



James K. Austin

NOV 21, 1919 - JUN 9, 2007



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James K. Austin

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Mr. James K. Austin, age 87, died peacefully Saturday, June 9, 2007 with his family at his side. He was born November 21, 1919 in Lakeside to James L. and Oleva (Green) Austin, and lived in Muskegon for almost all of his life. Mr. Austin graduated from Muskegon High School in 1937, and was a WWII U.S. Navy veteran serving from 1940 to 1946 in the Submarine Service. He earned three degrees from the University of Michigan, was retired as the Administrator for Muskegon Public Schools, and served as the Director of Federal Programs. He was the past-president of Save Our Shoreline, receiving the Environmental Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award, was past president of the Economic Development Corporation, New Muskegon, The Lakeside Neighborhood Association, and the State of Michigan Planned Parenthood Association. He was a life member of the Muskegon Masonic Temple, Saladin Shrine Club, the Scottish Rite, VFW, and SubVets of WWII. He was also active in Port City Playhouse, the Muskegon Civic Theatre, and the Frauenthal Center Volunteers. Mr. Austin was a championship golfer, a charter boat captain, and enjoyed hunting and camping. On February 2, 1944 he married Marie Bentivoglio in Philadelphia, PA. SURVIVORS include his wife of 63 years, Marie; 2 daughters, Shelley Kolberg, Wendy (Mark Derby) Austin; 1 son, Samuel (Patti) Austin; 6 grandchildren, Matthew, Megan, and Ryan Kolberg, Nicole Austin, James Dolen and Logen Andrew Austin; special environmental friend, Darlene DeHudy; and his beloved friend Stanley the yellow lab. A celebration of Mr. Austin's life will be held Thursday, June 14 at the Muskegon Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. You may sign the on-line guest book at www.sytsemafh.com For a more lasting memorial, please consider Harbor Hospice Leila and Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence. Arrangements by The Walburn Chapel Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc.



Obituary

James K. Austin

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1547 W. Sherman Blvd.
(231) 759-8565




Events


James K. Austin

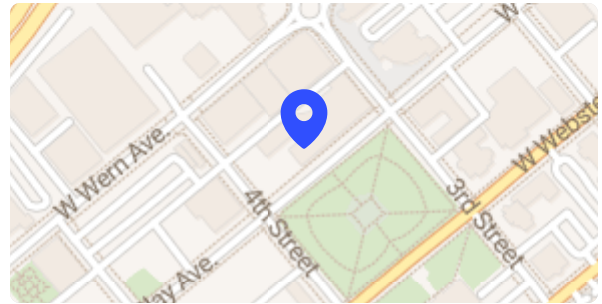
NOV 21, 1919 - JUN 9, 2007

Visitation

 **Thursday**, June 14, 2007

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

 **Muskegon Masonic Temple**
396 W. Clay, Muskegon MI 49440





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Hello Looks good! Very useful, good stuff. Good resources here. Thanks much!
G'night

July 9 at 9:44 AM



Anonymous posted:

Condolence

June 21 at 7:07 PM



Anonymous posted:

Grandpa, you have been a great teacher to me and you will always live on in my life. I am going to miss hearing you say "How was school today Coley?" when I come over. I bet your playing with Oliver and Crombie right now. I miss you grandpa. Love Coley
Nicole Austin

June 14 at 8:24 AM



Anonymous posted:

I owe a thank you to Jim Austin for being my first environmental mentor. I met Jim so many years ago when I worked on the issue of the Westran landfill spit into Muskegon Lake as a school project. Jim helped me to connect the health of Muskegon Lake to the walleye reintroduction projects I worked on in the mid-1970s. When I moved back to Muskegon County I had the pleasure of Jim's fishing activities with the Muskegon Steelheaders. Jim showed us how to have fun fishing, but never lose sight that clean water and natural shoreline habitats are basic to a healthy fishery. When Jim told me to go help take care of White Lake with Wint Dalstrom, I knew Muskegon Lake SOS would always be in good care with Jim. Tom Hamilton, Fishery Biologist (retired)

June 13 at 7:48 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I have known Jim since the North Star Steel days. Later I served as SOS Vice President while he was President. Then he was Vice President while I was President. He was a true leader and I looked up to him as my mentor. He always saw the issues clearly and articulated his views forcefully. He was the essence of Muskegon Save Our Shoreline. I will miss him greatly!##imported-begin##Jerry Bakke##imported-end##

June 12 at 6:50 PM



Anonymous posted:

A great warrior in the fight for environmental stewardship and better communities is gone.##imported-begin##Cynthia Price##imported-end##

June 12 at 6:29 PM



Anonymous posted:

There are few people in this world I can honestly say that I admire. Jim Austin was one of those few. There probably isn't a half dozen people I would say this about but I want to be just like Jim. When I speak in front of people I want to have his presence and his sense of humor. When I am faced with adversity I want to have his ability to keep things in perspective. I want to call them like I see them, as Jim always did. I want his love for both learning and teaching to accompany me for my entire life as it did in his. I want people to look up to me the way people looked up to him. I never really told him any of this. I never felt I had to, as Jim knew that imitation is the sincerest form of admiration. He also knew that actions speak louder than words. Even so, when Jim spoke everybody listened. Jim and Marie loved to do community service. Doing community service was a foreign notion to me when I first met them. Those of you that know now me may realize that I do community service on a regular basis, but may not know that I was more than partially motivated by Jim and Marie's fine example. Over time as it turns out, I have become quite fond of it. Jim's love for his community and his planet was only exceeded by his love for his family. All of Jim's possessions really belonged to his family. Anything Jim had was available at anytime for his family to take and use. He would have gladly slept in a tent if it meant that a warm dry place he vacated was available for his family's comfort. Jim would have walked a mile in a Michigan snowstorm rather than let a family member not have a car to drive a few blocks on a chilly day. I honestly believe Jim would have not only gone hungry, but would have shrugged off any discomfort encountered in order to provide for his family. Jim would have done so without any form of hesitation or consideration. Instead of complaining he would have uttered some profound quote or passed on some sagely old Proverb to explain the situation. Jim carried a torch far too heavy for one man not from the old school to carry. Marie was always there to help keep that torch lit and held high. Because of that simple and undisputable fact of physics, the torch Jim has passed will now have to be carried by many. And I have no doubt that it will. Jim made far too many friends to have his torch dropped any time too soon. Godspeed Jim And 73 OM, Mark Derby##imported-begin##Mark Derby##imported-end##

June 11 at 6:07 AM



Anonymous posted:

I first met Jim about 1936, we caddied at the Muskegon country club. He was always a gentleman, even when he was a teenager, and could he play golf! He was liked by all, and a lakesider all his life. I still consider myself a lakesider, although many years have passed. To his wife and family, I would like to say that he was loved by many from boyhood on. All of us are better for having known him.##imported-begin##robert poe##imported-end##

June 12 at 8:41 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Dear Marie, We are all so saddened by Jim's death. We will all miss him. He was a true gentleman, and always a delightful addition to any gathering- whether in a group of friend or speaking in a public forum, and especially in a cast. The two of you always added such zest to our productions! We were privileged to call him our friend. While Jim is now gone from our lives, he will always remain in our hearts. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Ginny and Rem Sprague and all of your friends at Muskegon Civic Theatre##imported-begin##Muskegon Civic Theatre##imported-end##

June 12 at 7:24 AM



Anonymous posted:

My sympathy goes out to all of "Uncle Jim's" family. He was a very special person, especially to my Dad. I can still hear him coming in to my Mom and Dad's house and saying "Hi Boo, How are the fish biting? I'm am sure they are fishing as we speak!##imported-begin##nancy green medema##imported-end##

June 12 at 5:05 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Marie, as I was reading the obituaries online tonight, I sadly read of jim's passing. He meant so much to me as I began my teaching career back in the 60's. You both were such good friends to me and I have never forgotten all the fun we had when I was in the Bunker Scool district!! God Bless! Marquita##imported-begin##marquita##imported-end##

June 11 at 4:24 PM



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Anonymous posted:

My deepest sympathy to Jim's family and friends. I had the privilege to get to know Jim as we fought to stop the Nugent pipeline. The Muskegon area has lost a wonderful warrior for justice and the environment. As we all know, Jim was not afraid to stand up for what he knew was right. He took the time to speak up and take action on important issues, plus encourage or mentor those around him. We are all better for having known him. He was and is a legend. He attended Muskegon Save Our Shoreline meetings regularly and always had an intelligent remark, if not a profound one. He was his own person. He made up his own mind and expressed himself in an elegant, thoughtful manner. Jim, you changed the course of history in many positive ways. Thank you. May others pick up your torch. God bless you as you view your accomplishments and legacy from on high. Well done. Darlene A. DeHudy###imported-begin##Darlene A. DeHudy##imported-end##

June 11 at 11:03 AM



Anonymous posted:

The World mourns his loss, as do I.###imported-begin##Kevin Davis##imported-end##

June 11 at 10:40 AM



Anonymous posted:

Few men or women inspire so many as Jim Austin inspired those of us who were blessed to enjoy his leadership during his life with us on this earth - which he worked so hard to protect. God-speed, Jim. And well done, good and faithful servant.###imported-begin##Robert Van Lente##imported-end##

June 11 at 7:08 AM



Anonymous posted:

John was a good friend and a great ally of many years dating back to the SOS-North Star Steel days...he's been a mentor and supporter of mine on many city planning issues. I will miss his consistent wisdom and steadfast integrity. I'm sorry that I'll miss the ceremony, as I will be out of town for my youngest daughter's college graduation. Know that Jim's spirit lives in the generations that follow him. My condolences and may peace prevail...Peter Sartorius.###imported-begin##Peter Sartorius##imported-end##

June 11 at 6:07 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James K. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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