



# Huntley James Burroughs

NOV 5, 1950 - OCT 12, 2025



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**O**ur Heavenly Father released 74 year old Huntley James Burroughs (aka Jim, Smedley, Smed, HJ and GUS) from his earthly struggles on October 12, 2025.

Huntley was preceded in death by his parents, Huntley and Virginia Burroughs; sister and brother-in-law, Roxanne and William "Blacko" Blackmer; sister-in-law, Shirley Burroughs; niece, Ginny Blackmer; and nephew, Fred Blackmer. Surviving and mourning his passing are Huntley's loving wife, Mary; brother, Robert Burroughs; sons, Benjamin (Amy) Burroughs and Seth (Kyle) Burroughs; grandchildren, Grace and Sam Burroughs and his special little buddy and first-mate, Will Patel.

Huntley was close to his nieces and nephews and leaves behind Bill, David, Barb, Claire, Laura, and Julie to grieve his death. Also surviving are a host of cousins, great nieces and nephews, in addition to Mary's family, who all adored Huntley.

Huntley graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Wildlife Management. Due to the economic struggles of the country at the time, he was unable to secure a position in his field. He pivoted to the restaurant industry. Prior to serving as the head chef at Jim's Tiffany Place in Lansing, MI, Huntley completed an accelerated course at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.

He later went on to own his own restaurant, Buttons, in Mason, MI. He was also a general manager at The Olive Garden, before finishing his career as a Field Service Manager for Petersen Farms, Inc. in Shelby, MI.

Avid is not a strong enough adjective to describe Huntley's relationship with the game of golf. Huntley lived to play golf. When not on the course he would be perfecting his swing in his dreams or by swinging the 7-iron he kept in the living room.



## Obituary

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Huntley also had an eye for photography and his camera was nearly always with him. He loved photographing flowers and land and seascapes and would often print them on canvas to give as gifts. He loved to hike and explore, especially in the state of Michigan. His favorite place on earth was the ghost forest, atop the mama bear blowout, at Sleeping Bear Dunes.

A close second was Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. He also loved being in or on Lake Michigan. Huntley enjoyed every season in Michigan, autumn being his favorite, but the variety of ice formations along the lakeshore in winter intrigued him.

Huntley considered it his civic duty to donate blood. Being O negative, the blood centers were grateful for his dedication. Huntley donated over 25 gallons of blood in his lifetime.

The family would like to express their thanks to Hospice of Michigan for their loving care and support provided during Huntley's last weeks of life. Also, a huge thank you for the fabulous neighbors that helped immensely for the past two years; Adam, Ron/Jolynn, Larry/Alma, and Denny/Bonnie.

Bonnie, our earthly angel, made herself available 24/7/365 in any capacity needed, and was called upon frequently. Huntley supported many charitable organizations. If you are looking for a way to honor his memory, consider a donation to the Salvation Army, Smile Train, or The Nature Conservancy. Or, if so inclined, consider donating a unit of blood in Huntley's memory.

A memorial service celebrating Huntley's life will be held at a later date.



## Tribute Wall

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**Holly Kurtzweil** lit a candle in honor of Huntley.

Huntley was a wonderful man, and it was a pleasure to know him and his wife, they have left a lasting impact on me

October 17 at 10:59 AM



**Linda McCormack** posted:

I met Jim when I was about 14 and he was 10. I am Shirley Burroughs' sister which means Jim and I share three nieces-Claire, Laura, and Julie. Over the years, Jim and I would see each other at family events involving our nieces or Bob or Shirley. Jim was always so nice, and very family oriented. He truly loved his family. Even though I was not part of his family, I considered him part of my extended family. I am so glad he married Mary, and I am glad I was able to meet her. I know Jim was welcomed into Heaven by his dad, his mom, Roxanne, Bill, and Shirley. It must have been wonderful meeting his dad. Rest in peace, Jim. You will be remembered.

October 15 at 2:14 PM



**Jenny Broadbent** posted:

Huntley was known to me as uncle Hunt and although he was married to my mom's sister he was my favorite uncle. I spent many summers at their house. Even after their divorce he would pick me up and take me to dinner. I hope that my cousins Ben and Seth are doing well and I'm so sorry for their loss.

October 14 at 9:00 PM



**Dori Drayton Mckelvey** posted:

I remember when my sister first started to date Huntley and how upset I was that she let him pick her up at her house when she didn't know him very well. Now it makes me giggle to think that I was nervous about the most kind, generous and caring man knowing where she lived. I should probably add patient to that list of qualities because man did I grill him the first time we met :). Little did I know that he would marry my sister and become such a cherished member of our family. Bringing the kids little gifts from his business trips or taking my mother-in-law out to breakfast whenever he was in her neck of the woods. He was so kind. I will miss his quick wit, that boyish grin, and how he called me "dear".

October 14 at 8:52 PM



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**Kyle Burroughs** posted:

At our wedding, when I reached Seth at the middle of the park, I heard Huntley quietly say, "Wow" as he looked at the two of us together. It made me smile to think that Huntley was simply happy to see Seth settling into life and love. It felt like a special whispered word of approval just for me. I will always remember that.

October 14 at 7:37 PM



**Cassie Hill** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

He would always put our worm on and take our fish off the hook for us, and never made (too much) fun of us for being too scared to do it ourselves.

October 14 at 7:18 PM





## Media

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**Cassie Hill** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 14 at 7:18 PM





# **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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