



James R. Farrell

July 27, 1931 - June 12, 2013

James Russell Farrell, 81, a 35-year resident of Shelby Township. Died Wednesday June 16 in Shelby Township. Jim was born July 27, 1931 in Saint Clair Shores. Jim served in the United States Air Force Reserves 1951-1954 and was a long time Mason since 1956. In 1997 he retired as a construction superintendent as he spent most of his career in the commercial construction business.

Jim was married to the Late Bobbie for 50 years at the time of her passing in 2002. . Jim is survived by his children Cynthia Colby, Suzanne Ted Boehmer, Russell Karen Farrell, Mary Rob Fisher and the Late Kathleen Ann Gerlach; 15 grand children and many great grand children.

Family will receive friends Monday June 24th, 2013 at 11:00 am until time of the Celebration of Life Services 12 Noon at the Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road 3 Blocks East of VanDyke Utica

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The family of James R. Russell would like to share the following memories of their father with you. Born James Russell Farrell in Saint Clair Shores, Michigan July 27, 1931 at the start of the Great Depression. Dad would become the only child of Russell and Ida. He grew up in a modest frame home on a dirt road with ditches on Beverly Drive at 10 1/2 and Jefferson. There was a coal stove to cook and heat with and a flowing well in the back yard. Dad had many an adventures outside with his dog, in a rowboat on the lake, and with the many friends in the area growing up. During those times

Selfridge ANGB was just forming Dad had a keen interest in airplanes as many boys did then, especially as WWII began. I'm sure this led to him joining the Air Force Reserve in 1951 and spending a lot of time at Selfridge Base. He was thrilled to get the occasional ride in a two seater when the officers were out getting their training hours in. Jimmy and his Mom Ida were very close. She kept the best, sweetest baby book of him growing up. It's still fascinating to read details of birthday parties, school work, and the backyard tea party with Cousin Barbra, and getting in trouble for playing in the ditches. As a young boy Dad was bitten by a stray dog and went thru the dreaded rabies shots. He remembered that very clearly for being so young. Sadly Dad's mother Ida died at home when he was in his late teens and things got much harder for him but like most people in that time he worked hard to make the most of things. Dad had jobs that he always made sound so interesting but you know could not have been easy. I think all people growing up in those times truly knew that it was up to you to make a life for yourself and there weren't social programs out there that provide everything as it is today. Those early jobs included a newspaper route on Jefferson, painting yachts and houses, Packard Motors, City of Detroit Tunnel Inspector, delivering fuel oil and ready mix concrete, selling concrete and epoxies, and building-construction superintendent.

He was very proud to have worked for some of the finest companies anywhere on some very large and interesting projects. Including Albert Kahn, Giffels Associates, and Hubble, Roth and Clark. As with many people of this generation, Dad was very patriotic and involved with our country's struggles during war times. His father served in the Army in WW1 with the Michigan Red Arrow Division that paid a heavy price and were there at the end helping finish it. Dad married Bobbie Joan Pepper in 1952 and always credited her with making him the man he was. They were married 50 years at her passing in 2002. They had Kathy in 54, Cindy in 55, Suzy in 56, Russ in 58, and 'surprise, Mary in 64. Wow, what a start. Can you imagine taking five kids and a dog trailer camping for 15 years! I think we've been to every park in Michigan!

And we camped a bit in Canada and made two big trips to Virginia to see some of Mom's family. In 1970 we made the big move to live up north in Wolverine. I was a new adventure for all of us. One by one the girls married or moved back to the big city. Then Mom and Dad moved back in 1978, settled in Shelby Twp. Throughout this time Mom and Dad loved to drive and see the area around them and go 'antiquing'. Sometimes known as junking. They brought home oil lamps, phones, small furniture pieces, and lots other stuff to fix up and restore to collect, sell, and gift. Mom was big on glass ware and cookies jars. I think Dad mostly liked the hunt and restore part, even if it didn't always sound that way. Dad liked to impart wisdom in many ways, Mom too. One way was stories; somehow he found time to read a lot. He knew more about all different religions and different peoples than anyone I ever met. Both he and Mom used many, many different expressions, often age appropriate. Mom said; "If you watch the nickels and dimes, the dollars take care of themselves", "If you lye down with dogs, you get up with fleas" Dad had; "Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way!", "Don't promote a competent boyfriend into an incompetent husband", "You are a product of your environment", "Think first, speak clearly, and always tell the truth", "Lead by example" and "Treat others as you would like to be treated". And there were many, many more. In the last nursing home he was in, he was a little bothered by all the different people coming in and out but knew they were there to help. But, that might have prompted the very last expression he put up by the door, "Tell the truth & mind your own business". My wife Karen always said he should have been a teacher, I believe he was. Russ Farrell 6/14/2013

Tribute Wall

ER

“ *Erin lit a candle in memory of James R. Farrell*



Erin - June 25, 2022 at 09:01 AM

EP

“ *After a year of searching I finally found you - I had hoped you were still alive. Instead you have been gone longer then I knew you were apart of my ancestry. Reading the tributes I believe I would have liked you. I think you would have liked me. :)*



Erin Pierce - November 30, 2021 at 10:59 AM

BS

“ *Susan and I are truly saddened to hear of Jim's passing. We have fond memories of your family that we will never forget. May he rest in peace with Bobbie & Kathy whom we think about often. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Love, Bethany Gerlach Koenig & Susan Gerlach Cloutier*

Bethany & Susan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I will always remember your Dad/Grandpa as a wonderful, smart man who loved his family more than anything. He was so proud of all of you. Take comfort knowing that he is reunited with your Mom/Grandma.

Kathy Boehmer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ This is for my grandpa Jim, I wrote this just for you. There's a hurting on my heart right now Watching you suffer wasn't an easy thing to do. I want to say so many things That I remember as a child. I know I was a pain and I know that I was wild. You and grandma cared for me and helped teach me how to live Grandma let me stay the night and showed me how to give Christmas time was my favorite, waiting for dinner and dishes to be done Seeing the look on your faces when we opened your presents was so much fun Grandpa, it seemed like you knew everything and Jeopardy in heaven better look out! Because my grandpa is up there watching now and he's got a lot of clout What you taught me was how to keep a family together That marriage is not temporary - you stay together forever You made every sacrifice to take care of your family and wife You even had to live far away, hard work was your life. When it comes to being a great man, you and my father set the bar so high To find someone to compare to you two is impossible to find The thing I am so thankful for is that my son got to know you well, so he saw the best of men The way he loves you is a memory I will keep and hold close That he met the best of fathers, grandpas and friends I hope your taking care of Aunt Kathy and Grandma looking down on us always We are so happy you're finally at peace, there's no more hurt for grandpa, we will love and remember you for all our days It's so hard to say goodbye to you, I almost fell apart But I looked you in the eyes and knew you saw straight to my heart. We love you grandpa - Alicia, Brian, Breana, Darren and Ty

Granddaughter Alicia - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ *To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded. Rest in peace and eternal happiness Jim with our Lord and savior Jesus Christ*

Rob - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Grandpa, I'm going to miss you soooo much. You are one amazing grandpa. Thank you for all the wonderful memories you have gave me and my family. Like Christmas in the breezeway, spending the night and having chocolate creamsicles, helping us do chin-ups on that bar in the basement, having candy out of that glass jar in the kitchen and all the fun trips to the Barn on Saturday mornings. But my favorite memory is when you would rub our toes and crack them. We would laugh soooooo hard. I could go on and on with stories. Thank you for all the history lessons you gave me, I still can't believe you read so many books. You always knew so many facts and stories about everything. I hope in heaven they have delicious coffee for you and grandma. Oh and McDonalds hamburgers for Grandma too. Can you please give Grandma and Aunt Kathleen a huge hug and kiss for me and tell them I miss them, love them and still think about them all the time. I love you grandma and grandpa choo choo and miss you much. xoxoxo Sarah P.S. It's coldy outside grandpa!!!!*

granddaughter sarah - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ When I became pastor of New Beginnings United Methodist Church I set about the task of contacting all of the members. I was told Jim had moved from the address listed and was thought to have left the area. One day I decided to give the number I had a call and he answered. We shared a laugh when I told him who I was and how surprised I was when he answered! I enjoyed visiting with him. He was so cordial he would offer my coffee and if I came at meal time he insisted on ordering me a meal. He always had a smile and made me feel as if I was the most important person in the room. Your New Beginnings family will miss you.

Rev. Jacque Hodges - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear Family, I was saddened to read of your loss and I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy for your dearly loved father and grandfather Mr. Farrell .I cant imagine the pain you must feel. I pray that you can find hope in the Bible: 1 A loving God would never take our loved ones: James 1:13 "With evil things God cannot be tried nor does he himself try anyone." 2 God will comfort you: Psalm 34:18 "Jehovah is near to those that are broken at heart; And those who are crushed in spirit he saves." 3 Jesus Christ, thru God's Kingdom, His Word, the Bible, gives us a wonderful hope, namely, the prospect of living in a paradise on earth and seeing the resurrection of our loved ones. Luke 23:43; John 5:28, 29 ~ Hope this comforts you like it has my family during loss.

Mrs. Houston - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Farewell, James Farrell. How blessed we were to have shared some of your favorite stories, your smile, and your faith. I loved how you would say...."you must want me to pray for the children again...cause I am too old to work vacation bible school...but not too old to pray for it!" "Can I throw in a prayer for my Grandchildren too?" Yup! And then we would talk church...children...congregation...construction...and have a long conversation! "Prayer is a conversation with Jesus, Sally, but I keep it shorter,." Goodbye ...Farewell ... Mr. Farrell...I thank God we had this time together.

Sally Eberle - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Happy Father's Day Grandpa! You and Grandma were the BEST grandparents we could ever ask for. We all miss you so much already and can't believe you are really gone. Thank you so much for being the person you were and giving me so many great memories that I will never forget. I will never forget Christmas Eve with the Farrell's and playing in the "breezeway" with all of our cousins and the fun sleepovers Alison and I had at your house. I am really going to miss coming to see you with Claire and reading your "Daily Word". You always had something positive to say and had a smile on your face. I never heard you complain about anything except maybe gravy on your food : Alison and I have always said you knew everything and was the strongest person we knew. If we had a question about ANYTHING at all, you were the person to ask. I really loved hearing stories about your life growing up and how much you loved you mother. I know you are watching over all of us while you are in heaven. You are now reunited with loved ones. Give Aunt Kathleen and Grandma lots of hugs and kisses for me. I love you!!! -Amy-

granddaughter Amy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Morning Dad. Happy Father's Day! Just sitting here looking out at the ocean missing you so much & remembering how you loved the water, swimming and the beach and taught us to do the same. You were a kind, wonderful and thoughtful dad with many great stories of you growing up which we will miss greatly. I wish I could talk to you just one more time and give you a big hug, just one more time. You are leaving behind a family that is missing you so much. Rest in peace dad, you surely deserve it and go be with your mom, whom we know you loved and missed so much, and our mom and Kathleen. Big, hard hugs and kisses all around dad for you and for them and I hope the coffee is good and there is lots of it cause we know how the Swedish love coffee! And the brandy, made from grapes of course : wink- wink! Much love to you and we will be missing you every day, dad. Hugs and kisses and lots of love, forever and ever, Suzy*

Suzy Boehmer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ *My grandpa was truly a wonderful family man that we will all miss very much. I have many fond memories of Christmas at their house when I was growing up and I will cherish those memories forever. My grandpa loved to watch the history channel and tell us all about it when we would go and visit him and that I will also remember forever. Now he is reunited with my Grandma Bobbie and Aunt Kathleen up in heaven. I love you grandpa and miss you so much. Love Always, Kimmy*

Kimmy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *My Grandpa was such an amazing man. I loved taking him a coffee and going to visit him. I enjoyed hearing all his old stories about his work, friends and family. He was so smart ...loved history...but most of all loved his family. He will be missed so very much and I'm so thankful for all the wonderful memories we shared together. He is now in peace with my Grandma Farrell & Aunt Kathleen. God Bless. Love, Alison*

Alison - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *Sincerest condolences for your loss. John 5:28,29 holds out hope for loved ones who have fallen asleep in death, and at Revelation 21:4 God promises that death will be no more nor will mourning be anymore.*

Laura - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *As we grieve Jim's passing, we are also reminded of many wonderful times spent with Jim and Bobbie through the years. At this time we pray God's presence and comfort to their children. Sincerely, Ken and Trudy Johnson*

Ken Johnson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Jim will be greatly missed. A devoted friend and lodge brother. I know the lord will have a special place for him.*

Chick & Beryl Chene - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM