



James A. Deery

MAR 29, 1949 - AUG 31, 2022



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James Deery Obituary

James A. Deery, 73, of Elyria, died August 31, 2022 at his home. He was born March 29, 1949 in Elyria, an only child with a multitude of cousins and what seemed like an infinite number of friends. He attended Holy Cross School on West Ave. in Elyria through 8th grade and then Elyria High School, where he served as Student Council Vice President and, at least according to him, contributed to the creation of the Scholastic “E” academic achievement award. A member of the EHS Class of 1967, he looked forward to this year’s 55th reunion activities. The friendships he made on the south side of Elyria lasted throughout his life—especially his fellow “Bad Lads”—who, as Jim put it, made up their own club when nobody else would allow them into theirs. Jim received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University in 1971, where he served as president of the local chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity in 1970. His friends from this era nicknamed him “Lep,” short for Leprechaun. Jim graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1977 and was admitted to the Ohio Bar that same year. He held hilarious memories and told ridiculous tales about commuting to classes in Cleveland, from Lorain County, with his fellow “night school” colleagues. Several of these colleagues remain prominent members of the local bar and therefore these stories will not be told here. Jim began his legal career with the local law firm West, West & Sherman. Shortly thereafter, he joined Savoy, Serazin & Deery, which later became the longstanding firm Serazin & Deery. Most recently, Jim was a member of Elyria firm Deery & Gibbons. Jim was a past parishioner of Saint Jude Church in Elyria, where he could be found on many a Labor Day weekend serving as the voice of the Parish BBQ and Raffle in the 1980s and early 1990s. He coached youth soccer for GESA and most recently for a girls’ team in Avon and baseball for Elyria Little League, and what he lacked in technical skill and knowledge, he more than made up for in heart, spirit, and enthusiastic



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bellowing from the sidelines. He played softball for a number of local teams with fantastic names such as New Florida Bar and the Northside Animals. You could always hear Jim Deery before you saw him, whether he was playing the game, watching the game, or recognizing and greeting you from across Ely Square. Throughout his life, Jim was a member of the local Knights of Columbus, Elks, Moose, Sons of the American Legion, and United Polish Club of Elyria. Jim was an active member of the Lorain County Bar Association throughout his legal career and in 2017 was honored with the Association's "Member of the Year" Award. He took great delight in mentoring new lawyers and took an active role in the Lorain County Bar Association's "Modest Means" program, which aims to increase access to legal representation in our local community. Jim loved Lake Erie (especially the Vermilion cottage he shared with Laura), the Ohio State Buckeyes, traveling, playing cards, VW Beetles and the music from the era of those VW Beetles, the City of Elyria, the law, his family (all manner of pets included), and helping people. Jim is survived by his wife of 13 years, Laura J. (nee Collins); daughter, Amanda (Chris Pyanowski) Deery of Elyria; sons, Michael (Katie) Deery and Timothy (Jessica) Deery, both of North Olmsted; step daughter, Jessica (Harrison) Cremeans of Medina; and grandchildren, Madeleine, Ethan, Grace, Emma, Chloe, Lyla and Hailey. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Clara Deery (nee Piwinski) and Laura's parents, Ruth and Ed Collins, and his faithful dog, Cali. Friends will be received Wednesday, September 7, 2022 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 323 Middle Avenue, Elyria. A memorial service will be Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 11:00 am in the funeral home with Reverend Father Charles T. Diedrick and Reverend Joel Reichlin officiating. Private burial will be in Ridge Hill Memorial Park, Amherst Township. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Friendship Animal Protective League, 8303 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035. Visitation Dicken Funeral Home and Cremation Service Wednesday, September 07, 2022 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM 323 Middle Ave. Elyria, OH 44035 Memorial Service Dicken Funeral Home and Cremation Service Thursday, September 08, 2022 11:00 AM 323 Middle Ave. Elyria, OH 44035



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To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of James A. Deery, please visit our floral store.

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Tribute Wall

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MD

Michael And Tamera Dietrich posted:

Sadly I write this. Jimmy was the best. He could make any situation look better. Once I became disabled I could not keep in touch. Jimmy will always be my hero. May God bless him he deserves it Michael and Tamera Dietrich

April 29 at 10:20 AM

NS

Nancy Miller-Serozi posted:

In Loving Memory of James A. Deery, A Sympathy Gift of Group of 10 Trees has been Planted In Loving Memory of James A. Deery courtesy of Nancy Miller-Serozi .

October 22 at 8:00 PM

MW

Michael Weingard posted:

I am so saddened to learn of Lep's passing. Even though we only got together once since college he has always had a place in my heart since our fraternity days. In the summer of '69 he and I traveled to San Francisco for the S.A.E. national convention. We worked together that summer on the overnight shift as janitors at Western Electric. We traveled to Evanston for our fraternity Leadership School and the two of us traveled to West Virginia together to take part in the initiation of a new S.A.E. chapter. Jim was also with me the night I met a girl who was to become my wife. Rest in God's Peace Lep. Phi Alpha, Gard.

September 19 at 8:00 PM

JA

Jean L Anderson posted:

Amanda I'm sorry I couldn't attend the viewing for your dad. I have known him for many years and always enjoyed his smile and outgoing personality. He came to my husband's viewing when he passed which I thought was very nice. I am sure he will be missed especially in Elyria because he was always out walking everywhere.

September 6 at 8:00 PM

TM

Teresa Monroe posted:

My condolences to his family. He had taken care of our family in Elyria and other states. Such a class act. He will be truly missed.

September 6 at 8:00 PM



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MK

Mary Kisha posted:

Amanda, Timothy, Michael and Denise, you have my sincere condolences at this sad time. Words are hard to express how you are feeling. Your dad loved his children so much and every day I would hear about what you did the night before. Always he beamed with pride thinking of the "Deery Kids". Keep your fond memories tucked in your heart. Love, Mary

September 5 at 8:00 PM

EM

Eric And Jennifer Murray posted:

Mike, Im so sorry to hear about your Dad. Your in my thoughts and prayers. Miss you man. Eric and family

September 5 at 8:00 PM

AB

Amy Jaynes Brown posted:

With Deepest Sympathy to Amanda & family. What a WONDERFUL MAN. Fly High With The Angels Jim

September 5 at 8:00 PM

NR

Nic, Steph, Abby, Penny Rader posted:

In Loving Memory of Mr. Deery. I'll always remember him cheering us on from the sidelines and the stories he told while carpooling to games. We'll miss his smile, laughs, and enthusiasm for life! A Sympathy Gift of Cluster of 50 Trees has been Planted In Loving Memory of James A. Deery courtesy of Nic, Steph, Abby, Penny Rader.

September 4 at 8:00 PM

SA

Sheila Reinhard Augustine posted:

Seems like I've known Jim forever, from law, and his kids in theatre and choir. I loved running into him because he always seemed to be happy to see me. He will be missed by his friends, and his kids are whom he loved.

September 3 at 8:00 PM



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ME

Michael F. Boyd Ehs 66 posted:

In Loving Memory of James A. Deery, I remember him in high school being humorous, fearless, a good friend, intelligent and quite witty. A Sympathy Gift of Group of 10 Trees has been Planted In Loving Memory of James A. Deery courtesy of Michael F. Boyd EHS 66.

September 2 at 8:00 PM

KS

Karla M. Shiley posted:

I am so very saddened and sorry. My sincerest condolences. Jim was a wonderful source of guidance and strength for myself personally and during family experiences that required his services. Prayers and my sincere sympathy to his family.

September 2 at 8:00 PM

PP

Pam Phillips posted:

I was so saddened to hear of Jims passing. What an absolutely wonderful and outgoing man. Ill miss seeing him in the cul-de-sac, but can you just imagine his happiness when he got to heaven and was rejoined with Cali!!! Your entire family is my prayers, Laura, that the Lord will be so close to you during this difficult time.

September 1 at 8:00 PM

TB

Tim And Mary Bryan posted:

Amanda and Chris - sending you both our heartfelt condolences and support. So sorry to hear of your family's loss. If there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to ask.

September 1 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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