister in law Cindy Reed (Marilyn Gibbons) and nephew Phillip Chapman. He is survived by his wife, Laura, who stood by his side through every challenge and triumph. Also survived by his son and daughter in law, James and Jessica Fowler of Godfrey and their 3 children Olivia, Jamie and Jace. Surviving grandchildren Alex (Abbie), Jacob, Kaleb, Natalie and Jaxson. Siblings Linda Chapman (David), and Dotty Parker (John) sister in law Pam Cates (Jay). Jim had multiple nieces and nephews and great nieces and great great niece and nephew belonging to a special niece and nephew Dave and Kelli Chapman (PA)

James dedicated his professional life to the Godfrey Fire Department and Arson Investigator, after a beginning in Emergency Services when it first was started in Alton. He worked for Davey Ambulance and Campbells Ambulance. Known for his bravery, commitment, and friendly demeanor, he left a lasting

impact on his colleagues and the community he served so selflessly.

When Jim was off work he worked security at Godfrey Speedway, camping, fishing and he was known in his neighborhood as Mr. Fix it and the welcome wagon as he met them and sat on his porch greeting everyone. He never met a stranger there. Jim was “grandpa” to his neighborhood children who adored him always coming to see him on his porch. Before being a full time firefighter he worked at carpet laying, caregiver at Beverly Farms, and had a fire extinguisher service with his best friend Tom Acker.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Audubon Bird Sanctuary or the Godfrey Fire Department, causes close to James's heart.

Family, friends, and all whose lives James touched are invited to a memorial visitation at Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Alton, IL on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Arrangements have been lovingly entrusted to Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

James E. Fowler will be remembered for his unwavering courage, tender heart, and steadfast dedication to his loved ones and community. His legacy of service and compassion will remain in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN **10**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services

2409 State Street

Alton, IL 62002

(618) 466-5544

<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

KB

“ Katherine B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James E. Fowler.

Katherine B. - June 09 at 06:22 PM

MG

“ Jimmy was truly a giving person. He helped everyone, had a great sense of humor and was very compassionate. I always loved our vacations together at Lake of the Ozarks and Gulf Shores. He loved fishing and the sun and the Cardinals. And I cannot say enough about how he always helped me and Cindy. Always in my heart, I will truly miss him.

marilyn gibbons - June 09 at 12:36 PM

BW

“ Jim and I were partners at Davey ambulance and at Campbell ambulance. His commitment to providing high quality emergency care and his amazing personality made him a great partner and friend. We had many exceptional experiences working those years together on the ambulance. As my career took me away from Alton I always missed our partnership and will always cherish the memories of our time together. My sincerest condolences to his family!

Bob Whitmore - June 08 at 05:41 PM

MM

“ Jim “Poppy”.....what do I say.....well honestly, nothing I hadn't ever thought to or ever did say to your face!! LOL And nothing I can come up with that doesn't make me sad knowing you're not there anymore, doesn't make me cry, but always makes me laugh -Love and miss you Jim

Megan Moyer - June 08 at 11:48 AM

LJ

“ Laura, Angela & Jessica purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James E. Fowler.



Laura, Angela & Jessica - June 07 at 12:13 PM

BW

“ Jim was one of the nicest men I have ever met. Condolences to the family.

Becky Willmore - June 07 at 11:18 AM