



## James A. Willemsen

March 28, 1961 - March 10, 2017

James Anthony Willemsen (“Jim”), age 55, passed away at his residence in Royal Oak on March 10, 2017, in the arms of his loving family. Jim was born in Detroit, Michigan, but was a 25-year resident of Royal Oak. He is survived by his wife, Linda Sue (Wardrop), whom he married on October 4, 1986 at Southfield Presbyterian Church; his children, Abigail and Evan James Willemsen; his parents, Patrick (the late Patricia) Willemsen and his mother-in-law Nellie (the late Lare’) Wardrop; his siblings, Christopher Willemsen, Beth (Steven) Minich, Patrick Jr. (Laura) Willemsen, Bill Willemsen, Paul (Lucy) Willemsen, and Peggy (Fouad) Atalla. He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas Willemsen. James is also survived by his brothers-in-law, David (Debbie Reynolds) Wardrop and Lare’ (Dana) Wardrop.

Jim was diagnosed with MS in 1984, but didn’t allow it to define who he was. It became part of the background of his life, but he moved forward, opening a successful residential and commercial building company, Callistrukture, in 1985. When his symptoms became too much to allow him to continue working, the entire focus of his life became his family, especially his children, Abby and Evan, whom he helped care for in their early years. He was blessed to watch them grow into compassionate, caring adults. Jim and Linda were also blessed during their 30-year marriage with an exceptional love for each other.

Jim loved his large family and circle of friends. His wit and humor remained with him through the years and was enjoyed by all that knew him. Holidays and social gatherings were the highlight of his life. His parents prepared him for life, setting an exemplary guide for living with grace and compassion. Jim so enjoyed seeing his many siblings, nieces and nephews, their children, his cousins, and many friends. He loved music, art, and life, but most of all the people that surrounded and supported him. Jim lived life well, and for that we celebrate the spirit of this tremendous husband, son, father, brother, uncle, friend. He will be deeply missed.

Memorial visitation Tuesday 2-8 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 10 a.m. until the time of service 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 529 Hendrie Boulevard, Royal Oak.

An online Memorial Fund ([http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Events/HOM-General?pxfid=518912&fr\\_id=7541&pg=fund](http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Events/HOM-General?pxfid=518912&fr_id=7541&pg=fund)) was recently created. You can sign a guestbook, contribute, or learn about the fight against Multiple Sclerosis.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

MAR **14.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Service

MAR **15.** 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak  
529 Hendrie Boulevard  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Tribute Wall

VS

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss. You will stay in our thoughts and prayers.  
*I am a friend of Peggy Attalla in bowling green ky. I wondered if it would be possible to send me a copy of James signature. I wanted to make a pendant for Peggy in memory of her brother. It can be a simple shortened signature if he did that. I would really appreciate it very much. My info. Vivian Schlinke 2932 crossridge ct bowling green ky 42104, email Vivian2932@aol.com, 270-202-8142.*  
Thanks,

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**vivian schlinke** - April 21, 2017 at 03:37 PM

BG

“ We had the best childhood together, none of us would trade it for the world. The secret was without knowing we all gave ourselves, which was the best part of it all and made it so special. We will always be together for that reason.

*Ben Gonzalez*

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**Ben Gonzalez** - March 15, 2017 at 01:51 PM

BB

“ The World has truly lost one of its gems, Jim Bob-owski you will be missed. Love and Prayers to Linda and the family. Brian and Holly Bradford

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**Brian Bradford** - March 14, 2017 at 05:15 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.*



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March 14, 2017 at 07:34 AM



“ *Jim, you not only had the most beautiful blue eyes but the most beautiful soul! You were for sure a man of integrity! Your love for Linda, Abby and Evan was so rich. You would light up when talking about them!*

*Jim and Linda, a true love story that fully honored their marriage vows ... You lived the for better or worse, in sickness and in health...without abandonment! your marriage quietly spoke volumes...which made me want to be a better spouse in my marriage.*

*I can't help but think that when you met Jesus face-to-face, you were embraced and heard "Well done my good and faithful servant"*

*You for certain will be missed here on earth Jim but do know you left your footprint!*

*This world is so much better for you having been here! You touched so many lives...I will cary you in my heart always...*

*Love and gratitude to you for how you lived and shared  
Cindy & John  
(Aintablian)  
the Crazy Dog People*

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**Cindy Aintablian** - March 14, 2017 at 06:04 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.



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March 14, 2017 at 12:19 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.



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March 13, 2017 at 10:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.



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March 13, 2017 at 09:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.



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March 13, 2017 at 09:21 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.*



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March 13, 2017 at 08:47 PM



“ *I feel I had a friend in Jim while seeing him at Cambridge Health Care Center. I saw the love he & Linda shared & Jim was devoted to Linda. I feel blessed to have known him.*

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**Jeryl Smith** - March 13, 2017 at 07:49 PM



“ *Linda, Jim, Jerry and I shared lunches and dinners almost every day for over two years. Through all the good times and not so good ones, Jim always had a smile for everyone. I will cherish the memories of our friendship. God bless*

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**Kathy Zill** - March 13, 2017 at 04:50 PM



“ *Jim, I will always remember you as a genuinely good guy who cared about others. I don't ever recall you saying an unkind thing about anyone. I have fond memories of hanging out with you and Linda and so many others. Listening to the Doors is one of the things I remember most. You were loved and respected by many. I am so sorry that this terrible disease took you from us way too soon.*

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**Melanie Goldberg** - March 13, 2017 at 04:30 PM

TF

“ *The Ochrem Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James A. Willemssen.*



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**The Ochrem Family** - March 13, 2017 at 04:04 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James A. Willemssen.*



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March 13, 2017 at 03:51 PM

PS

“ *Patti SiKora purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of James A. Willemssen.*



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**Patti SiKora** - March 13, 2017 at 03:05 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James A. Willemssen.*



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March 13, 2017 at 02:11 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.*



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March 13, 2017 at 02:00 PM



“ *Jim, you kept your humor and your warmth throughout. You touched so many lives, and we are all better people for it. You will be greatly missed.*

*My "drinking buddy," (a joke)  
Elsa Jorgensen*

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**Elsa Jorgensen** - March 13, 2017 at 01:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James A. Willemsen.*



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March 13, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ *MANG Aero Club purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James A. Willemsen.*

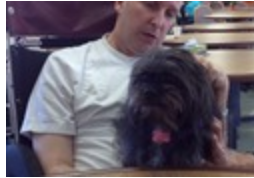


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**MANG Aero Club** - March 12, 2017 at 07:55 PM

KZ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Kathy Zill** - March 12, 2017 at 01:18 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Additional Memories*



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - March 12, 2017 at 11:56 AM