



## James Elsworth Dunning

December 16, 1935 - January 28, 2017

James Elsworth Dunning, age 81, of Albia, passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at the Ottumwa Regional Hospital in Ottumwa.

James was born on December 16, 1935, to Robert and Cordie (Covert) Dunning in Ottumwa where he grew up and attended country school. He was united in marriage to Reva Rhatigan on June 4th, 1955. Together they shared 60 years of marriage.

James worked at Coca-Cola in Ottumwa for over 40 years. He loved being outdoors, doing things such as hunting, fishing, gardening, and flower gardening. He enjoyed working on cars and square dancing. His true joy in life was spending time with family and friends.

James is survived by his wife, Reva Dunning of Albia; 3 children, Jim Dunning of Avery, William (Amy) Dunning of Mitchellville, and Scott (Gina) Dunning of Avery; 6 grandchildren, Darcy, Tristan, Vanessa, Brian, Jennifer, and Charles; 8 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters, Cindy (Bill) Bagley of Albia and Betty (Pat) Cameron of Agency; 3 sisters-in-law, Sandy, Edna, and Marilyn; and a brother-in-law, Howard. James is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Cordie; his parents in-

law, Howard Rhatigan and Raymond and Betty Jones; 3 children, Pam, Beth, and Raymond; and 6 siblings, Bud Dunning, Irene Kopp, Katie Soots, Tom Dunning, Sharon Murphy, and Bob Dunning.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Pastor Roger Henry officiating. Burial will follow the service at Cuba Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with James's family present to greet friends and family from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

An open memorial been established in James's name to be determined at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## Cuba Cemetery

Avery, IA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 31. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

FEB 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Elsworth Dunning*

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January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *James Elsworth Dunning*

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January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM

ML

“ It wasn't until the last few days when I started thinking about Jim that I realized how big of an impact he had on my life. He was an upstanding man of morals and charisma and when I became a part of the family I was young and dumb and didn't appreciate what an amazing man he was. He had the patience of a saint especially with me. When I screwed up (and I did a lot) he wasn't afraid to call me out on it. But when he did it was with a gentleness and respect few people possess. There were quite a few times that Darcy used to ask me to go up and help Grandpa with whatever project he was is working on. I'm going to be honest sometimes it was the last thing in the world that I wanted to do, but I did, and I never once regretted it afterwards. Whether it was picking his peaches from the tree or tinkering on the lawn mower in the garage we would always have time to talk. Even if it wasn't even about anything important. When I said that I didn't realize the impact that he had on my life until recently it's because of one of those moments that I went to help when I didn't want to. He explained to me how high is expectations were of me, as a husband to his granddaughter, as a father to his great-grandchildren, and as my responsibility to myself to be a good man. Now at the time these words fell on deaf ears and I simply nodded in agreement. But it's funny now words that were spoken so long ago and so easily dismissed at the time are so powerful in my mind right now. As far as being a good husband I regret the things that I didn't do right. as far as a good father, I love my children more than life itself. As far as my responsibility to be a good man, I'm trying. And I hope that I've become even half of what you expected of me. I guess all I want to say now is that I hope someday I have the positive impact on someone's life that you had on mine. And I wish but I could have one last afternoon picking peaches or tinkering in the garage. I love you grandpa Dunning

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**Matt Lucas** - February 07, 2017 at 06:08 PM

DL

“ Debra L. purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James Elsworth Dunning.



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**Debra L.** - January 31, 2017 at 11:05 AM

TY

“ I have so many childhood memories. I will always remember his smile when seeing all of us kids playing together. My heart goes out to the family of friends of this very special person.

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**Tonya Young** - January 29, 2017 at 11:22 PM

LW

“ So sorry for your loss Reva, sending prayers to you and your family.

*Larry & Phyllis Whitson*

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**Larry & Phyllis Whitson** - January 29, 2017 at 04:32 PM