



James L. Emerson

April 27, 1945 - November 6, 2023

James L. “Jim” Emerson, 78, Crown Point, IN, passed away November 6, 2023, with family members by his side. Survived by loving wife, Ellen (Weeks) Emerson, daughter Christa Emerson, son Rob (Beth) Emerson, their mother and former spouse Sharon Troxel Swihart, grandsons Troy (Katie) and Kade Borlick, granddaughters Iris and Hazel Emerson, sister Vicki (Rich Jewell), brother Larry Emerson (Jan), sister in law Paula Weeks Jusko, step daughters Aubrey Easton (Jaime Venegas) and Alyssa Miller (Finley), and step grandchildren Camilla, Jaimito, Isabelle and Madelyn, and other loving nephews, niece, family members and friends. He is also survived by his beloved dog and best pal, Houdini. Jim was preceded in death by parents, William and Virginia (Johnson) Emerson, and by his wife, Melinda Hathaway Emerson. Jim was born in Hammond and grew up in Gary’s Glen Park neighborhood, graduating in the Class of 1963 from Lew Wallace High School. After graduation he started his career in the trust department at Gary National Bank (Gainer/NBD/Chase) where he eventually became a Vice President and the head of the mortgage loan department. In retirement Jim worked for Habitat for Humanity where his woodworking talents and creative eye were put to use making displays and repairing donated items. He was passionate about his endeavors to renovate the old Lake County Jail and was particularly knowledgeable about Dillinger and Sheriff Lillian Holly history. He served on the Old Sheriff’s House Foundation and gave many tours of the jail as well as appearing in television documentary episodes. He was an avid collector of

historical photos of Lake and Porter County and always enjoyed taking photos and collecting antique items as hobbies. Jim will be greatly missed by his family and friends and will be remembered for his quick wit, his hardworking and friendly nature, and his many creative talents. According to Jim's wishes there will be no service. Family is considering a future Celebration of Life. If you wish to make a memorial donation in his name, please consider Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana or the Old Sheriff's House Foundation (designated specifically to the Old Lake County Jail), or any charity of your choice. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

BJ

“ *What an extraordinary human being! It was such a pleasure working with and interacting with him during his time here. God Bless!*

Bill Joiner

Bill Joiner - January 18 at 04:29 PM

AI

“ *Ellen so sorry about Jim's passing. I enjoyed helping him with his computers over the years. I will never forget when he had me hold the gun and pose in front of the vehicle... I felt like a real gangster. I'll tell that story for the rest of my life. May he rest in peace and all of you be warmed by great stories of this man!*

Alex J Szmuto IV - March 19, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ *Remembering his humor, and deep interest in the history of Lake County.*

Bill Berens Sr. - November 13, 2023 at 03:36 PM

SA

“ *Thank you my friend and mentor. I will miss you.*

Sandy - November 13, 2023 at 11:06 AM

JS

“ *Ellen, my condolences to you and your family. Jim was a great man and I have many fond memories working with jim at the bank. Jim had a great sense of humor and just a kind loving person. Janet Schulte*

Janet Schulte - November 12, 2023 at 12:30 PM

EW

Thank you so much!

Ellen Emerson, Jim's wife - June 19, 2024 at 07:32 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Jim



Scott Umstead - November 10, 2023 at 07:21 PM

TS

Jim was always kind to everyone. It was an honor to have him as a dear friend. I considered Jim a historical expert on John Dillinger and Crown Point history. I learned a lot from Jim. I am deeply saddened by his passing. Jim, you will always be remembered. 🙏

Tony Stewart - November 29, 2023 at 09:54 AM

PL

“ Patricia L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Emerson.

Patricia L. - November 09, 2023 at 08:50 AM