



Jim Struif

September 18, 1931 - June 26, 2012

L. James “Jim” Struif, 80, passed away at 10:01 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at home in Alton, Illinois after a two year battle with cancer. He was born on September 18, 1931 in Alton Illinois, the son of the late Leo John and Clara Lillie (Bauer) Struif.

He married Shirley Spatz Cummings in 1965: she survives. He is also survived by his four children, Scott Struif and wife, Kerry of Godfrey, Jamie Struif-Pehowski and husband, Steven, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, Susie Bazzell and husband, Lance, of Godfrey, and Jeff Struif and wife, Missy of Godfrey; eight grandchildren Jessica Johnson, Brennan Struif, Adam Pehowski, Jenna Pehowski, Connor Bazzell, Chloe Bazzell, Lola Struif, Hattie Struif; one great grandchild, Collin Griffin; one sister, Jean Malone of Glen Rock, NJ; and his nieces and nephews from New Jersey.

He graduated from Alton Senior High School in January 1949 and Northwestern University in 1953. After enlisting in the Navy in 1954 Jim served four years of sea duty on a submarine in the Pacific Ocean where he was a submarine officer. After leaving the Navy, he attended law school at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1959. Jim then spent five years as a legal counsel and faculty member of SIU Edwardsville. From 1963 until retirement in 2011 he was in general law practice, opening a private practice in 1968.

He was a member of the Evangelical United Church of Christ where he was an Elder, taught Sunday School and designed and maintained the Courtyard Garden. During his life Jim was active in the Boy Scouts of America, first as a scout, then as camp counselor and later as a Scoutmaster. He worked toward racial equality which included working as a civil rights activist in Mississippi in 1966 and being one of the founders of the Madison County Urban League. He was a life-long conservationist involved in prairie restoration and who helped found The Nature Institute. His interests included gardening, magic, and music.

Per his wishes he was cremated. A memorial visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, June 29, 2012 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A Memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 30, 2012 at the Evangelical United Church of Christ. Reverend Jerry McCaskey will officiate. Burial will be private.

Memorials may be made to the Evangelical United Church of Christ in Godfrey.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Jim Struif*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Jim Struif*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *PRAYERS AND BLESSING DURING THIS TIME OF SORROW AND GRIEF. I'M SURE CARL AND JIM ARE NOW AT PEACE AND THEY ARE WHOLE AGAIN.*

BETTY TUETKEN - July 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Shirley and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Jim was a wonderful person and was our attorney and friend for almost 40 years. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you the strength to get through this sad time.*

Mike & Mary Ann Ventress - June 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Leo and Clara were dear friends of my mother and father Leo and Irene Goeken It's been so many years ago, they visited in each others homes. Still remember the House on Elm. May he rest in peace. Only age and heat keep me from attending visitation , Sincerely George W Goeken*

George W Goeken - June 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *To Susie and the Struif Family*

We would like to convey our deepest sympathy on the loss of your father he was a wonderful person. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Roger and Pam Dalton - June 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Jim's family. He helped us through a very difficult time and now we know he was going through a more difficult time of his own. He was a sweet and caring man. I know he is in heaven and spreading his special kind of love around. God bless him and his family. Thank you all for sharing him with us. Thank you Jim, rest in peace in God's arms.*

Kevin and Carol Davis - June 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ *Our deepest Sympathy, Your in our prayers*

Gary&Peg Kruemmelbein - June 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *We are attending a family reunion this week in West Virginia. We are so sorry we cannot attend the memorial service. Please accept our sincere sympathy to Shirley and the family.*

*God Bless you Jim. Tom will miss your help and friendship forever.
You were*

so special to him.

Tom and Shirley Wyatt - June 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family of a very fine man.*

Ann Weigler - June 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ *Fond memories of Troop 7 come up as I recall Jim as our Scoutmaster. Thanks for helping many boys become men.*

My prayers and sympathy are with Shirley and the whole family.

Greg Lister - June 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *Please accept mine and Dales thoughts and prayers. Jim was a very exceptional person and it made my life richer for having known him.*

Katie rotsch - June 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM