



James Bernard Sullivan

January 25, 1941 - January 27, 2025

James Sullivan, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather was called home by Jesus on January 27, 2025, at the age of 84.

Born on January 25, 1941, in Syracuse, New York, James lived a life marked by faith, dedication and love for his family and community.

Having lost his mother when he was 9 years old, James was brought up by his maternal grandmother, Genevieve Masters. He attended Smith Technical School and did a tour of duty in the United States Navy, serving as a radar man aboard the USS Roy O. Hale. He married his childhood sweetheart, Diane Grimsley, on June 2, 1962. Their union was blessed with three children: Tari, Tim and Kristin, each of whom James loved deeply and supported fully. Diane passed away in 2013 after 52 years of marriage. James considered himself doubly blessed to meet the second love of his life, Judy, in 2016. James and Judy met singing karaoke. They were married February 14, 2016 enjoying almost 8 years together.

Following his time in the Navy, James worked for Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation for 30 plus years as an electrical designer. Early retirement enabled him to pursue other work interests such as remodeling, replacing windows, and becoming a realtor.

James had an enduring love for the church. He began his spiritual journey as a cradle Catholic. While in that faith tradition, he served as a eucharistic minister and a choir director. He loved music and considered his Irish tenor voice to be one of God's gifts to him. He also joined and served other

churches. He was rebaptized and committed his life to Christ on January 15, 2018.

James is survived by his loving wife, Judy; his three children, Tari, Tim and his wife Debbie; Kristin and her husband Steve; grandsons Sean, Brendan and Zachary; granddaughter Kailey and great grandchildren McKenna Sue and Jace. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Service will be held Friday, January 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. with calling on family starting at 3:00 p.m. at Crossings Christian Church 1308 Cleveland Ave. Wildwood, Florida 34785. Service in Syracuse, New York will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in James's honor can be made to the Legacy Fund of Crossings Christian Church. Giving by mail: Crossings Christian Church P.O. Box 671, Oxford, Florida 34484 (Note "legacy fund" in memo line of check) or on-line at <https://Crossingscc.breezechms.com/give/online> or text the word "give" to 352-309-1513 and follow the prompts.

Previous Events

Calling Hour

JAN 31. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Crossings Christian Church
1308 Cleveland Avenue
Wildwood, FL 34785

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 4:00 PM (ET)

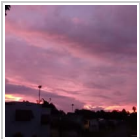
Crossings Christian Church
1308 Cleveland Avenue
Wildwood, FL 34785

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Your funeral
Was beautiful
I bet God heard you coming*

Stephen Silvestro - January 31, 2025 at 07:04 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear of Jim,s continued life journey to heaven . I will forever be thankful to Jim for bringing me back to singing again (and succeeding in keeping Doug and I in the park lol) We spent many days practicing singing duets and his instruction, encouragement, jokes, laughter and his beautiful stories of him and Diane, and his love for her , his children family, friends, his dedication to the religion, and of course karaoke, and yet loneliness since Diane,s passing, were sincere . I never met Diane and yet feel I knew her from Jim’s stories smiles and yet tears of sadness. Then he met Judy. His meeting with Judy at (karaoke of course) he was like a teen on his first date....he couldn’t stop talking about singing and dancing it was cute . I first met Judy (was of course at karaoke) and sang for them Tricia Yearwoods Till I Get it Right....they danced so beautifully gazing at each other....it was wonderful to see Jim smile in a way I had never seen before . They were enchanted with each other and knew Jim had found happiness the second time. A awesome friend, teacher, and confidante and can’t leave out wonderful singer - he will be missed by many . My sincere sympathy to Judy and both families for your loss of a wonderful man. God bless you Jim and may you sing with the angels on your Journey.*

Kat

Kat Hoehne - January 31, 2025 at 12:13 PM

JE

“ To Jim’s Family and Friends:

We join in extending our sincere heartfelt sympathy to you and your family during this most difficult time. May happier memories help to sustain you and bring you comfort through this period of sorrow, and may the joy and laughter of his life, far outweigh the pain of his passing.

He will indeed be missed, but never forgotten.

With love and prayers,

The Ennis Family

James Ennis - January 31, 2025 at 09:07 AM

MK

“ *Jim and Diane were great friends in Florida..so glad our paths crossed.*

mary kleinhans - January 30, 2025 at 10:25 PM

SS

“ I have many words that I could write here and somehow I do not feel as if any of them would be sufficient to express how special of a man that James Sullivan was.

I have known James for several years and we became close over the past 6-9 months. We had many conversations regarding life, death, love, relationships, and one of his personal favorites, faith. During these conversations it was always abundantly clear that James loved fully and devoted his life to the relationships he had with not only the people in his life, but Christ.

James passionately spoke of his love for his wife Judy, his children and grand-children. He was so proud of the newest edition to the family and was always excited to share pictures. Watching him talk about his love for Judy while she was not in the room is one of my favorite memories of him, and he did it frequently.

I originally met James as his nurse and I'm proud to have called him a friend. James' unwavering positive attitude, the love he expressed to everyone he cared about, and his faith are all things I strive to emulate every day. Fly high my friend

Stephen Silvestro - January 29, 2025 at 06:26 PM

JS

Thank you, Stephen! We love you like family and have been blessed to get to know you this side of eternity. May God bless you richly.

Judy Sullivan - January 30, 2025 at 01:39 AM

DT

“ Dave and Amanda Tallman purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of James Bernard Sullivan.



Dave and Amanda Tallman - January 29, 2025 at 09:14 AM

MF

“ My first memory of Jim, was when he brought Diane for her first infusion. I was privileged to be her nurse. She was the light of his life and it showed. We became good friends and shared many good times before of recurrence and finally her death. He had several talks with my husband who had lost his first wife. They seemed to bond over those two tragedies. Ed & I were both delighted that he found a second chance at happiness. I am very saddened to hear of his death.



Madeline Fostveit - January 29, 2025 at 08:57 AM

JM

“ Jenny, Em, and Maddie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Bernard Sullivan.



Jenny, Em, and Maddie - January 29, 2025 at 06:51 AM