



## James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive

November 11, 1942 - November 27, 2020

James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive, age 78 of Albia passed away on Friday, November 27, 2020, surrounded by his loved ones at his home, under the care of EveryStep Hospice and his family.

Jimmy was born in Iowa City, IA the 12th child of William E and Mary Ann Bingaman Flahive. He lived in Weller and spent his childhood in a big 2-story house in Lovilia. Jimmy lost his dad at the young age of 9 and his brother Bill got him a German shepherd named Shep to keep him company. He was so proud of training Shep and he kept him company pulling the sled as he delivered newspapers. He loved making 'gravel shooters' every summer and playing outside barefoot until the weather got cold with brother Johnny and neighborhood friends. He spent many a weekend and summer days at the farms of his aunts and uncles where he was doted on and a love of farming was instilled.

He attended school in Lovilia where he was proud to say he was a 'star pupil'. He always said his mind was on squirrel hunting instead of school work.

Jimmy moved to Albia for his junior year and graduated in 1961. It was here that a certain redhead caught his eye and he was smitten. Jim married Diane Bettis on December 8, 1962 at St. Peter's Church in Lovilia. 'Big Red' as he nicknamed her later.

His working career started at Fred Dunkin's and Standard gas stations. He worked for the railroad, delivered LP gas and finally at John Deere Ottumwa Works where he retired after 30 years in 1996.

His true passion was farming and was thrilled when he got his first pigs, which he kept at Ben Grayson's place. He rented the Bickert place on highway 5, moved his family there to pursue farming and finally bought his 247 acre farm in Mantua township in 1972. He spent every evening and weekend working the farm often making him late to family functions or kid's activities. He enjoyed meeting and working with his neighbors over the years and they often heard colorful commentary when things didn't quite go as planned. He was so

proud of the equipment he purchased over time and enjoyed having row crops, hay ground, cattle and pigs, often to the chagrin of Diane.

Jimmy loved coon hunting and always had hounds and later jumping mules. He showed off their jumping skills to anyone who visited the farm. He enjoyed spending time coon and deer hunting with family and friends, adventures that usually included mule wine and other beverages.

He was very proud of his farm and thoroughly enjoyed showing it off at all of the family events held there including family reunions and hayrides. He purchased a team of mules and a high-wheeled wagon which he drove in parades hauling as many kids as he could fit. His Farmall Super MTA was a source of pride.

Jimmy was quite a storyteller and would talk to anyone willing to listen. It was rare to see him without a grin on his face when he entered the room. To say he lived life full bore would be an understatement. He absolutely loved to dance and spent many Saturday nights at St. Peter's Hall in Lovilia dancing and living it up with family and friends. The North End in Lovilia was one of his favorite haunts. He never turned down an opportunity to enjoy a cold beer and tell a story to his friends, old and new.

He was beyond proud of his family and loved them all unconditionally and was especially proud when he fathered twin girls in 1978. He loved babies and his face lit up every time he held the newest addition to the Flahive clan.

Jimmy is survived by his wife Diane; 5 children, Kendra Sinclair, Jeff (LinAnn) Flahive, Lisa (Marty) Hermsen, Sarah (Adam) Scieszinski, and Susan Leshen; 18 grandchildren, Abbey Sinclair, Angie Wells, Emily Flahive, Jessica Flahive, Daniel (Sydney) Flahive, Pason (Brooke) Hermsen, Landon Hermsen, Dawson (Kenley Pettit) Hermsen, Chase (Sara) Farrell, Carson Farrell, Cash Hall, Wil Scieszinski, Tristian Hall, Kendra Hall, Gannon Steffen, Jessica Tokle, Jack Leshen, and Josie Rutherford; 4 great grandchildren, Elizabeth Diane, Olivia Rose and Priscilla Anne Farrell, and Everly Grace Hermsen; and 2 sisters, Catherine (Jack) Thomas of San Marcos, CA and Delores Littlejohn of West Des Moines, IA. Jimmy is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Mary Ann Flahive; 3 brothers, Edward, William, and John Flahive; 7 sisters, Madeline Stanley, Bernice Flattery, Mary 'Tess' Grimes, Geraldine Grimes, Marjorie Martin, Florence Welch, and Joann Derby; 3 sons-in-law, Chris Hall, Kirk Leshen, and Bill Sinclair and a grandson-in-law Chad Wells.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Jimmy's family present to greet family and friends. A rosary will be held at 4:00 p.m. and a Christian Wake service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

A mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Father Mark Yates C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial will follow services at St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia. Due to the most recent proclamation and enhanced public health measures for the state of Iowa, masks will be mandatory for those in attendance over the age of 2 for both visitation and the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia, EveryStep Hospice or Monroe County Hospital & Clinics.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.tharpfh.com](http://www.tharpfh.com).

# Cemetery

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## St. Mary's Cemetery

Albia, IA,

# Events

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**DEC 1** **Visitation** 01:00PM - 08:00PM

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Tharp Funeral Home

116 Benton Ave., West Albia, IA, US, 52531

**DEC 1** **Rosary** 04:00PM

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**DEC 1** **Christain Wake Service** 06:00PM

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**DEC 2** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:30AM

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St. Mary's Catholic Church

730 Benton Ave W, Albia, IA, US

# Comments

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“ Jeff and LinAnn, I am so sorry to hear about Jeff's dad. May he rest in peace and may your memories help you through your grief. You are in my prayers. Teresa (Caracci) Smith

**Teresa Smith** - December 01, 2020 at 02:10 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Jimmy will be missed . Bob and Jimmy we're friends a long time and shared many hunting trips to CO . together.  
Bob and LeAnn Van Polen

**Bob and LeAnn Van Polen** - December 01, 2020 at 01:40 PM

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“ So much love, Renee (Mullins) Curfman purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive.



**So much love, Renee (Mullins) Curfman** - December 01, 2020 at 01:32 PM

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“ Bill and Lisa Scieszinski, and boys purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive.



**Bill and Lisa Scieszinski, and boys** - November 30, 2020 at 05:11 PM

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“ Dearest Aunt Diane, Kendra, Jeff, Lisa, Susan, and Sarah,

I was so sad to hear about Uncle Jim's passing and I am sending all of you my deepest condolences. Another Flahive angel has entered heaven and I can picture them all together once again...what a happy thought. May his memory always remain in your hearts and fill you with love forever. He was a wonderfully warm man and I will always remember him smiling.

With love and hugs,  
Kathy Stanley-Brown

Kathleen Stanley-Brown - November 30, 2020 at 03:40 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive.



November 29, 2020 at 09:25 PM

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“ Friends thru high school and the rest.....we have many fun memories thru high school(going to dances(Harris Hop), ‘scoopin’ the loop’, hunting for watermelons and the night of the famous, “Five Guys on a Small Motorcycle from Loviia(dance) to Albia Ride”!!!! Then we go on to share all the years of raising our families. The honor of being Godparents to Lisa, for us and David for you. And we continued going to dances all those years. I remember being at a dance at K C’s in Albia. Jimmy was bursting to tell and he told the news, you were having TWINS!!! He was so happy. Jimmy was inspirational to watch with all his grands and great grands. He loved them each fiercely and was always there with a warm smile, twinkle in his eye and a squzze for them.

We have shared many fun memories and some heartbreaking times together. As the song goes, “That’s what friend’s are for”. We may not feel much like smiling yet but we will when we remember this life lived with so much love.

Our friend, Jimmy’s; fun - loving, generous, loyal spirit was one in whose presence you were glad to be.

With a lifetime of loving friendship, Rose and (Larry) and family



Rose Lennie - November 29, 2020 at 01:55 PM

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“ Bill & Corinne Thomas purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive.



Bill & Corinne Thomas - November 29, 2020 at 01:28 PM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive.



November 29, 2020 at 11:24 AM

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“ Heaven has gained another Flahive angel. My heart breaks for you, Diane and each member of your family and mine. God bless you all these next days and weeks. I love you all.

**Kathy Herwehe** - November 28, 2020 at 09:29 PM

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“ Jim was a classmate. He will be missed, always a smile and hello. Diane I am so sorry for your loss.

**linda rowley mann** - November 28, 2020 at 09:21 PM

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“ JIM AND I WHERE CLASSMATES AT ALBIA HIGH SCHOOL ,,WORKED ON THE RAILROAD TOGETHER ONE SUMMER , MANY GOOD MEMORIES THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO DIANE AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY,,,,, KEEP ON DANCING IN HEAVEN JIMMY YOU WILL BE MISS,,,,,



**ED MCGINN** - November 28, 2020 at 07:36 PM

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“ Diane and family, I was so sorry to hear about Jimmy's passing. He was such a genuine man! Please accept my heartfelt sympathies.  
Bonnie Preston Ewing

Bonnie Preston Ewing - November 28, 2020 at 07:27 PM

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“ Diane and Family, We were so sorry to hear about Jimmy! Steve was a classmate and always told me what a great guy he was. When I got to meet you at the first class reunion-you and Jimmy made me feel just as welcome. Steve knows many "Jimmy" stories from high school. We were always happy to have an opportunity to see both of you when ever we had a chance. We know he will leave a huge void in your family-hold on to those memories and may God hold Jimmy in the palm of his hand.

Steve and Rosie Murphy

Steve & Rose Murphy - November 28, 2020 at 07:13 PM

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“ Uncle Jimmy was a wonderful man. He was a staple in the Flahive family. He was a person when you heard his name a smile came to your face. You always felt like you were special when you were around him. Thank you for loving me Uncle Jimmy. We love you so very much. Can only imagine the reunion in Heaven! Rest In Peace my sweet uncle. Praying for Diane, the kids, and all our family during this difficult loss. God bless you! Beverly (Grimes) Selby

Beverly Selby - November 28, 2020 at 06:12 PM



“ Uncle Jimmy was so much fun. My sister Shelly and I spent time at the farm every summer and we loved it! Like Bev said, he always made you feel special. When we were little he would always encourage us to eat our carrots because it would “grow hair on our chest.” I always hoped he was wrong!

Sandy Olson - November 28, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ Diane and family Prayers to all of you

Margaret Mordan - December 02, 2020 at 12:07 AM

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“ Jimmy was a great guy and will be missed by many, prayers for Diane and all his family and friends

**kenny and Barb Lovstuen** - November 28, 2020 at 06:06 PM

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“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jimmy" Michael Flahive.



November 28, 2020 at 06:01 PM

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“ Diane and family, So sorry to hear about Jimmy. Always had a story. He will be missed.

Hugs and Love. (Smitty, that's what Jim always called me) Diane and Phil

**Diane Whitson** - November 28, 2020 at 05:55 PM