



James Robert Hartshorn

May 22, 1938 - January 31, 2021

James “Jim” Robert Hartshorn of Sterling Heights MI, 82, died Sunday, January 31, 2021 from complications of leukemia. He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Bonnie Lee (nee Fisher); brother George Richard “Dick” Hartshorn; son Glenn and wife Theresa Hartshorn; daughter Wendy and husband John McQuiston; Granddaughter Erica and husband Mark Verkest, Grandson Joshua Corbin and wife Brooke, Granddaughter Allegra Corbin and fiancé Jason Field, and Grandson James Hartshorn. He has 3 great grandchildren, Grady Verkest, Everly Verkest and Blakely Corbin and two step-grandchildren, John McQuiston IV and Jenna McQuiston.

Jim was born on May 22, 1938 in Windber, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Westmont High School in 1956. He was in the National Guard Tank Battalion as a Tank Commander. In 1958, he met Bonnie Lee Fisher at a roller rink, dated her and proposed to her at her Senior Prom. They married on October 9th, 1960. Jim was working for Westmont Borough as a heavy equipment operator. They were blessed with their first child, Glenn, in February of 1962. In pursuit of better opportunity, Jim and Bonnie packed up Glenn and came to Michigan where Jim was eventually hired by Koltanbar Engineering. In 1965, they were blessed with their daughter, Wendy. Jim began working for Ford Motor Company in 1971 where he prospered as a Mechanical Engineer and then a Process Engineer in the Truck division. He was responsible for multiple vehicle launches including the first Ranger, traveled to various plants across the country as a leader, and ultimately was the launch leader for the first Expedition, a great source of pride for him.

Jim and Bonnie were avid travelers who loved exploring together throughout their life. They traveled to numerous island destinations with the Nomads, a Detroit-based travel club and enjoyed tropical adventures together. In addition, they traveled all over the country in an RV with their children building memories and strong family bonds. Dairy Queen was a frequent stop along the way as were many Walmart parking lots. Upon retirement, they continued traveling RV style in their 38' Diesel, towing a car for thousands of miles, exploring as many National Parks as possible. They belonged to the Holiday Rambler Recreational Vehicle Club and were members of the Ramble Lairs chapter where

they met many people who became cherished friends. For the last 25+ years, they have wintered mainly in Florida most recently staying at the Riverside RV Resort. Jim was part of a motorcycle club there and was known as the guy to call if anyone needed help with anything mechanical. Their Florida life allowed them to spend more time with Jim's brother Dick as well.

In addition to traveling, Jim had many hobbies he enjoyed which included building and flying RC airplanes and going to car shows with his '67 Corvette. He was a member of the Radio Control Club of Detroit where he enjoyed meeting others and flying his airplanes with them. His little fur buddy, Ruffey, was a source of joy over the last 8 years.

Jim lived a blessed and full life; he was truly a family man who was proud of his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all of their accomplishments. He was a loving, selfless, kind, compassionate person to all he knew. We find peace knowing he is no longer in pain and celebrating in heaven with those who have gone before him. We will see you again, Jim, Dad, Grandpa. Enjoy paradise, fly high and watch over us all!

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice. Jim was a supporter of Michigan Humane Society, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Hospice of Michigan.

Comments



“ Jim never missed a motorcycle lunch run at Riverside. Enjoyed his company while eating at various locations in Southwest Florida. Jim will be missed. Bill and Sue Jorgensen



Bill and Sue Jorgensen - February 12 at 06:38 AM



“ It is fellow workers I worked with at Ford like Jim that made it worthwhile. Jim was always ready to help and knew who to contact to get the job done right. I miss you Jim

Ralph Rappuhn

RAIph RAppuhn - February 05 at 04:29 PM



“ Dad was my best friend, a true 'father' in every sense of the word. He never let anyone down that he cared about. I am one of the lucky ones to be part of a family of this caliber. Wise beyond belief and a true patriot my Dad was not just a good man but a great man. Rest in peace father you will be forever missed.

I love you, your son Glenn

Glenn Hartshorn - February 05 at 02:30 PM



“ Bonnie, Wendy, Glenn and families - We are so very sorry! We love each one of you and share in this loss with you. We have wonderful memories spent skiing, boating and just 'being' together. Those memories will live forever and one day we will all spend time with Jim again. We have that promise! We are with you in thought and are holding you up in prayer. You have one another and a lifetime of memories, this is the time you'll need both most. If we can do anything at all, we're here for you. We will miss Jim tremendously! Love and prayers - Larry, Vonnie and Bronwyn Dibble

Vonnie Dibble - February 04 at 12:43 PM



“ Our hearts go out to Wendy, Bonnie, and the whole family and friends of Jim. I will miss seeing him walking around up north by the lake and walking Ruffey. I will miss our talks about classic cars and his stories of the past. He was a super generous man who loved to help anyone out. Heaven gained a true angel and glad he will be at peace eternally. I will be making a donation at Michigan Humane Society in his name and even get my company to match my donation. Hugs and prayers to the family and friends.

Shalimar Diegel - February 04 at 07:59 AM



“ Bonnie, Glenn and Family:
So very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We already had missed him at Cedar Shores, but will miss his expertise and his company even more so now.
We keep him and you in our thoughts and prayers.
Roger and Maryann Larson

Roger & Maryann - February 03 at 09:13 AM



“ I will miss seeing Jim walk Ruffey, work on his cars and motor home. Such a nice man always wave and say Hi. He will be missed

Kathleen Sue Butler - February 02 at 08:59 PM



“ Love Andy & Liz Sekela purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of James Robert Hartshorn.



Love Andy & Liz Sekela - February 02 at 03:55 PM



“ As a Holiday Ramble-Lair member we have shared a lot of laughs, fun activities and of course food with Jim and you Bonnie. He was always so helpful . We will keep these fond memories of Jim in our hearts. Blessings to you and your beautiful family at this time. Bob and Denise Swalec

robert swalec - February 02 at 02:41 PM



“ I first meet Jim at Koltanbar Engineering 56 years ago. We both wound up working at Ford and have remained very close friends.

The Petel's were shared friends from Ford and during those years our wives became good friends! The three couple shared many great times together making some wonderful memories.

Last winter we met Bonnie and Jim in Venice Florida for lunch, never dreaming that would be our last time seeing Jim. Sadly Covid kept friends and family apart. You couldn't have asked for a better friend! He was loved by many and will be missed by many! Sure God was there to welcome him with open arms!

Love Andy & Liz sekela

Andy & Liz Sekela - February 02 at 02:23 PM



“ My heart hurts for your and your family as well as us. We enjoyed spending time with you at Riverside. Jim was a wonderful man, we all are truly blessed to have known him.

Love, Fred and Elsie

Fred & Elsie Saar - February 02 at 10:48 AM



“ Your friends: Larry and Cheryl Diegel purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James Robert Hartshorn.



Your friends: **Larry and Cheryl Diegel** - February 02 at 10:41 AM



“ Bonnie & Family,

We are so sorry for the loss of Jim, your husband, Dad, Grandpa, & Great Grandpa. We have alot of memories spent with both of you when you came to Harrison for weekends. We know he will be missed very much by you all and that he will never be forgotten. Hang on to the many memories you have and remember God's promise that you will be reunited with him again someday for all eternity. God will never leave you or forsake you. Look to Him for comfort and strength to help you. He will always be there for you.

Love and Prayers, Mike and Kim Cook

Mike and Kim Cook - February 01 at 11:51 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Robert Hartshorn.



February 01 at 03:11 PM



“ My greatest role model. Forever holding your hand. Love you Gramps.

Allie - February 01 at 12:04 PM