



James Morrison

July 24, 1934 - August 16, 2019

James Arthur Morrison (Jim) passed away August 16, in Traverse City, MI after 85 years of an adventurous, full life of family, flying, and fun, rooted in a deep faith.

Jim was born on July 24, 1934 in Wadsworth, OH to Leslie and Gladys (Smucker) Morrison. Jim graduated from Wadsworth High School in 1952 and married his high school sweetheart, Sally (Parmelee) Morrison on August 20, 1955 while studying civil engineering at Case Institute of Technology. With a true joy and passion, Jim spent his life as a professional civil engineer and surveyor, contributing significantly to, and shaping the infrastructures of Wadsworth and other communities in Northeast Ohio. There were always projects in motion, up to his last day.

Jim's passion included spending time at Wadsworth airport with friends, working on his plane, and discovering trails and shortcuts through the forest around the family cottage in Fife Lake, MI. A consummate storyteller, tinkerer, and builder of contraptions, he also enjoyed exploring mountainous backroads seeking original survey monuments near his winter home in Green Valley, AZ. Inquisitive to the end, there was no such thing as giving up or getting lost, only adventure and a better story.

Jim's kindness toward people and his wonder for the world around him flowed from pure and simple love. "I see the glory of God in all of your faces" he told his daughter as the family gathered with him before his passing. All who knew him testify to how Jim showed us all how to live lives of forgiveness, generosity, and hope.

Jim will be deeply missed by Sally, his wife of 64 years with whom he built a foundation of love, joy, and inspiration for their family; son James Arthur Morrison II (Susie); daughter Julie (Morrison) Kieser (Mark); sisters Carolyn (Dale) Stoll and Becky (Jorge) Alonso; grandchildren Steven (Val) Morrison, Ellen Morrison, Greg Morrison, Kaitlin (Jason) Vredeveld, Josh Kieser and Jenny Kieser; great-grandchildren Sam and Henry Morrison, Madelyn and Jacob Vredeveld... and so many more family and friends that Jim held dear to his heart.

Jim's life and legacy will be celebrated September 14, at 1 pm, with visitation starting at 12:30 pm, at Trinity United Church of Christ in Wadsworth, OH. A light lunch will follow. There will be a second memorial at Desert Hills Lutheran Church, Green Valley, AZ later this fall.

In lieu of flowers, we ask people to consider making gifts to the EAA Aviation Foundation. As an avid lifelong aviator, Jim took great pride in introducing the next generations to aviation. Memorials will go towards a flight training scholarship in Jim's name to a deserving young person. Please make checks payable to EAA Aviation Foundation and in the memo line write "Jim Morrison Memorial Scholarship." Checks can be given to the family or sent to EAA Aviation Foundation, P.O. Box 3816, Oshkosh, WI 54903. If you wish to make your gift online go to: www.eaa.org/eaasupport-eea.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 14. 12:30 PM (ET)

Trinity United Church of Christ
215 High St.
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Celebration of Life

SEP 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Church of Christ
215 High St.
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Tribute Wall

RK

“ *The summers that I spent working for Jim shaped my life in so many ways. I learned so much from him: the joys of engineering, the importance of a positive attitude, and knowing that on a summer's day when you look up and see a blue sky with puffy clouds, whatever you're doing can wait because right now it's time to go flying!*

Some of my fondest high school memories are sitting next to Jim in his Cessna 172.

My condolences to his family and friends. I have no doubt he will be greatly missed.

Rick Kinsinger - September 17, 2019 at 11:13 PM

JP

“ *My sincere condolences to the Morrison family on Jim passing. Jim was very highly respected in both the Civil Engineering and Surveying communities as well as being a distinguished Case Techie.*

Jack Gaydar, P.S., P.E. - September 14, 2019 at 09:49 AM

DW

“ Jim and Sally were youth directors at Trinity United Church of Christ when I was growing up. They both were dedicated to the job, made it a fun time, and had to compete with “Bonanza” on Sunday night TV. I remember two anecdotes about Jim from that time. Sally told us that Jim had just taken the professional engineering (PE) test the week before and didn’t think he had done very well. For civil engineers, getting the PE license is required in order to work where public safety is at stake. It turned out that Jim received the highest score on the test given that day. (I received my PE license in Agricultural Engineering even though I fell under the industry exemption. It was a tough test!)

The other anecdote I remember about Jim was the time he went on an inspection tour of Wadsworth’s new concrete water tower just having been built on Lloyd Browse’s farm on Akron Road (OH 261). Jim is an inquisitive and resourceful person. He wondered how full of water the tower was, but he had nothing to drop into the water to see how long it took to reach the surface. Much to the horror of the water-works employee with Jim, he spit into the tank. “Did you just spit in there?! That’s drinking water!!” To my knowledge, Wadsworth residents did not experience an epidemic caused by Jim’s act.

David Wolf
Byron, IL

David Wolf - September 08, 2019 at 01:29 PM

RJ

“ I was very sorry to learn of the passing Jim. I only knew him for a very short time, but in that time he graciously took me on a tour of the southern border of Arizona, shared his love of surveying, geography and American history all in a period of a few hours. It was trip I will always remember. I'm very grateful to have shared even a small part of Jim's life.
My condolences to his family and loved ones.

Chip Polich

Robert Polich Jr - August 26, 2019 at 12:39 PM