



James Michael "Jim" Donahue

MAR 2, 1939 - MAR 9, 2023



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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James Michael "Jim" Donahue I, age 84, passed away on Thursday, March 9, 2023, in hospice care. Jim was born on March 2, 1939, in Grand Rapids, MI, to Frank and Mary (Dolan) Donahue, who preceded him in death. He graduated from Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School, class of 1957, along with his high school sweetheart, Alice Derezinski, whom he married in 1964. They enjoyed 59 years of marriage. He graduated from Western Michigan University, where he was an All-American swimmer and member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

Jim was in sales at Texaco Oil Company for 38 years and served his country in the National Guard. Jim and Alice enjoyed traveling. They had the opportunity to visit Ireland, where they visited the castle, defended for generations by his ancestors. Jim was very proud of his Irish heritage. Jim loved the outdoors. He enjoyed gardening and taking care of his yard. He also enjoyed boating on Spring Lake and on Lake Michigan. Jim was a passionate owner of Corvettes and Mercedes Benz cars. He enjoyed giving input into the design of his Spring Lake home, called the Glass House.

Jim will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Alice; son, James (Lori Anderson) Donahue II; granddaughter, Azara Donahue; sisters, Judy Gallmeier, Marilyn and Theresa Donahue; brother, John Donahue; nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends.

Honoring Jim's wishes, the graveside service will private. Memorial Gifts can be made to the [Harbor Hospice Foundation of Muskegon](#).

The family thanks Harbor Hospice and DaySpring Assisted Living for their kind and gentle care of Jim.

Remember Jim in your prayers.



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The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services (6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444) is honored to be serving the Donahue family. To share special memories with the family and sign the online guestbook, please visit <http://www.sytsemaf.com>.



Tribute Wall

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LA

Lori Anderson posted:

Hugs to you, Alice. You and Jim shared so many precious memories together. Those memories will live on in the stories you share and the legacy Jim has set forth. May you find comfort and peace in the energy that surrounds you. Know that you are loved.

March 14 at 2:38 PM

BM

Becky Meyer posted:

Alice - I know the VanOfen/Yerrick ladies are greeting Jim right now! They loved you both so much! Hugs and prayers! Becky and Jamie

March 14 at 5:52 AM

EK

Evie Koteskey posted:

Well, Jim, I have never met you, but being Alice's spouse, I KNOW you were a wonderful man, husband, father, grandfather and friend to many. Your love of cars and boats reminds me of my own John-boy. It's too bad we didn't get together because I know you and he would've been best friends. But one day we'll all meet together in Heaven and have the time of our lives. Praying for my friend and co-worker at GRCC, Alice and the family at this time of grieving. May God Bless all your love ones. Evie Koteskey

March 14 at 2:34 AM

DP

Dr. Mary Palaszek posted:

Dear Alice and Family, I was so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. He was a great guy. I know he wasn't fond of going to the dentist but I think I made it a little easier for him. We would both immediately start talking about Michigan football or basketball. Who were the new players, who was the better quarterback, should they get new coaches. It went on and on. I think he was surprised that a girl knew so much about sports and was as passionate about the Maize and Blue as he was! We also talked about Polish food and cooking. The dental work was always secondary on his visits. I remember him being impressed that we had Bo Schembechler speak at our dental school graduation. He knew nothing about teeth, but shared a lot of good football team stories! I imagine he will be in heaven now, sitting by my dad and Bo, coaching from above. Again, my deepest sympathy on your loss. When things settle down, I'd like to take you out for lunch Alice. With much love and prayers, Dr. Mary Palaszek

March 13 at 3:41 PM



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John M Leidlein Jr posted:

Alice, please know we will keep you and Jim in our prayers! You were a dear friend of Alex during your days at Western Michigan University! All the best to you and your family!!

March 13 at 12:35 PM



Mike Cuncannan March 18 at 8:56 AM

Way back in the 40s and 50s I'd stop each day on my way to grade school and pick up Jim, who was usually finishing a bowl of Cheerios! Jim was meticulous and ingenious, and whether he was installing a car's steering wheel on his bicycle, or, in the winter, joining me in snowball fights and hopping cars, Jim was a buddy. Saturdays often found us at the 4 Star theater, eager to catch the next serial or Western. He was not only an All American star swimmer, he was also a classic nice guy. Alice, I pray that all your memories are happy ones, and may each one always bring a smile. Mike Cuncannan



Constance March 13 at 8:22 PM

Dear Alice and Family, I was so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. May the wonderful memories you have of him ease the pain of his passing and may he rest in peace. Connie (Karpinski) Penning



Liz Timmer March 13 at 3:02 PM

So sorry to hear about Jim's passing. You are in my thoughts. Liz Timmer



Judy Green March 13 at 2:25 PM

Alice so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We were grade schoolers at St Francis and of course CCHSM. My how quickly time passes. You are both in my prayers Judy Fraser Green



Memories only last if you share them

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



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