



James "Jim" D McConnell

June 25, 1924 - February 4, 2019

James "Jim" D. McConnell, age 94, of Fishers, IN., passed away February 4, 2019. He was born June 25, 1924, in the coal mining patch called Royal, PA., to his parents, Hugh L and Jean D. McConnell, who were from Motherwell, Scotland. Jim was raised in Gary, Indiana and graduated from Emerson High School in 1942, where he was a member of the varsity basketball team and Class Poet. During World War II, he volunteered as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and flew 27 combat bombing missions over Europe. Jim was awarded the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Presidential Citation with a silver star, six battle stars, Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern medal, and later the Greek Commemorative Medal of Honor and Citation. He was a member of the 483rd Bomb Group, 817th Bomb Squadron, 15th Army Air Force. Jim graduated from Indiana University in 1949, where he was a member of the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity. In 1953 he founded the Gary IU Varsity Club. Jim was President of USW Local Union 2695 Gary Works. He was Vice President of the Gary Works Goodfellow Club and trustee of the Chicago 209 Steel Club. Jim retired from the USX Corporation in 1982 with 39 years of service, where he was a Contract Engineer in the Construction Central Engineering Department located in Pittsburgh, PA.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; loving wife-Josephine; infant son-David; infant sister-Jean; brother- William; sister-Margaret Purcell; brothers-in-law- Donald Purcell and Monte Crilley; nephew-Bob McConnell; cousin-Jim

Miller (a B-17 Bombardier killed in action in World War II). He is survived by his daughters-Mary McKee, Susan (Jack) McConnell; son-Matthew (Jennifer) McConnell; grandchildren-Katie and Michelle McKee, Lucas and Ben (Jill) Hafeli, Zoe McConnell; great grandchildren-Savannah and Catherine; sister-Agnes Crilley; sister-in-law-Ruth McConnell.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. until time of sharing at 12:00 p.m., at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart, IN. Jim was concerned about the issue of hunger in our communities. Memorial contributions may be made to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, 6490 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana 46410. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Time of Sharing

MAR 9. 12:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

HS

“ Mary let me start off, thanking me for the things I did for your father pales in comparison for what you have given me. As a longtime friend and neighbor I feel honored and blessed to have known him. From listening to his stories of serving and protecting our country abroad to watching his eyes light up when we fired up the big screen just in time for the IU games. There’s a saying once a man twice a child, His passion and selection of Black and White movies made me yearn for simpler days and times. We all have wonderful memories of this great man, I will chuckle from time to time when I see that little car come from the garage and I would come out and ask you alright, you need anything?
(Jim don’t drive that fast) and he will say “yeah I’m ok got an appointment but I’ll be back. Hey Jim, I will be in the window waiting.
Hyman

Hyman Smith - March 09, 2019 at 03:34 AM

EV

“ Mary! Thanks so much for letting us get to know your dad over the years! Greatest generation, they just don't make em like this anymore! Much to celebrate, what a life, and well lived!

And regarding the likely failure of IU mens basketball to make this years NCAA tourney, I'm sure he's somewhere shaking his head and muttering a dead-pan one-liner, "pitiful."

Evan Schiffli MD

Evan - March 05, 2019 at 04:54 PM

JF

“ Matt, I see where you get your work ethic and classy disposition from. Another one of the Greatest Generation gone. God Bless. J. Francis

Joseph C. Francis - February 09, 2019 at 03:19 PM

JF

“ Matt (The voice) , so sorry for your loss my friend ! Prayers for you & your family ! Stay strong! John Faginkrantz

John Faginkrantz - February 08, 2019 at 11:44 AM

NH

“ Our condolences on Mr. McConnell's passing. We have known Matt for a long time, having meet him when he became the Peoria Rivermen play by play announcer many years ago. Our condolences to the entire McConnell family. Keeping the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Nancy, Penny and Helen Hanks

Nancy Hanks - February 07, 2019 at 10:15 PM

TC

“ Mary,Matt,Sue

So sorry to hear of Uncle Jim's passing. Will always remember Christmas' growing up at Mom and Pops and the competing war stories between out two dads.

Terry Crilley

Terry Crilley - February 07, 2019 at 03:38 PM