



## James Russell Darby Jr.

September 12, 1940 - October 22, 2017

James Russell Darby Jr, age 77, of Albia, passed away Sunday, October 22, 2017 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

James was born on September 12, 1940 to J. Russell Sr. and Dorothy Alice (Boardman) Darby at home in Monroe County, Iowa. He grew up and attended the Moravia High School graduating with the Class of 1958. On May 31, 1970 he was united in marriage to Catherine Schoolen in Albia. James and Catherine shared 29 years of marriage together until her passing on March 26, 2000.

James was employed to do survey work for the D.O.T. for a short time. He then worked at Chamberlains in Albia until the company closed. James lastly did small engine repair work for the various John Deere Dealerships around the area. He had a love for trains. James was a member of several train clubs and enjoyed collecting them and attending train swap meets. He never knew a stranger and enjoyed conversation. His real joy in life was spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his two children, Mark (Debbie) Jackson of Albia and Robin Bettis of Des Moines; five grandchildren, Crystal (Chad) Muck, Tim Jackson, Lindsay (Michael) Smead, Kendra Jackson and Jennifer Reich; ten great grandchildren, Chloe, Damon, Isabella, Rylie, Ryan, Delanie, Aiden, Justice,

Isaiah and Finnley. James is also survived by a sister, Barbara (Jerry) Coop of Blakesburg; and two cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Catherine Darby; his parents, J. Russell Sr. and Dorothy Darby and a brother in infancy, William.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, October 27, 2017 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Father Mike Volkmer C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial will follow with services at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Lovilia.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with James's family present from 6:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m., to greet family and friends.

A memorial has been established to the Woodlawn Cemetery and Eslinger Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **26**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home  
116 Benton Ave.  
Albia, IA 52531  
(641) 932-3129  
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

## Memorial Service

OCT **27**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home  
116 Benton Ave.  
Albia, IA 52531  
(641) 932-3129  
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Russell Darby Jr.*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *James Russell Darby Jr.*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *I first met Jim many years ago at a train meet in Des Moines. I loved talking trains with him. There was little he didn't know about trains and railroading, a walking encyclopedia. He was also a master craftsman, I bought many of his projects, always done perfectly. But mostly Jim was just a nice guy, RIP Jim.*

**Old Dave Dunn** - December 10, 2017 at 11:00 AM



“ *I have many fond memories of growing up in Avery with Robin and Mark. Yes Robin and I were mean to Mark but we survived. My biggest memory was Jims love for trains and the smell of his pipe. RIP Jim.*

**Betty Thompson** - October 26, 2017 at 05:51 PM




*My dad and Jim were friends they work together at Chamberlain's for years remember getting drink parts for my trade from him and I was a little kid sorry for your loss I know you was a good friend of my dad's Lawrence donmer*

**Phillip dommer** - October 27, 2017 at 08:15 AM

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“ Thoughts & Prayers to the family. I have only know Jim the last few years and just met with him two weeks ago, we were working on his insurance and he always wanted to save a buck if he could and that is what we were doing. He showed me his trains and what his project he was working on and building. We talked a while about trains and the smile on his face you just knew how much he enjoyed it. Jim always greeted me with a smile and saying Hey Kid you looking for me. I am so sorry to hear of his passing as he always treated me like I was family and his passion for trains touched me more than he will ever know as my Grandpa was always into trains as well. A wonderful man that will be so greatly missed. Susan Sales.


Susan - October 26, 2017 at 09:41 AM

 Lightning Reich

“ Jim with 3 of his 10 great grandchildren 2014. Justice, Isaiah, and Finnley. (Jennifer's children)



Lightning Reich - October 25, 2017 at 06:09 PM

 Lightning Reich

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lightning Reich - October 25, 2017 at 06:02 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - *"Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of James Russell Darby Jr..*



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October 25, 2017 at 02:26 PM



“ The old stucco house, trips to the donut shop, the sound of trains in the background, the smell of the sweet tabaco pipe....poppy will live on in the memories of everyone who knew him❤️ Sarah

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**sarah** - October 25, 2017 at 09:48 AM



Yes my friend, great memories!

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**Lightning Reich** - October 26, 2017 at 11:10 AM



“ There was a huge spider with a web on the corner of the front porch. Jennie loved that spider and tales were told of its adventures. Jim came out with a broom and was going to sweep the web away but Jennies tears kept it alive; and the web and the spider remained for a few months. He was allowed to sweep it down when the spider moved on. Not many guys would allow a huge black spider to live on the corner of a porch but Jim did just to please his little grand daughter. Now that is a good guy. I think we all know that he was a kind and generous man and would help anyone and everyone. He was definantly a good person and I was lucky to know him and able to talk to him when I saw him. I got current updates on all the grand kids. He liked talking about them and telling me what they were up to.

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**Julie Beal** - October 25, 2017 at 08:58 AM



*Thank you for sharing Julie, it warmed my heart! -Jennifer*

**Lightning Reich** - October 26, 2017 at 11:08 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Russell Darby Jr..*



October 25, 2017 at 08:24 AM