



Jim Harsh

March 21, 1923 - November 29, 2020

Jim Harsh, 97, of Oskaloosa, passed away Sunday, November 29, 2020 at the home of his granddaughter in Davenport, Iowa.

James L. Harsh, son of Delbert and Helen (Wickle) Harsh, was born March 21, 1923, in New Virginia, Iowa. He was a 1941 graduate of New Virginia High School, where he played basketball and baseball. Soon after graduating, he went to work at the Fort Des Moines Hotel as head of the beverage department; he later became a cook at the hotel. On July 4, 1942, he married Evelyn Dickinson, and they made their home in Des Moines. Jim was drafted into the Army on February 23, 1943; he served half of his three years at Camp Pendleton, Virginia, with the 46th Coast Artillery Regiment. He served the remaining half of his service time with the 783rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion as a cook and mess sergeant. Upon his discharge in 1946 and return to Iowa, Jim went to work for Hyde-Vredenburg Supply Store (now Hy-Vee). In 1950, he moved to Oskaloosa, and he accepted a position as a wholesale meat salesman for Swift and Company. In 1956, the coffee shop at the Downing Hotel was available to lease, so Jim accepted the job. He managed the coffee shop until 1964 when he took a job with Oskaloosa Food Products as plant manager. Jim remained in that position until his retirement in 1987 but continued to work for the company part-time until 2002.

Evelyn passed away in 1985. Jim married Betty Shanks in 1987. He and Betty enjoyed many winters in Arizona after Jim's retirement. He was a member of the Central United Methodist Church, the Mahaska Masonic Lodge #644, and the Oskaloosa Elks Club. Jim was an avid golfer and a lifetime member of Elmhurst Country Club and the Oskaloosa American Legion.

Jim's family includes his wife, Betty of Oskaloosa; his sons: Jim Jr. (Deann) of Surprise, AZ and Tom (Jeri) of Surprise, AZ and Colona, IL; a step-daughter, Debbie (Clete) Mosbach of Greenfield; four granddaughters: Amy (Steve) Rogenski of Moline, IL, Justean (Shawn) Palmer of Surprise, AZ, Dr. Lauri Harsh (Dr. Tom Ramstack) of Davenport, and Jill (Steve) Oostendorp of Davenport; 11 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret Harris of Iowa City.

In addition to his parents and his first wife, Jim was preceded in death by a sister, Gulya, in 2018.

Graveside Funeral services for Jim will be held at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at Forest Cemetery with Rev. Chad Lierman of the Central United Methodist Church officiating. Military Honors will be presented by the Oskaloosa Honor Guard. The cemetery's North 11th Street entrance can be used when attending the service. A visitation will be held from 9-11 a.m. prior to the funeral service. According to the rules put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and appropriate personal protective equipment are advised for attending this public event. The service will be available to view on the Langkamp Funeral Chapel's YouTube channel Wednesday afternoon for those unable to attend the ceremony. Memorial contributions can be made to Central United Methodist Church.

Cemetery

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST

Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Events

DEC **Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

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Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory

2116 North 3rd St., Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

DEC **Graveside Funeral Service** 11:15AM

2

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - December 02, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ We have been Jim's neighbors for the past 7 years and you couldn't have asked for a better neighbor. When Jim was outside, he always stopped to talk and always asked about the kids and grandkids. He will be deeply missed!
Scott and Lori Rogers



scott and Lori Rogers - December 03, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ Our condolences to the family of our fallen Masonic Brother Jim. Jim took his first degree on March 28, 1946, his second on June 04, 1946 and was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on July 30, 1946. Although shortly after, he moved to Oskaloosa and became a member of the lodge down there, he remained a member of Neophyte Lodge #301 in New Virginia, for a total of 74 years. He was recognized by our lodge as a 50 year member in 1996.

Fraternally,
The members of Neophyte Lodge #301 in New Virginia, IA

Justin Strange - December 03, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ Dick And Cindy Mott-Brown lit a candle in memory of Jim Harsh



Dick and Cindy Mott-Brown - December 03, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ One of the nicest men I've known. Always a smile and "hello". He will be missed in Oskaloosa.



Donna Arendt - December 01, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ I have to know Jim through my entire adult life in business and as a friend. Jim is the type of person that a community can build on. Oskaloosa was able to do just that with Jim's leadership. My father thought the world of Jim as do I. God bless and will look forward to see you again.

Tom Walling - December 01, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ Jim was such a nice man. Always knew you when he saw you.

Shirley Jerry Kime - December 01, 2020 at 11:38 PM



“ Always enjoyed visiting with Jim especially these last years usually in Fareway. He was always kind and interested in our family. Blessings to those he left behind.

Madonna and Tom Bowie

madonna Bowie - December 03, 2020 at 08:50 PM



“ Doug and I were saddened to read of Jim’s passing. We were shocked that he was 97. Jim always greeted us with a big smile and a big hi at the Elks and golf club. He always took time to chat. One of the good ones!

Doug and Mary Ruffridge - December 01, 2020 at 05:01 PM



“ Was shocked and saddened to learn of Jim's death. Always enjoyed visiting most Sundays after church and occasionally in an aisle of a grocery store. I can only echo the kind words shared by others. He is missed.

Rick Bryan - December 01, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jim Harsh.



December 01, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Jim Harsh.



December 01, 2020 at 12:16 PM



“ Marty Burke lit a candle in memory of Jim Harsh



Marty Burke - December 01, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ Nothing but the nicest things can be said about Jim, he was such a good man. Prayers for his family . Rip Jim

Marty Burke

Marty Burke - December 01, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ Jim Harsh was such a kind and loving man. I had know Jim through his family for years, but I got to know him as such a kind and caring gentleman when I was working at Mahaska Bank (MWO Bank). He didn't know a stranger and always had a smile or greeting for everyone he would meet! Alan and I send our love and sympathy to Jim's family! Fran and Alan Katko

Fran Katko - December 01, 2020 at 09:29 AM



“ Jim was a kind hearted man, very easy to know and treated our family with nothing but kindness. My grandmother cooked for the coffee shop and enjoyed Jim’s leadership. I met Jim through his job at Oskaloosa Food Products and the company’s use of natural gas for production, he was fair and more than accommodating to the local utility involved. RIP my good friend. Jeff Ferguson

Jeff & Jill Ferguson - November 30, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ Thank you for the kind words. Grandpa was definitely an amazing leader in all of his positions. He will be missed. Justean Harsh Palmer

Justean Harsh Palmer - November 30, 2020 at 08:45 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Lauri Harsh and her family. He must have been a wonderful man if he was your grandfather. My brother is a MD in Oskaloosa, IA. I wonder if he was his physician? RIP

Cindy Bell - November 30, 2020 at 10:52 PM



“ Jim, Deann and families, So very sorry for your loss. Sending thoughts and prayers your way. May he rest in peace.

Emily Wallace and Mildred Thornbury AZ

Emily Wallace - December 02, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Jim Harsh.



November 30, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Harsh.



November 30, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ A few thoughts upon hearing of Jim’s demise:

Great short golf game
Really good pitch player. Great partner, tough opponent.
Dedicated husband.
Handsome man
Born salesman
Enjoyed a good drink
A good man of excellent integrity
A really good friend, who is missed already.

Stan Sloan

Stan Sloan - November 30, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ Our condolences to Tom and families.

Oskaloosa High School Class of 1964

cherol brown - November 30, 2020 at 01:10 PM