



James "Jim" Sake Sr.

June 1, 1956 - September 19, 2019

In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family for later designation.

James Dean Sake, Sr. was born on June 1, 1956 in Grand Island, Nebraska to Donald and Shirley (Williamson) Sake. He grew up in the Elkhorn/Valley area and attended grade school at Mercer and Waterloo before graduating from Waterloo High School in 1974. Jim went on to attend the University of Nebraska-Omaha for one year. As a young boy, Jim enjoyed life on the farm, especially raising calves. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping but baseball was his passion. Jim loved to read and was active in Drama Club at school.

Jim married Susan Andersen on March 13, 1982 in Las Vegas, Nevada and they were blessed with two sons: Andrew and Jim, Jr. Jim and Susan have made their home in Valley.

Jim has always been a hard worker, from an early age he operated his own "pick up" service, worked at Doud's and Farmer Brown's before going to Valmont, where he worked until his disability forced him to retire. He was a strong advocate for the community, serving on the Park Board, Valley Youth Organization and as a Boy Scout Leader. Jim was a dedicated member of Masonic Lodge #310 A.F. & A. M. Jim's passion remained with baseball as he

served in administrative positions in both Little League and American Legion baseball leagues for the Valley teams. One of his favorite activities was grocery shopping, especially “sample day” at Whole Foods. Through the years, Jim remained a humble volunteer with deep religious and family devotion. He was not one to sit around and he did not allow his disability to deter him in any way. Jim was an avid Cubs and Husker fan and savored a delicious filet from Farmer Brown’s.

Jim passed away on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 63 years, 3 months and 18 days. He was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Shirley. Jim is survived by his wife Susan; sons Andrew (Rachel Jones) of Omaha and Jim, Jr (Anna) of Palmer, NE; 2 grandchildren; brothers Robert of Fremont, NE and Charlie (Helen) of Malmo, NE; sister Donna Sake of Omaha, NE

Tribute Wall



“ James "Jim" Sake Sr.

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ I knew Mr. Sake since I was young through sports and growing up in the same town. He always reminded me of Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart of WWF fame. I thought for certain he was the same guy when I was younger.

I joined the choir when I was in JHS / HS. We had a choir concert scheduled for the Millenium in downtown Omaha. At the concert we could sign our names on a board, so I went to the Valley supermarket to pick up a marker before going to school to take the bus. When I tried starting my car, it wouldn't start. Crap!

I had like less than 5 minutes to get to the school to board the bus and luckily, lo and behold, Jim Sake was home. I explained the situation and he gave me a ride w/o hesitation. He told me a story along the way, I since forget, but it was a good memory.

Mr. Sake also helped me out in my woodshop class, as I was terrible at it. He was always willing to help out and never asked for anything in return. A very good man and father, I could tell.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the family, for they have suffered a great loss.

adam gitt - October 07, 2019 at 08:19 AM

SC

“ To all of Jim's family: I hope you will read all of the posts on this site. I just did and I am smiling from the love so many friends experienced with Jim. Even in your sadness, I know these heartfelt messages mean a lot to you. Jim was SO kind to us when we moved here in 1994...encouraged my son, Luke Horton, to get involved in the baseball program. And Luke and little Jimmy were classmates and friends back in those years. He always stopped to chat whenever we ran into each other. Definitely a friendly guy that made a difference in our little town. I hope your happy memories of him will help your hearts.

Susie Clinton - September 27, 2019 at 02:16 PM

ST

“ I went to Waterloo High School with Jim. Later I worked as a photographer. When it was time to photograph “Photos with Santa” I thought of Jim. He dressed up as Santa with a white wig and beard. His red hair was not completely covered and I was worried the children would be confused by that.

This is never an easy gig; children are almost always afraid of Santa. But when Jim played Santa the children weren't afraid. His warm, kind nature made them feel safe.

Trying to get good photographs, however, was a challenge. He was constantly talking to the children. The photos caught his mouth in unflattering poses. I asked if he could maybe play up to the camera a little bit so I could get better photos. He continued to focus on the children having a good time.

When they came back to pick up the photos the children asked, “Where's Santa?” They were so disappointed he wasn't there. He made quite an impression on them.

In the end they were some of the worst photos of children with Santa I had ever taken. His red hair poking through and his mouth caught in awkward positions. The parents didn't care, they were just excited about the joy he brought to their kids. Many of the children were convinced he was the real Santa. I think he made a believer out of me too.

shirlee tourek - September 24, 2019 at 10:54 AM

KF

“ Jimmy was one of the nicest men I have ever met. Always made me smile and his stories! His love of his family and baseball was truly special. Loved running into him around town to visit. Our family will miss him alot. Truly a great man. Rest in heavenly peace Jimmy

Kelly Frost - September 23, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Sake Sr..



September 23, 2019 at 08:23 PM



“ Jim first reached out to me back in Jr High when I was new & didn't know anybody, & we'd been close friends ever since. Every time we got into a little mischief, we always got caught it seems. He always had my back when we were together & we both had a love for music & antiques. He had a very generous nature & would offer help to friends, neighbors & people he didn't know... always giving more than he took in. I miss him already.



Andy Terri Dundis - September 23, 2019 at 04:49 PM



“ Spuce Street Tavern purchased the Pretty Please for the family of James "Jim" Sake Sr..



Spuce Street Tavern - September 23, 2019 at 02:41 PM



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



September 23, 2019 at 01:28 PM



“ *I always enjoyed the time I spent with Jim and the conversations we had. He was an amazing human being. I'm glad my sons had the opportunity to meet him recently as well.*

Tyler, Ian and AJ

Tyler Gleason - September 23, 2019 at 11:42 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Sake Sr..*



September 23, 2019 at 11:27 AM



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



September 23, 2019 at 09:33 AM

BH

“ so sorry to hear about jimmy. he was always fun to visit with wherever I might run into him.was always enjoyable at the sat auctions. he will be mssed RIP brad howell

brad howell - September 22, 2019 at 02:55 PM

MM

So sorry , Jim will be remembered for ever

Mark W Martin - September 23, 2019 at 11:26 AM

TR

“ we just learned the news about Jim. We are just heartbroken but now the fond memories start going through your head. I recently saw Jim at the Valley Days car show and traded great stories about when he and I worked together. Several of his “car guy” friends were there too, it was a great day! It was so good seeing him, which was about three weeks ago. I always admired Jim for his passion for baseball and his family, especially his grand children. He took so much pride in whatever he did. He was a proud man through and through.

To the Sake family, you have our thoughts in this sad time. Jim has gone to a better place.

Tom and Jeana Ridder

Tom and Jeana Ridder - September 22, 2019 at 01:43 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Sake Sr..



September 22, 2019 at 01:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Sake Sr..*



September 22, 2019 at 11:19 AM



“ *Jimmy was the friend that everyone would want in their life. Jim was my closest and dearest friend in high school. He taught me what friendship and kindness was all about. I only wish I had been able to be around him and have my life blessed by him more from high school until today. I wish I could have told him one last time how much I loved him and cherished his friendship. Rest In Peace Jimmy. You changed a lot of lives in your life for the better. We are all grateful for for your kindness and generous spirit. Steve Graves*

Steve Graves - September 22, 2019 at 09:17 AM



“ *I've known Jim for more than 40 years he was a great friend and a generous man. On one occasion I was walking down the street with my newborn daughter when Jim seen us he stoped his car to take a look at her. He was telling me how he had won some money betting on the horses. Then he promptly open his wallet and layed a one hundred dollar bill in the stroller and said buy her a teddy bear from uncle Jim!*

Jann A. Henopp Sr. - September 22, 2019 at 12:53 AM

AM

“ Sending my condolences to the family. Jim was a super guy! I always enjoyed talking to him! Rest peacefully, friend. ❤️



April Mae - September 21, 2019 at 10:46 PM

KK

“ Keith and I recently saw Jim at Valley Day's. He called Keith "Trouble" --a moniker which I know he had for many (but is also true about Keith). Jim raised two good and talented men in Andy and Jim, and his dedication to baseball in Valley-Waterloo is unparalleled. Heartfelt condolences to Jim's family and close friends.

Keith and Kate Knudsen

Kathleen Knudsen - September 21, 2019 at 05:42 PM



Jim was my very first T-ball coach I'm very proud to say he was a very good man I will miss him

Russell Kile - September 21, 2019 at 09:13 PM

CH

“ Jim will be remembered fondly. I can't go to the ballpark without wanting to hear his shout. "Hey! Here we go!" Jim made a big difference in so many lives.

Cindi Hansen - September 21, 2019 at 04:49 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charlie Sake - September 21, 2019 at 01:29 PM

SM

“ *I am so saddened by Jim's passing, he was such a nice man! I am still touched every time I think of what he said at Adam's funeral. My thoughts & prayers are with you at this very difficult time!*

Shari Mayer - September 21, 2019 at 08:43 AM



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



September 21, 2019 at 08:35 AM

AC

“ *I have known Jim almost all my life, every time i saw him he had a smile on his face! He was a great guy! He did alot for a lot of people! He will be missed by me and many others too! Waterloo/Valley baseball owes him alot for all the time he put in it! He changed the lives of lots of people in the Waterloo/Valley area! Rest in Peace my friend! Tell my friend Kenny i said hi!!!*

Alan Chard - September 20, 2019 at 10:45 PM