



## James Dorothy

October 1, 1931 - August 5, 2020

James A Dorothy, Sr. passed away on Wednesday, August 5th, 2020. He was born October 1, 1931 to Arthur and Martha Dorothy in Keosauqua. His mother passed away when Jim was a young boy and was sent to live with his dad's sister and her husband, Stan and Bertha Barker in Douds, IA. His father remarried to Esther Coffman Dorothy in Ottumwa and Jim went back to live with his dad and Esther who he affectionately called mom. He graduated in 1949 from Ottumwa, IA and went to Kemper Military School in Boonville, MO where he met Jane Lucas who became his wife. He got drafted to the Army and spent most of his time in Fort Benning, GA. After his discharge he went to the University of Iowa for his undergraduate degree and immediately after, his law degree in 1959. Upon graduation, he moved to Keosauqua and worked for a very fine lawyer and gentleman named Jo Stong, and later became a partner. His oldest son, Jim, Jr was born while he was in law school and then had a daughter, Cathy who also received both her undergraduate and law degree from Iowa. His youngest son Andrew graduated from University of Northern Iowa and is a Kansas City police officer.

When Jim moved to Keosauqua in 1959, he thought it would be a short stay to get him established, but he fell in love with the town, the county, and its residents. He coached Little League baseball for a number of years, joined the Rotary Club, became the Mayor of Keosauqua, and later, the county attorney. He was an avid sports booster of Van Buren Community Schools and announced the high school football games for a number of years. He was an avid golfer who loved the game and played all over the United States. One of his greatest joys was sitting on the Board of Trustees of Indian Hills Community College. He was very proud of the institution it had become and was thrilled to see graduates of the county go to Indian Hills graduate and go on to successful careers.

He married Joyce Stephens in 1993 and retired not long after so they could travel, play golf and go to sporting events of all sorts.

He was preceded in death by his father, Arthur T. Dorothy; his birth mother, Martha Dorothy; Esther Dorothy who he treated like his mother; and Jane Lucas (divorced). He is

survived by his wife Joyce of Keosauqua; James Jr. (Barbara) of Lenexa, KS; daughter Catherine and granddaughter Catie of Austin, TX; and Andrew and grandchildren Brock and Olivia of Kansas City, MO.

Per Jim's wishes, his body has been cremated. No services are planned at this time and no memorial has been established. Pedrick Funeral Home in Keosauqua is assisting the family and online condolences may be directed to [www.pedrickfuneralhome.com](http://www.pedrickfuneralhome.com).

# Comments

---



“ Best lawyer and friend for 4 generations. ( Hargrove, Mote and Douglas's) Love the smile and laugh... will be greatly missed....definitely 1 of a kind

**Susan Douglas** - September 11 at 04:08 PM

---



“ Jim was a part of my and Delilah's life for a long time. He coached me in Little League. He was close friends with Curly and Marie from the day he moved to Keo. And after Delilah and I were married we spent many nights having a cocktail and discussing the world at his kitchen table. Later he and Joyce took care of Curly and made sure he had a good time. We will miss him a lot. Our sympathies go out to Joyce and the kids. There was no one else like Jim.  
Doug and Delilah Archibald

**Doug Archibald** - August 20 at 07:47 AM

---



“ I remember when Jim and family moved to Keosauqua. He was good friends with my parents and always so much fun to be around. I clerked for Jim the summer after my first year of law school, and it was a great experience. Condolences to Joyce, Jimmy, Cathy, Andrew and family. Liza Ovrom

**Liza Ovrom** - August 16 at 07:56 PM

---



“ Maggie and I loved Jim; he was such a tower-of-strength while serving on the Board of Directors at Indian Hills - so strong, so dedicated to the college's emergence in SE Iowa. On a personal note, we remember in the mid-1980's when Eddyville and Van Buren played football. After a game in Keosausqua that Eddyville won, Jim invited us down to Tilley's Tap and we had a wonderful time. The following year when Van Buren played at Eddyville, Van Buren won the game due to an outstanding performance by Jim's son - and we hosted him at an after game gathering at our home. Years later, whenever we saw Jim and Joyce, these little gatherings were always revisited.

Our condolences go out to Joyce, Jim Jr., Andrew and their families. We were blessed to have had Jim Dorothy in our lives.

Bob and Maggie Morrissey

**Bob Morrissey** - August 09 at 12:06 PM

---



“ Sheila Poole lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Sheila Poole** - August 08 at 09:21 AM



“ Joyce and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was fun to talk to and loved his family. God Bless.

**Sheila Poole** - August 08 at 09:23 AM

---



“ Rose Mary Charbonneau lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Rose Mary Charbonneau** - August 08 at 08:43 AM



“ My sympathy to Joyce, Jim, Cathy & Andy & their families.

**Rose Mary** - August 08 at 08:48 PM

---



“ And then there was the day, in 1974, I came to Keo for an interview, and during my tour of the town with Jim, the passenger door of his car flew open twice while we were traveling down the city streets. He taught me how to be a person first, a lawyer second and how to expect the unexpected. He was a friend and partner.

**Rich Lytle** - August 08 at 12:04 AM



“ Diane and I (Jerry Pilcher) had wonderful times with Jim through all the years I drove his race cars. So many things to remember. The funny times, the long nights getting the car ready for the next race, traveling to races all over Iowa and beyond. He was a good friend, I learned important things from Jim over the years. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. So sorry.

**Jerry Pilcher & Diane Christy** - August 12 at 12:11 PM



“ Carol Lytle lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Carol Lytle** - August 07 at 11:00 PM



“ Jim Dorothy didn't know a stranger. I remember his laugh and his sense of fun.

**Carol Lytle** - August 07 at 11:04 PM



“ My condolences to the family. I enjoyed working with Jim in the law office. He was one of a kind!

**Sandra Polonsky** - August 07 at 10:46 PM



“ Susan Huff lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Susan Huff** - August 07 at 10:39 PM



“ Steve & Marsha Appleman lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Steve & Marsha Appleman** - August 07 at 10:30 PM



“ My sympathy to Joyce & all the family! Jim was Harold, Rachel, Van & my lawyer until he retired, did our wills, prepared our taxes, represented us during the Prairie Grain trial & always asked for a cigarette when we had a break! He was a good man & will be missed by the many lives he touched, RIP Jim!

**Janet Meek** - August 07 at 10:15 PM

---



“ Janice Filson lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Janice Filson** - August 07 at 09:57 PM

---



“ My thoughts and Prayers are with the family. Your dad was my parents lawyers for as long as I could remember . My folks thought the world of him.

**Muri L. Sickels** - August 07 at 09:42 PM

---



“ Jerry And Mar'Sue Bowersox lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Jerry and Mar'Sue Bowersox** - August 07 at 09:39 PM

---



“ So very sorry Jim & Barbara. We love you. Dennis, Janet, Sarah & Will Hammer





**Janet Hammer** - August 07 at 09:00 PM

---



“ Seems like yesterday Nancy and I meet you at Tillie’s. And because friends wax and wane, we met again at the Bridge Cafe a couple years down the road. There we meet your friend Curly And his wife, and few other people on Thursday nights. Those were some fun times! It helped cement, even more, a desire to move to VB Co. permanently and make this place our home. You had a wicked sense of humor. RIP JIM

**rick alexander** - August 07 at 08:58 PM

---



“ Randy & Bobbie Boyd lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Randy & Bobbie Boyd** - August 07 at 08:56 PM

---



“ Janice Wright lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Janice Wright** - August 07 at 08:52 PM

---



“ Mary Dickinson lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy





**Mary Dickinson** - August 07 at 08:29 PM

---



“ Matt Bartholomew lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Matt Bartholomew** - August 07 at 05:04 PM

---



“ Jim&Robin Carolan lit a candle in memory of James Dorothy



**Jim&Robin Carolan** - August 07 at 02:51 PM



“ Kathy and I have a lot of great memories of our socializing with Jim & Joyce be it in Arizona golfing or going out for a meal in Keosauqua.  
Lots of great conversations.

**George & Kathy Manning** - August 07 at 09:36 PM