



James Patrick O'Connor

February 15, 1940 - January 29, 2021

James Patrick O'Connor of Valley, Nebraska was born February 15, 1940 in Creston, Iowa to Richard and Dorothy O'Connor. He died January 29, 2021 at the Josie Harper Hospice House in Omaha. He was the oldest of four and was raised in Oskaloosa, Des Moines, and Sioux City, from where he graduated High School. He went on to obtain his college degree from Creighton University in Omaha. He joined the Navy after college and served on the USS George McKenzie as a radar/communications specialist. His adventures in the Navy ranged far and wide across the Western Pacific Ocean and he eventually returned home with a collection of great stories from his Navy years. He met his beautiful wife Jacqueline (Alesch) while in Omaha and they married in 1967. They were eventually blessed with three children: Patty (Felix Davidson) O'Connor, Christy (Todd) Bargstadt, Mike (Denise) O'Connor and six grandsons.

Jim was a banker much of his life and then became a business owner until retirement. Upon retirement, he sold the business to his son and until his death, he enjoyed helping run the place from time to time.

Jim was a pillar of his community. He was on countless boards, booster clubs, neighborhood committees, associations, town projects and church committees. He could always be found on the bleachers at his kid's activities and games throughout their lives. Once the grandsons started their activities,

he attended all of those too. He had so many friends. To know Jim was to love him. He traveled extensively with his wife, his friends, his children and his grandchildren. He loved his home on Ginger Cove and we estimate that he taught about one million people to water ski with his endless patience and skilled boat driving. He was always ready for a pontoon ride (twice around the lake) where he would regale his guests with Miller Lite and interesting stories about his favorite place.

Jim was also a skilled woodworker and loved a good project. If you could dream it up, Jim could execute it. His garage shelf-making skills and cornhole boards are legendary.

Jim will be remembered as a wonderful, funny man with a special gift for making everyone feel like family the instant he met them. He had a deep unwavering faith in God.

Jim is survived by his wife Jacquie, his children, his grandsons: Taylor (MacKenzie) Bargstadt, Jesse (Katie) Bargstadt, Charlie Bargstadt, William (Jenny Gray) Davidson, Jacob O'Connor, and Lucas O'Connor. He is survived by his brothers, Jack (Kathy) O'Connor, and Tom (Karen) O'Connor. He was blessed with 6 bonus siblings from Jacquie's side of the family: Betty (Dennis), Marlene (Paul), Kenneth (Marietta), Paul (Jane), Kay (Bob), Claudia (Steve). He always felt so blessed to have them all as family. He had numerous nieces and nephews who will remember him for his Donald Duck voice and his loud chortling laugh. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Eileen O'Connor, and his granddaughter Molly Bargstadt.

His remains will be buried with full Military Honors at the Omaha National Cemetery. Please direct donations to the Josie Harper Hospice House in Omaha or the Visiting Nurses Association.

Cemetery Details

Omaha National Cemetery

14250 Schram Road
Omaha, NE 68138

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Wake

FEB 1. 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Mass

FEB 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
307 E Miegs
Valley, NE 68064

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of James Patrick O'Connor*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - February 01, 2021 at 12:07 PM

CK

Such a beautiful service. The music is beautiful. Brian is doing a great tribute to his uncle. We are so sad we can't be there to celebrate Jim's life with all of you. Holding all of you up in prayers.

*Love,,
Bill and Cathy Kruse*

cathy kruse - February 02, 2021 at 11:34 AM

PF

How wonderful to be able to share in the service all the way from Colorado. A beautiful tribute to Jim, and a church filled with those who love him so dearly. Sending you all our love today, Jeff, Paula, Anna and Sam Frisina

Paula Frisina - February 02, 2021 at 11:47 AM

DD

What a beautiful service! Although we could not be there in person, the webcast allowed us to be at Jim's service virtually. We truly missed being at the visitation to share our stories and memories of all the times we were able to spend with Jim and Jacquie. We remember the family vacations to Colorado and the Ozarks and also the many times we visited at the lake with Jim & Jacquie.

We feel we have been blessed to have met all of the O'Conner family and friends who always made us feel welcome. Jim was always the perfect host no matter the occasion. We will keep the memories of Jim close to our hearts forever.

With all our Love, Doug & Diane

Doug Dykema - February 02, 2021 at 01:15 PM



“ James Patrick O'Connor

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ On behalf of The American Legion Family, we send caring thoughts to the family of Mr. O'Connor for your sad loss. James is “Gone but Not Forgotten” by this organization of volunteers for Veterans, the Military and their families. The local Legion Post can place a Memorial Weekend flag or marker on his grave. From members of District 8, Nebraska.



Paula Pillen - February 19, 2021 at 08:53 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



February 03, 2021 at 05:50 PM



“ *Just got home from Uncle Jim's wake service and it was packed.....I have no doubt it would have been standing room only if times were different.*

He was just a fantastic guy.....generous, joyful, and sincere. I will always remember his smile, because that's the only face he ever wore!!

You will be forever missed Uncle Jim, and your incredible legacy will never die.

Andy O'Connor

Andy O'Connor - February 01, 2021 at 10:11 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



February 01, 2021 at 05:05 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



February 01, 2021 at 04:50 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



February 01, 2021 at 12:06 PM

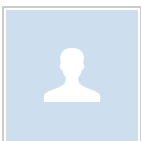


“ *Jimbo was a giant among men! He was kind, generous, knowledgeable and the most positive person I have ever known!*

He will forever be my ray of sunshine - the calming yin to my raging yang - and will be sorely missed!

Karen O'Connor

Karen O'Connor - February 01, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



February 01, 2021 at 11:07 AM

TO

“ Jim was an awesome big brother to me. He was 10 years older, so it's not hard to guess who usually got his way.

He was a passionate football fan all his life. If there was a game on TV, Jim could watch it. We both grew up in Iowa, but lived most of our lives in Nebraska. Jim became a diehard Cornhusker fan, while I maintained my allegiance to the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Obviously, the Huskers had the better program over the years, so Jim usually had the last laugh. Who could ever believe the Hawkeyes would beat Nebraska the past six years?

I know it had to sting Jim to see this happen, but it sure was fun for his little brother.

He was a class act. There was nobody better. RIP, Jimbo. Here's hoping you can get the Huskers back on track. GBR!

Tom O'Connor

Tom O'Connor - February 01, 2021 at 10:04 AM

JC

“ Our sincere condolences to Jackie and the entire magnificent O'Connor family. Jim was a great guy and a super big brother to my college roommate Tom. I will always remember his love , kindness and generosity to Tom when he needed a place to stay senior year. He will be missed. I love the photo of Jim with a big Irish smile. Our hearts and prayers are with you. God bless, Jim Cavanaugh and family

jim cavanaugh - February 01, 2021 at 09:49 AM

LJ

“ *Larry and Monica Johnson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



Larry and Monica Johnson - February 01, 2021 at 08:32 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



January 31, 2021 at 11:49 PM

JB

“ *Jacque and family, Our thoughts and prayers to all of you at this time. Jean and Ken Brady*

Jean Brady - January 31, 2021 at 11:00 PM

DO

“ *My condolences to the family! Dot Kriegshauser his cousin from Edina, MO.*

Dot - January 31, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



January 31, 2021 at 08:05 PM

MK

“*Jacque, our prayers and thoughts go out to you and your family. Many good memories with the O'Connor boys while growing up have been recalled.*

Mike Kriegshauser - January 31, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“*Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



January 31, 2021 at 11:21 AM

RH

“*Dearest Jacquie and Family: Oh what a ride we had with Jim and you! Traveling; dinners; boat rides--Jim was always game for some fun. He truly will be missed. But he's probably having a quick beer with God right now and smiling down on us. God Bless. Much love. Rosy and Bill Hoepner*

Rosy and Bill Hoepner - January 31, 2021 at 10:30 AM

PF

“*Jacquie, Patty, Christy, Mike and families, we are holding you close in our hearts and thinking of the many wonderful memories we have of Jim. Such fun times together, and what a blessing it was to have known him. Always easy going, smiling, and up for a party- Christy said it best. Jim truly was the patron saint of fun. My most cherished childhood memories were spent with the O,Connor family. Wish we could be there to give you all a hug. Much love, Paula Frisina and family (Jeff, Anna, and Sam)*

Paula Frisina - January 30, 2021 at 08:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



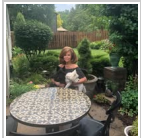
January 30, 2021 at 08:44 PM



“ *Diane & Doug purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



Diane & Doug - January 30, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *Because he was such an excellent organizer, we were able to travel through much of the world, and most of the United States, with Jim as group leader and Jacquie, an expert with maps, with few problems and many great “Life Experiences”.*

His love for his family, his many talents , loyalty to friends and his life's ethics cannot be replaced. And we are very blessed to have known him - Never to be forgotten.

Judy Fletcher - January 30, 2021 at 03:12 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.*



January 30, 2021 at 09:55 AM

PA

“ Jim was a great brother in law. My wife Jane who is Irish also was glad that there was another Irishman in the family to go with all the Luxembourgers. Jim was know for his ability to have a good time and to loan money to his family members who had no collateral when they first got out of school. If you couldn't get along with Jim or be able to visit with him it was your fault. He raised a wonderful family. Not a stinker in the bunch. Paul and Jane Alesch

Paul Alesch - January 30, 2021 at 09:04 AM

TF

“ The Poore family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Patrick O'Connor.



The Poore family - January 30, 2021 at 08:32 AM

CP

“ Sending prayers and good thoughts to Jacquie and the entire O'Connor clan in your time of loss. Jim was one of the good ones and weekends on the beach and the 4th of July will not be the same without him! We're thankful his pain is over and that he is reunited in Heaven with those loved ones who went before him. Much love to your family from the Poores.

Chris Poore - January 30, 2021 at 08:23 AM