



James L. Jelsch

September 8, 1936 - December 16, 2025

James L. Jelsch was born on September 8, 1936 and passed away on December 16, 2025. James was the devoted husband of Margaret Jelsch, with whom he shared 63 years of marriage filled with love, dedication, and countless treasured memories. He was a beloved father to Larry Jelsch, Karen (Lonnie) Grooms, and Steve (Andie) Jelsch. James was a proud grandfather to Stephanie (Tyler), Stephen (Natalie), Leslie, Lance, Haley (Riley), and Nikolas, and a cherished great-grandfather to Laurin, Tyler, and Ellie. He is also survived by his dear siblings, Patty Moore and Ron (Donna) Whalen, along with many loving relatives and friends. James is also predeceased by his dear daughter-in-law, Kim Jelsch. James enjoyed spending his time playing golf and fishing, activities that brought him great joy and relaxation. A devoted fan of University of Michigan Football, he proudly supported his team through every season. He was a strong patriot, deeply proud of his country and its values. Above all else, James treasured time spent with his family. His love, wisdom, and steady presence will be remembered always by those who knew and loved him. Visitation will be held on Thursday (December 18th) at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road, (3Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica, from 4pm till 8pm. A funeral service will take place at 6pm that evening. Internment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Funeral Service

DEC 18. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Rest easy Uncle Jim. We will miss your unforgettable laugh and playing Euchre with and against you !! I am sure there will be some lively Euchre games up in heaven !! Love, Mary Ann

Mary Anna McCollom - December 18, 2025 at 10:15 AM

MA

“ Mary A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jelsch.

Mary A. - December 18, 2025 at 10:10 AM

PP

“ Paul and Pam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jelsch.

Paul and Pam - December 18, 2025 at 06:05 AM

PP

“ Paul and Pam purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James L. Jelsch.



Paul and Pam - December 18, 2025 at 06:05 AM

YD

“ Your brother Ron and Donna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jelsch.

Your brother Ron and Donna - December 17, 2025 at 06:23 PM

YD

“ Your brother Ron and Donna purchased the With Distinction for the family of James L. Jelsch.



Your brother Ron and Donna - December 17, 2025 at 06:23 PM

RL

“ I worked directly with Jim at BeneSys. Every day he would greet with you a smile. He treated everyone the same and taught me to love every minute of life. He was a great golfer and even a better man. I loved his stories. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ryan Lees - December 17, 2025 at 04:35 PM

DH

“ I worked with Jim at BeneSys for many years, he was such an uplifting and happy guy, no matter what was going on he always said - "Never had a bad day in my life", always made the room so much better. I was fortunate to go to a UM football game with him, and go fishing in Lake Erie with his son in law - of course we got our limit of walleye! I also coached baseball against his son and my son played against his grand son. He was always a pleasure to be around, and now he is enjoying his days in heaven with out lord and savior. We can use many more people like him in this world. My deepest condolences to his family and friends, may all the fond memories help in their healing, he will be missed. Don Herman

Donald G Herman - December 17, 2025 at 03:03 PM

LL

“ Jim was such a wonderful man... he loved life and when asked how are you doing Jim, his response was always the same, "never had a bad day in my life". He brought sunshine every day. He loved to talk about his family and golf... There definitely needs to be more people like him in the world. Thank you for being my friend and always spreading sunshine...deepest condolences to the family. He will truly be missed...❤️

Lisa Lauzon - December 17, 2025 at 01:10 PM

LW

“ Love, Gino and Kathy Wickman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jelsch.

Love, Gino and Kathy Wickman - December 17, 2025 at 09:15 AM

LW

“ Love, Gino and Kathy Wickman purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James L. Jelsch.



Love, Gino and Kathy Wickman - December 17, 2025 at 09:15 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James L. Jelsch.



December 16, 2025 at 08:00 PM

CM

“ Colleen Jelsch, & Lynn and Wayne Munroe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jelsch.

Colleen Jelsch, & Lynn and Wayne Munroe - December 16, 2025 at 08:00 PM

LY

“ I loved Uncle Jim’s laugh! It always made me smile. 😊

LynnMunroe - December 16, 2025 at 07:08 PM



I enjoyed my last visit with uncle Jim and aunt Margaret in October. He told of treasured family stories! RIP fine man

Colleen Marie - December 16, 2025 at 07:44 PM

DV

I remember when i was in elementary school and uncle jim and aunt margaret visited us in buena park. uncle jim taught me how to play ping pong (he was darn good at it) and i've loved that game since. hugs to you all.

debbie vanderveer - December 16, 2025 at 08:43 PM