



## James Michael Grobbel

August 20, 1934 - March 17, 2026

James “Jim” Grobbel, age 91, of Warren, Michigan, passed away on March 17, 2026, leaving behind a life defined by love, faith, hard work, and deep devotion to family.

Jim was a man who worked tirelessly to provide the very best for those he loved. At the center of his life was his beloved wife, Shirley Grobbel, his partner and best friend of 66 years. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and shared joy—often found as the last couple on the dance floor during the anniversary song, a lasting symbol of their enduring bond.

Family was always Jim’s greatest pride and joy. He was a devoted father to his five children—Ron (Sue), Gerard (Lisa), Barb (Lonnie), Michelle (PJ), and Phil (Jennifer)—and a loving grandfather (14) and great-grandfather (25). He found immense happiness in cheering on his grandchildren and great-grandchildren at their sporting events, where his voice could always be heard above the crowd. His presence was unmistakable, and his support unwavering.

Raised as a farm boy alongside nine siblings, Jim carried the values of hard work, resilience, and humility throughout his life. He also proudly served his country in the United States Army.

A man of strong Catholic faith, Jim was deeply committed to his beliefs and

could often be found praying the rosary. His faith guided him and was a quiet but powerful presence in his daily life.

Jim had a deep love for the outdoors and took great pride in the home he built in Warren, where he cultivated a large garden, a flourishing apple orchard, and, in later years, a cherished dahlia flower garden. He also treasured time spent at his property and hunting cabin in Tustin, where he enjoyed hunting, snowmobiling, playing cards, and making lifelong memories with family and friends.

He loved to travel and embraced adventure, most notably a remarkable four-month camper journey from Michigan to Alaska and back. Winters were often spent in Florida with Shirley, where Jim enjoyed playing bocce ball—whether in organized leagues or just for fun. His love for the game was so great that he later installed a bocce court at his Michigan home.

Jim was known for his joyful spirit and love of togetherness. He was an avid euchre player, always ready for a game that could last for hours. Friends and family knew his signature move well—the enthusiastic “knuckle thump” on the table followed by a triumphant “Euchre!”—a sure sign you were in good company. He also enjoyed square dancing and traveling with friends, always embracing time spent with others.

He had a generous and thoughtful heart, often collecting returnable cans to take his children and grandchildren out for ice cream—simple moments that became lasting memories. He also had a special love for his dogs, especially Lucy, who brought him great companionship.

Above all, Jim’s life was centered on love—love for his wife, his family, his faith, and the many simple joys that made life meaningful. His legacy lives on in the countless memories he created and the deep love he shared so freely.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in James' memory to either of the following charities:

-St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105  
[www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate)

-Tunnel to Towers Foundation  
2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, New York 10306  
[www.t2t.org/donate](http://www.t2t.org/donate)

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Rd  
Holly, MI 48442

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 19. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

## Rosary

MAR 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

## Instate

MAR 20. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI

## Funeral Mass

MAR 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI

*Immediately following the funeral mass, will be military honors.*

## Burial

MAR 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Rd  
Holly, MI 48442

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ Shirley, Our deepest condolences. We loved square dancing with you and Jim. He always had a wonderful smile! You were such a beautiful couple. Please know our prayers are with you. Larry & Pat Marsalese (we're in Aiken SC now)

Pat Marsalese - April 17 at 05:32 PM



“ Jim & wife Shirley rented winters in our community of Rapallo in Estero FL for many, many years. And they were irreplaceable, and SO giving our their time and talents -- not only to our Bocce program, but the Ravioli Workshops (over a dozen yrs) and special neighborhood Luaus. Both Shirley and Jim left an indelible mark on our hearts! They are sorely missed here. Our love to Shirley and all the family. Tony + Sally Caputo

S.a. Caputo - March 29 at 05:20 PM

MR

“ Shirley & Family,  
Bob & I will miss the happiest! most positive! voice on the other end of the phone. What a wonderful man Jim was & to say he lived life to the fullest was an understatement!!! He knew how to live with positivity & appreciation & respect for everything & everyone that touched his life!! But most of all the LOVE he possessed for his family was by far his greatest gift!!! Jim rest easy our dear friend you will be greatly missed but always in our hearts!! 🙏❤️

Maureen & Bob Rachko - March 24 at 10:10 AM

MR

I know you & Lucy are together!!! I bet she was right there waiting for you!!! 🐾🙏❤️

Maureen & Bob Rachko - March 24 at 10:21 AM

MF

“ 1 file added to the album *Special Photos*



-----  
**Mike Fudalla** - March 21 at 02:19 PM

SG

*A beautiful picture of a Beautiful Husband Father Grand Father & Great grand Father*

-----  
**shirley Grobbel** - March 21 at 04:05 PM

RO

“ 1 file added to the album *Special Photos*



-----  
**Ron** - March 19 at 12:15 PM

MF

*Doing what he loved.*

-----  
**Mike Fudalla** - March 19 at 06:22 PM

GS

“ *Heaven has gained another Angel!!  
Mr. Grobbel was an amazing man.  
Jim and Shirley have been our neighbors for 20+ years. We couldn't  
have been more blessed to know them.  
Our property backs up to theirs. From  
Our family room window had a "birds eye" view of their Apple tree's  
and garden. Often would see Jim out, tending to his tree's and  
garden from  
Sun up to Sun down, while in his 70's and 80's. My wife and I were  
always in awe of his stamina and energy. Over the years Jim and I  
had many conversations  
By my backyard fence while I was doing my own yard work. We are  
honored to  
have known him. Our prayers are with  
Shirley and his family 🙏🥹*

---

**Gary Sramek** - March 18 at 07:58 PM

MF

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Grobbel family. Jim and Shirley  
were neighbors for over 40 years. Hard working but always found  
time for a chat over the fence. So generous and friendly. We will all  
miss you Mr. Jim. Rest In Peace.*



---

**Mike Fudalla** - March 18 at 06:51 PM

CW

“ My deepest condolences to the Grobbel family. Jim and Shirley were my neighbors for 36 years. Jim was always smiling and waving and so generous with his amazing garden. RIP Mr Jim

-----  
**Carolyn Palumbo Wagner** - March 18 at 05:53 PM

SD

“ My deepest condolences to the Grobbel family. Barb was a great hygienist in my office for many years , and I was blessed to have Jim and Shirley and Barb’s family as patients during those great years. It was always obvious to me the love and strong family bond throughout the three generations I was able to treat. A strong sense of family and faith is a legacy that will endure for many more generations in Jim’s family. I always said to Barb that I used to enjoy her parents appointment time in my office because their sincerity and love for each other was palpable and created a warm feeling throughout the office. They were a calming presence and you couldn’t help but smile when you were with them. I feel very blessed to have had Jim as a patient for many years, it was an honor to treat Jim and his wonderful family. Barb, may you find comfort in your family and faith during this difficult time, God bless all of you.  
Steven ( Jill) Berlin, DDS

-----  
**Steven Berlin DDS** - March 18 at 03:40 PM

MD

So sorry for your family’s loss, I will miss sharing meals with him on the camping trips, and seeing his smiling face. Sending hugs and prayers to your family. 🙏🥹🙏

-----  
**Michael Davis** - March 18 at 07:30 PM

SA

“ Jim (Mr. Grobbel) was truly a great neighbor where I grew up on Martin Road. Always friendly, thoughtful and very generous in sharing his fruits and vegetables with neighbors and always helping others.

Sue Austin - March 18 at 11:05 AM

KL

“ Kathleen Little sent a virtual gift in memory of James Michael Grobbel



Kathleen Little - March 18 at 08:12 AM

KL

Uncle Jim was my godfather someone who I could look up to when I was growing up. I will always remember the love and kindness he showed me when with us on this earth. He always has a place in my heart. RIP until we meet again.

Kathleen Little - March 18 at 08:14 AM

MK

My daughter Genny married into the family. When we went to meet Kyle's Grandpa Jim I knew immediately we were blessed because our whole family referred to him as Grandpa Jim and Grandma Shirley that's how he made us feel so loved as his own not just the in-laws! I will forever remember my daughter's wedding because Grandpa Jim filled it with his beautiful dahlias. It was truly an honor and a blessing to have known him, wish we could've had more time but I know we will have an eternity in Heaven someday. Rest in peace Grandpa Jim.

Madlein Kobrossi - March 18 at 12:26 PM

FN

*Dear Shirley, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in the loss of Jim. May he find rest and peace in the arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*Fred and Annise Nicholas*

---

**Fred & Annise Nicholas** - March 19 at 09:49 PM