



James A. Bigelow

SEP 29, 1946 - OCT 5, 2010



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



James A. Bigelow

SEP 29, 1946 - OCT 5, 2010

Mr. James A. Bigelow, age 64, passed away Tuesday morning, October 5, 2010. James was born September 29, 1946 in Muskegon to Nelson and Anna Mary (Shramski) Bigelow. Jim was an assistant professor at Ferris State University for 33 years prior to his retirement in 2004. He is survived by his daughter, Donnel Bigelow; his grandson, Johnathon Zimmerman; his sister, Beverly (Georges) Bigelow-Boutz; his grandson's father, Shawn Zimmerman; and his good friend, Doug (Linda) Yeck. He was preceded in death by his parents. A MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL will be 11AM Thursday, October 7, 2010 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church (1716 Sixth St.) with Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Brown presiding. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. Arrangements by The Walburn Chapel, Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc. 1547 W. Sherman Blvd 231-759-8565.



Anonymous posted:

Bev and Family, We were sorry to hear from my brother Douglas that Jim was ill prior to his passing. Julie and I made accommodations for Doug and Linda to come and stay with us while being with Jim in the final days while in Hospice care. Doug was one of Jim's best friends. How do I know? Doug brought enough cloths to stay for a month if he had to, to make Jim's time with family and friends as comfortable as possible. I knew of Doug and Jim's friendship as far back as grade school and high school. They were inseparable at times and yet would go their own ways and respect each for it when it was necessary. The one thing I knew of Jim was he had "Class". I don't mean uppity in your face, look at me I'm the cool guy. I mean he had confidence, dressed well, had a great family he was proud of and spoke well of and always drove a great car. I watched and looked up to my brother Doug and Jim because they treated me decent even though I was younger. Jim was the kind of guy in High school that would say hi to you in the hallway even though he was a grade ahead of me and didn't even have to bother. Jim made us proud when he became a master at his craft (auto body) and went to College and taught for all those years the younger generation to gain the skills he had and to become master craftsmen as he was. Jim never held back from his students. He was as good or better than any Professor at Ferris State University. I am sure they missed him after his 33 dedicated years of teaching. Jim gave me some advice at one time that I will never forget. I speak of him often and tell this story. I asked Jim to give me a name or two of someone in Muskegon that did auto body work and especially painting that he would recommend that was excellent to perfect in their work. I wanted to finalize several of my antique motorcycles with paint jobs that would look original and be the envy of all the other restorers and motorcyclists in the business and the hobby. Jim said after a long pause. You will never find a body man or painter that will satisfy you. In order to get the type and quality of work that you want you will have to do the work yourself. I told Jim that I never painted before. Then Jim said: get some books and literature and start out small finishing and painting with a spray can. Learn to pinstripe yourself and paint small objects like motorcycle fenders and the like. You see, ... he said: everyone paints a little different, some are better than others, and will accept minor and sometimes major flaws in their work. You will notice the flaws in others work and will be disappointed. We all hate to accept imperfect work and then have to pay hard cash money for it. If you paint it yourself you will know what your expectations are, and will accept certain flaws but not others. You will work to the perfection that suits you and keep the flaws that are acceptable. He was right! I began painting myself and have been self taught in auto/motorcycle body, pin striping and painting. Best advice I ever got from Jim and am thankful for it. He was a wise master craftman. Anyway,..... Jim was always kind and a good man and we thought he was the greatest. I am sorry we couldn't make it to the funeral because Julie was ill that morning and I am her caregiver. I had to stay with her. Julie had a stroke when she was 43 and is paralyzed on the left side. We have taken care of each other for the last 17 years since. I had to retire on disability 2 1/2 years ago after working 35 years at Sealed Power, SPX, Dana, and Mahle. All these compqany name changes were confusing but provided a wonderful living for us to raise three beautiful children. I am sorry to be so long winded but what I had to say couldn't be written in a Sympathy card. We have been praying for Jim since we heard he was sick, and will continue to keep him in our prayers until the day we die. Us "Yeck's" are a family of prayers and never forgetters. Sincerely, Jack W. and Julie A. Yeck 345



Tribute Wall

James A. Bigelow

SEP 29, 1946 - OCT 5, 2010



October 11 at 11:00 AM



Anonymous posted:

##imported-begin##rere##imported-end##

October 9 at 3:10 PM



Anonymous posted:

I was so shocked and sorry to learn of Jim's graduation to Heaven. He was so much a part of my growing up years. So many memories. Jim was such a neat guy. Bev, I treasured my time with you this week sharing memories. So sad we lose contact in adult years. I will miss him. Judy Stribley Austin##imported-begin##Judy Austin##imported-end##

October 8 at 7:52 AM



Anonymous posted:

So very sorry to hear about Jim, he was a good friend and I will miss him. I have many fond memories of Jim and our years of working together. Sincerely: Pete Alley FSU##imported-begin##Peter Alley##imported-end##

October 7 at 6:00 AM



Anonymous posted:

I just heard about the passing of Jim. I have fond memories working with him in the automotive department, what a great person! He will be sorely missed by all those that came into contact with him.##imported-begin##Debbie Lunsted##imported-end##

October 7 at 4:30 AM



Anonymous posted:

Thought of you on your birthday and planned on trying to call you. Sorry I didn't do it when I had thought about it as now it is too late. Life is too short to put off things until tomorrow. You will be missed by your family and friend. To Donnel, Johnathon and Beverly I am so sorry for your loss. David Zok##imported-begin##David Zok##imported-end##

October 6 at 2:20 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit