



James Ivan Wood

June 29, 1938 - February 26, 2014

James Ivan “Jim” Wood, 75, of Traverse City, a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, good friend and mentor to many, went to be with God on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. Jim passed away in the early morning at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City surrounded in love by his family.

Jim was born during the midst of the Great Depression in the Upper Peninsula on June 29, 1938, in Rapid River, Michigan. As a young boy, after spending a hard winter living at a logging camp east of Munising, his family moved to Marquette where he grew up and attended Bishop Baraga High School, lettering in basketball and baseball. During his high school years, Jim left home to attend the Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, where he studied to be a Catholic priest for two years until choosing a different path. After graduating high school in 1956, Jim joined the Michigan National Guard. During his stint with the Guard, he was tapped to be in the honor guard for the opening of the Mackinac Bridge, an honor he was very proud of.

Jim attended Northern Michigan University for two years before enlisting in recruit school for the Michigan State Police in 1960. Jim’s service in the State Police took him to Ypsilanti, Munising, Sault Ste. Marie - where he provided service during the Detroit riots, - and finally Traverse City. It was in Traverse City that he met and married the love of his life, his beloved wife, Constance Mary “Connie” Kent. The two spent nearly 32 wonderful years together.

He was a great story-teller and loved to regale his family and friends about his days and nights on patrol with the State Police. Jim retired in 1996 after nearly 36 years of service as a Lieutenant with MSP’s 7th District Emergency Management Division in Traverse City. Jim was so proud to belong to the Michigan State Police. He loved the organization, its people, and all that it stood for.

After retirement, Jim settled right in to his new role as “Mr. Mom” to Connie and his two youngest sons. He often joked that he was the only person at Kindergarten Round-up with

an AARP card, but his retirement gave him plenty of time to drive around town and the state for football, basketball and baseball games, school choir and musicals, and college visits. He loved hunting with his sons, and was a human compass in the woods, often commenting that he felt at peace outdoors, and would love to come back as a woodsman. Jim was also an avid golfer and thoroughly enjoyed hitting the links with his kids and grandkids, and his friends in The Elks' golf league. He was a self-proclaimed "singer of songs" to his kids and grandkids (even though he couldn't carry a tune in a basket) and the family "poet laureate," but he also was an incredibly kind and humble man. So humble that once after a state pistol match he told his father he had done "pretty good." His father had to learn later from someone else that "pretty good" meant winning the Governor's Trophy, the pistol competition's prize for top shooter.

Jim was a life member of the Elks Club of Traverse City, the Knights of Columbus, was active as a boy and with his kids in scouting programs, a member of the Elmwood Township Fire Department, a member of the Michigan State Police Command Officers Association, and enjoyed the monthly State Police retirees breakfast. A man of deep faith, Jim was also a parishioner at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mapleton.

He is survived by his loving family, wife, Connie, of Traverse City, his six children, son, James "Jim" of Traverse City; daughter, Wendy Stein of Baltimore, MD; son, Matthew and his wife Greta of Phoenix, AZ; daughter, Colleen Evon and her husband Tom of Aberdeen, MD; son, Kent and his wife Glenna of Traverse City; and son Steve and his wife Courtney of Traverse City; a sister Mary Trotochaud and her husband Dan of Marquette and their children Eric Trotochaud and Amy Cavanaugh; sister Mariann Stull of Marquette and her children, Kathy and Eddie; his six beloved grandchildren, Tommy Evon III (Adrian), Elissa Evon, Dakota Stein, Mackenzie Lewis-Childree, and Graeme and Brady Wood; and one great-grandchild, Sapphire Evon. Jim was preceded in death by his father and mother, Ivan Lavant "Ike" Wood and Mary Elizabeth (LaViolette) Wood of Marquette.

Visitation with family and friends will be held on Friday, March 14, from 4-8pm at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A vigil service will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Deacon Rene Hoenscheid officiating. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, March 15, at 11:00am at Immaculate Conception Church in Traverse City. The mass will be presided by Monseigneur Edwin Thome.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Father Fred Foundation of Traverse City or Mass intentions.

You are gone, Jim, but you will forever live on in our hearts. We love you now and forever.

Please share your memories of Jim with his family by way of his online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Events

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
12675 Center Road
Traverse City, MI, 49686

MAR
14

Vigil Service

07:30PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

MAR
14

Visitation

04:00PM - 08:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

MAR
15

Funeral Mass

11:00AM

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
308 Cedar Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I will never be able to thank Mr. Wood enough for the example he helped set for me during my youth. He was the perfect embodiment of a real man and true gentleman and I will always remember how lucky I was to have had mentors like him while I was learning to become a man.

Mrs. Wood, Kent, Steve, and the rest of the family, I know that these are difficult times for you and I hope you can remain positive and strong during this. My heart goes out to all of you and I wish you the best.

~Chris Stowe

Chris Stowe - April 06, 2014 at 08:06 PM



“ Connie:
Sorry to hear about Jim. Have great memories of what a kind and gentle person he was. He always had a good word for everyone. Gail and I planned on coming to the service today, however the weather and roads did not cooperate.

Joel and Gail Mars

Joel and Gail Mars - March 15, 2014 at 03:33 PM



“ Steve and Courtney:

You are in our thoughts and prayers. Steve, as we read about your dad, he was a very special person. Much of what we read reminds us of you.

We Love You Guys,

Uncle Greg, Aunt Sandy, Kelli, Kate and Nick

Sandy Kreps - March 13, 2014 at 07:05 PM



“ Jim was loved by all who knew him, whether it be young or old. He was such a great person and made everyone happy just being around him. We will miss his smiling face and his wave every time we drove by the house. Love you Jim and Connie and Kent and Steve.

Sara and Terry Flynn - March 12, 2014 at 07:22 PM



“ My Condolences to the Family
I trooped with JIM at the Munising Post, Not only did we work together but also hunted and fished. I may be a part of some of his stories while on patrol. I have fond memories of our time at the Munising Post. Jim will be sadly missed.
John A Swanson

John Swanson - March 12, 2014 at 11:58 AM



“ Connie and Family, We are Very Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We have many good memories, which will always hold a special place in our heart. Jim and your family have always been in our thoughts. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers now and in the times ahead. Gene and Ruth Conley

Gene Conley - March 10, 2014 at 05:54 PM



“ Dear Connie,
I was so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I will always remember him as being so fatherly and kind, whether at Willow Hill Carnivals or West Senior High Musicals. He was always the best chaperone/parent to have around, because he knew how to laugh, but really did care. I appreciated his patience and sense of humor, especially with our pranks in high school. He raised some fine sons and he had a lot to be proud of. My thoughts are with you in this sad time.
With sympathy and best wishes,
Whitney Nielsen

Whitney Nielsen - March 04, 2014 at 03:58 PM



“ Loved this man! Wonderful father. And always good to everyone around him. He will be missed.

Lisa and Pete Erickson

Lisa Flaska Erickson - March 04, 2014 at 02:40 PM



“ Linda and I are sorry to hear of Jim passing on. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Connie, his children and grand children, and his extended family and loved ones.

Linda and I first met Jim when I transferred from the Jackson Post to Traverse City in 1979. We were both uniform sgts. working different shifts and different hours. Jim was friendly, as were all the troopers and staff, and we would stop in with our youngest daughter Michelle to say Hi. Michelle was only two at the time and enjoyed all the attention.

Several years later Jim married Connie and they moved to our neighborhood. Jim, Linda and I all enjoyed sharing the adventures of our native home "The UP of Mich" where all three of us were born.

May our Lord be with Connie and all her family during these trying times and always.

(ret. Sgt, MSP} Larry and Linda St. Ours

Larry & Linda St. Ours - March 04, 2014 at 02:37 PM



“ How precious your life was to all you leave behind. So proud to say I knew you, were part of the same family, and that we were able to reconnect after so many years. Your smile was infectious, your demeanor soft; thanks for the great memories from my youth cuz. Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. You are home now. Luvu Jan and George Cutter

JC - March 04, 2014 at 11:18 AM



“ It was our privilege to know and work with Jim for many years in the EMD and to count him as a friend. An affable and kind man, we shared a number of rounds of golf which were always enjoyable and have fond memories of camping with he and his family in Traverse City. Sure glad we got to see and talk with him at length at the EMD reunion last fall. Blessings to Connie and the family during this sad time.

Ed and Deb Buikema

Edward Buikema - March 04, 2014 at 09:02 AM



“ We were very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a great guy and we know he will be missed greatly by his family.
Tom & Brenda Evon

Tom & Brenda Evon - March 03, 2014 at 02:07 PM



“ Connie and Family,
We are very sorry for your loss.
Thoughts and prayers from us!
Melissa and Frank

Frank Ambrosius - March 03, 2014 at 06:17 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He always had something positive to say no matter how bad the circumstance. I can hear his voice and see his smile in my head. He was truly everyone's friend. I was lucky to have 20 years of contact with him as I was with Grand Traverse Sheriffs Dept. My sympathies to the family. He was a proper gentleman.

John Jensen

John Jensen - March 02, 2014 at 05:20 PM



“ Dear Connie and family
our sincere sympathy and prayers .Jim was a very friendly man. We seemed to have seen him a few times in Meijers and always had a nice chat. He always wanted John to come to the Traverse City Post and be their maintenance man and instead he stayed at the Newaygo post for 25 years...they were good friends.
May Jim rest in peace.
God bless Helen(Baynton) Botschka and John



Helen Botschka - March 02, 2014 at 02:29 PM



“ Connie and family: We are so, so sorry to hear of Jim's passing! What a wonderful man! Always had a smile, always so interested in what you had to say. Our thoughts and prayers and with you.

Bonnie and Dave Totten

Bonnie Totten - March 02, 2014 at 07:53 AM



“ Susan and I are sad to hear of Jim's Passing. As noted in one of the other comments, as he passes through the veil I will be greeted with "Well done my good and Faithful servant." He was always a promoter of the work of Father Edwin Fred, even in the beginning at the All Faiths Chapel at the State Hospital.

Connie, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Susan and Don Sudekum - March 02, 2014 at 07:18 AM



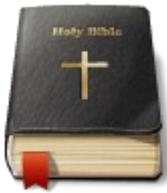
“ We are so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. There are fond memories of time spent with him on the ski slopes of Timberlee and post cookouts at Lake Ann. Jim was my shift supervisor for many years in Traverse City. Just know that you and your family are in our prayers.

Garry and Carlene Lancewicz

Garry & Carlene Lancewicz - March 02, 2014 at 06:43 AM



“ Tiffanie Bendickson sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ivan Wood



Tiffanie Bendickson - March 02, 2014 at 02:41 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tiffanie Bendickson - March 02, 2014 at 02:40 AM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I know Mr.Wood is with God in a beautiful place, and at peace. Your son Jim, thought the world of you. He was friends with my brother who also passed. Father like son, a beautiful soul.

Tiffanie Foy (Bendickson)



Tiffanie Bendickson - March 02, 2014 at 02:36 AM



“ A most remarkable man who will be so missed. He oozed love and his big bear hugs were priceless. Always an example of how to love and serve anyone in need. I'm sure when he entered the arms of Jesus, he heard these words, "Well done, well done." Love to the Wood family.

Lois Edson - March 01, 2014 at 03:06 PM



“ I am so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. He was a classmate of mine and all will miss him. Our love and prayers are with you and all your family in your time of sorrow.
Jean Thibodeau Grimes



jean grimes - March 01, 2014 at 12:30 PM



“ I was very sorry to hear of Jim's passing, he was an outstanding MSP officer, always a gentleman and a dedicated and loyal State Police Officer. My sincere condolences to his wife and family. Col. Rich Davis, ret., MSP

Rich Davis - March 01, 2014 at 10:16 AM



“ Connie, Please know I am thinking about you and your family. I will continue to pray for you. there are no words. I loved Jim is was a wonderful friend to us all. Remember to take care of yourself. Love you bunches... Mary Grubb

Mary Grubb - March 01, 2014 at 09:12 AM



“ Wood Family,

I was saddened to hear of Jim's passing. We've been friends and colleagues for nearly four decades. Please know he was very kind and supportive to me many years ago when I entered into the State Police, and the years that followed.

Warmly,

Captain Jimmy Patrick, Ret. MSP

Jimmy Patrick - February 28, 2014 at 07:40 PM