



## Jim Surma

April 9, 1949 - May 4, 2014

Traverse City - James "Jim" Edward Surma, 65 of Traverse City passed away May 4, 2014 at his home.

James was born on April 9, 1949 in Detroit to the late Edward Stanley and Ramona Rita (Augustine) Surma.

As a young boy, the son of a career Naval Officer, Jim studied abroad in Paris, France for three years. After returning to Michigan, Jim attended and graduated from Divine Child in Dearborn. He followed in his father's footsteps and served our country honorably as a member of the United States Navy from 1968 - 1971. Just two weeks after his discharge, his sister introduced him to her best friend at nursing school. Jim courted Marcia Smith for two weeks before he proposed to her because he knew from the very beginning that she was his soul mate. On June 2, 1972, Jim and Marcia entered into marriage at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Trenton. He then began his 38 year career with the Ford Motor Company. While with Ford he earned his Bachelor's and MBA degrees from Northwood University. He and Marcia retired to Old Mission Peninsula in 2004 where they became active members of the St. Joseph Catholic Church. He served as a Eucharistic Minister and was a devout Catholic his whole life.

In his spare time Jim loved to fish. He was a true handyman and fine carpenter. He even crafted a kayak. Jim loved to cook and also enjoyed tending to his gardens. Above all else, Jim treasured his family. He always put his wife, son and daughter first.

James was preceded in death by his parents and sister Linda LaRose.

James is survived by his wife Marcia, son Scott (Anjanette) Surma of Buffalo, NY, daughter Allison (Tim) Geiman of Newport Beach, CA, grandchildren Berkley Katheryn Surma and Cooper Jameson Surma, and sister Roberta Coffell.

Visitation for friends and family will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014 from 5 to 8 pm at

the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Friday, May 9, 2014 at 11:00 am at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Denay Hall (13400 Center Road) with visitation held one hour prior. Family graveside services will take place at a later date at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the building fund at St. Joseph's Catholic Church or for mass intentions in memory of James.

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to sign the online guestbook and share your condolences with the family.

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

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery** **MAY**

12675 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI, 49686

**8**

**Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

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

**MAY**

**9**

**Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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

**MAY**

**9**

**Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

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

# Comments

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“ Video Tribute - Loving Memories of Jim



**Video Tribute** - June 08, 2014 at 09:40 AM

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“ Marcia, I'm sorry to have learned of your husband's death. May peace be with you and your family through your memories, friends, and family.  
Marcia Bartlett

**Marcia Bartlett** - May 13, 2014 at 07:02 PM

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“ Jim and I worked together, for a few years, setting up the automation group.. he was fun, determined and always fair in his analysis and working relationships. He will be missed and remembered, especially, for his sense of humor. I hope his family can take comfort in all these memories from everyone who posted them. Laurey Thoms

**Laurey Thoms** - May 11, 2014 at 07:53 PM

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“ We would like to extend our love and prayers for the Surma family. Marcia we are so sorry for your loss. Jim was such a nice kind man and such a wonderful husband to you. We will keep you in our daily prayers. Love to you and the kids. Please feel free to call anytime just to talk. Jim and Pam Kennedy

**pam kennedy** - May 11, 2014 at 05:16 PM

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“ Jim was always had a good soul .....this world misses him.

Love and Peace to all family members.

Jerry and Mary Raymor

**Jerry and Mary Raymor** - May 11, 2014 at 09:09 AM

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“ Paula & I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the entire Surma family for the sudden loss of your husband, father & grandfather. Please take some comfort knowing that our thoughts & prayers will be with you during this difficult time.

May God Bless You All,

Roman & Paula Konotopskyj  
IIMAK - Buffalo, NY

**Roman Konotopskyj** - May 09, 2014 at 12:47 AM

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“ Marcia, Scott and Allison,

Jack and I were shocked to learn of Jim's death.  
Death isn't easy be it sudden or expected. Our hearts and prayers go to you.  
Your faith will help you get through these difficult days.

We remember fondly and with smiles the times we shared with our kids and Trenton schools.

Bless you, Madeline & Jack Spanitz

**madeline spanitz** - May 08, 2014 at 11:57 PM

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“ Marcia,I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Jim..my heart goes out to you right now and to the family...my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time! Love, Rene Shureb

**rene shureb** - May 08, 2014 at 11:13 PM

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“ Marcia and family, We are deeply saddened to hear of Jim's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.. Know that God has you in his arms for strength and comfort.

Josie and Fred Rayle

**Josette Rayle** - May 08, 2014 at 08:52 PM

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“ Jim, I was shocked to hear about you.

I always enjoyed working with you despite the few times we didn't see eye-to-eye.

Mike Wesner

**Mike Wesner** - May 08, 2014 at 03:38 PM

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“ I was 12 years old and my dad was moving us far from home for a better life. I didn't understand at the time. Mr. Surma dropped me off at my grandmother's house, Allison and I in the car not wanting to say our goodbyes. I remember Mr. Surma saying...in a very calming, confident way It's gonna be ok, Katie. Allison can come visit. She said I can???? Both of us delighted it eased our preteen pain of losing one another in our daily lives. She was on a plane that year. We reconnected at 30ish both living in NYC. We live two hours apart in CA now. Thank you, Mr. Surma for keeping our friendship going in a very tough time and confusing time for me.

Even though I can't be there to pay my respects today, I promise to be there for Allison always.

**Katie Rayle** - May 08, 2014 at 01:48 PM

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“ Linda is following this tribute.

**Linda** - May 08, 2014 at 06:25 AM

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“ Jim and I worked together for over 35 years. He was a good friend and I loved working with him. He was very dedicated to his job and we shared a lot of laughs and stories over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

**Stephen Sutorka** - May 07, 2014 at 10:17 PM

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“ I've had a career at Ford for 32 years and I met Jim early on, within my first 5 years. He was well respected at Ford, a major contributor, and a good friend to many people. He was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed by so many of his family and friends.

Jan Denning

**Janice Denning** - May 07, 2014 at 09:30 PM

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“ Marcia: So saddened to hear of Jim's passing. I miss him already. I came to expect that bright wave and smile as we passed up and down the Peninsula. then there were the nice "catch ups" in a store somewhere. I will be out of state all month and will not be at the hall for Jim's service. Know that Frances and I will take a pause in our day on the 9th to remember him.. May God, family and friends be with you and offer every comfort. With peace and caring... Jim Krupka

**Deacon Jim Krupka** - May 07, 2014 at 03:52 PM

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“ I'm very saddened to hear of this news. As I told Scott, my memories of his father were of a kind, funny, solid guy, who was a positive impact in my childhood and I know that of many others. He leaves a great legacy the extends beyond his family. My condolences and prayers. Best, Rick Eichmann and Family

**Rick Eichmann** - May 07, 2014 at 01:39 PM

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“ Marcia and Family.....my deepest condolences on the passing of Jim. My thoughts and prayers are with you all as you deal with Jim's sudden passing. May God bless you all!!!  
Vernice (Mr. Geiman's housekeeper and Cook)

Vernice Capaccio - May 07, 2014 at 11:36 AM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear about Jim, and my deepest condolences go to his family. I always liked working with Jim when we were on various committees, he was always a voice of calm and had a sharp and insightful wit. I pray the Lord will be right by his family during this difficult time.

Pamela Tucker Blakley - May 07, 2014 at 09:24 AM

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“ My Sympathy and Prayers go out to the entire family. Being a close friend of Jim's Daughter (Allison) and Son in Law (Tim) I met Jim and Marcia in December 2011. We all had a wonderful evening, which I remember them well. My heart is truly saddened for all of his family and friends. Shannon Green

Shannon Green - May 06, 2014 at 09:53 PM

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“ Jim and I worked together as operators in the computer room for many years. I started in 1966 and he started around that time too. He was always friendly and informative when we talked. He was a co-worker that everyone could trust. I am happy to hear that he had such a wonderful family life. Mission point is one place that I hear is like Heaven. We will miss Jim and offer our sincere sympathies to his family. Marcia please know that the good Lord will take good care of Jim.

Thomas Cooney - May 06, 2014 at 09:45 PM

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“ Jim and I worked as computer operators together at Ford many years ago. Our names were similar and caused confusion from time to time. Jim had a great sense of humor and was a good friend. My sympathy and prayers go to his family.  
Jim Sherman

Jim Sherman - May 06, 2014 at 09:23 PM



“ Our hearts are saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Marcia, and your family.  
Love, Bill and Bev Thomas

**Beverly Thomas** - May 06, 2014 at 08:27 PM

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“ Marcia and your family,  
I hope that knowing you and your family are in the thoughts of so many near and far helps see you through this. I will always remember the time Jim's cute little red car and mine met in that downtown parking lot on a sunny summer Saturday afternoon .... unfortunate as that was, he was the perfect gentleman. Sending light and love and hugs your way,  
Michele and Garth Greenan

**m. greenan** - May 06, 2014 at 06:02 PM

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“ Dear Marcia and Family,  
We were so saddened to learn of Jim's passing. I pray that the love we send you will somehow help to ease your sorrow. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Phyllis and Jack Greenan

**Phyllis Greenan** - May 06, 2014 at 05:03 PM

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“ Dear Marcia and Family. We are so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. We have lots of great memories of the kids school days in Trenton and beyond. Please know that we keep you and your family in our prayers..

**Bruce and Pat Gonyea** - May 06, 2014 at 03:42 PM