



James "Jim" Franklin Plum, Sr.

August 1, 1939 - April 30, 2015

James Franklin Plum Sr., 75, of Albia, Iowa passed away April 30, 2015, after a lengthy illness, surrounded by his family at Oakwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Albia.

Jim was born in Bussey, Iowa on August 1, 1939 to Harlon and Rose Plum. A 1957 graduate of Bussey High School, Jim went on to serve ten years of active duty with the U.S. Navy and retired from the Naval Reserve. He met the love of his life, Carolyn Whitson and they were married on October 29, 1960. He worked for the Department of Defense in Fort Meade Maryland as a Special Research Analyst and a Chinese linguist. After Jim's retirement they moved back to Albia.

A devoted husband, father, and brother, Jim cherished time spent with his family at get-togethers and reunions. He also enjoyed woodworking, baseball, as well as reading to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, often using silly voices, to their amusement. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Albia and had a deep, abiding faith. Jim was also a CASA volunteer, advocating for neglected and abused children in Monroe County Courts.

Jim had a unique ability to comfort family members and friends with just a firm hand on the shoulder, while offering words of wisdom. This small yet sincere

act, along with his quick wit and unassuming nature, will be greatly missed by all.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn (Whitson) Plum; a son and daughter-in-law, Jim Jr. and Denise Plum of Maryland; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Theresa Plum, of Maryland; Angie and Bob Mort of Indiana, Katy and Paul Schwingle of New York and Laura and Tom Halleman of Pennsylvania; four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Jane and Doran Haywood, Martha and Johnny Popson, Rose Plum and Mary Plum; and two brothers, the very handsome John T.S. Plum and Joe Plum; 16 grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Larry and Phyllis Whitson, brother-in-law, Jerry Whitson, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Phil and Diane Whitson, brother-in-law, Wayne Whitson, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harlon Eugene and Rosella Mae (Samuel) Plum, and two sisters, Susan Plum and Peggy Plum, a brother-in-law, Steven Whitson, a mother-in-law and father-in-law, Alberta and Cecil Whitson.

Jim's family would like to thank Care Initiatives Hospice for their selfless work and care they showed for him, as well as his family. They were truly dedicated to assisting all through a very difficult time.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, May 4, 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Father Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial will follow services at Oak View Cemetery in Albia with military rites provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose, and Lovilia.

Visitation will be held from 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Jim's family present from 4- 8:00 p.m. A 4:00 p.m.

rosary will be led by St. Mary's Altar and Rosary society and a wake service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Welcome Home Soldier Memorial Park in Albia, Iowa or Lewy Body Dementia Association (lbda.org).

Tribute Wall



“ James "Jim" Franklin Plum, Sr.

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ James "Jim" Franklin Plum, Sr.

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to Carolyn and Jim's entire family. I worked with Jim the last while before he retired. I really looked up to him as a true servant of our country and he taught me so much in that short time. May his memory live on forever and may you find comfort in the wonderful person that he was and is. Prayers for your family at this difficult time.

Lance Harvey - Smithfield, UT - colleague - May 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ CAROLYN I AM SO SORRY FOR THE LOSS OF YOUR HUSBAND JIM. I KNOW WE HAVE LOST TOUCH BUT I KEEP UP WITH PICTURES OF CLASS REUNIONS AND SEEING YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND THERE. IS INTERESTING BECAUSE MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER WERE PLUMS BUT I DON'T BELIEVE RELATED TO JIM. GRANDMOTHER WAS JENNY PLUM STEWART LENNIE OF ALBIA. MY CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY....SINCERELY, JANICE AND WAYNE SCHROEDER

JANICE {STEWART} SCHROEDER - DODGE CITY, KS - CLASSMATE - May 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Sorry for the loss of a good MAN.

jerry smoot SR. - pasadena, MD - Son-in-law - May 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ My sympathy to the family on Jim's passing. He is one of my favorite teenage memories. We used to challenge each other by playing basketball in my backyard (a hoop attached to our garage in the back yard.) Always used to share a lot of our thoughts even if we totally disagreed. Always admired how smart he was when it came to school classes and tests. He gave me a lot of help when it came to Math. His sister Susan was in my brothers class--(5 years older) Jims dad known to us as Plumy was good friend of my Dad and was at out house often. God bless all of Jim;s family and bring you peace in this sorrowful time.

Marion (Baltzley) Vanderhorst - Jacksonville, FL - Childhood friend in Bussey, Iowa - May 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Wish we could be there to celebrate the life of Jim. Our love and prayers are with Carolyn and our whole family with the passing of this kind and loving man. God Bless. Peg & Dick Sperring

Richard & Peg Sperring - Lancaster, PA - Carolyn's cousin - May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Jim and I were roommates at the Army Language School in Monterey, California where we studied Chinese Mandarin. We were fresh from boot camp and A School. Studies were hard, but we also had a lot of fun on the base and in and around Monterey and Carmel. I remember how much he looked forward to mail call, especially for the letters from Carolyn. After language school we both went to the Philippines and later to Japan. We got together at Ft. Meade once or twice and then we lost touch as I got stationed elsewhere. We did have a wonderful conversation on the phone a few months ago and I have kept track via Carolyn's Facebook page. I will continue to stay in touch with Facebook. Jim will be in the book of prayers at Our Lady Star of the Sea church in Solomons, Maryland this Sunday.

Bob Smith - Lusby, MD - Shipmate - May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Carolyn and family, I am so sorry for your loss! May Jim rest in peace!
Barb & Dick Seibert

Barbara Seibert - Waukee, IA - friend - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ We will miss you, Uncle Jim! Glad for all the times we were able to share with you over the years. Our hearts go out to Aunt Carolyn and all of the family. May you rest in Peace.

Audrey Debije-Popson, Michael Debije, Oskar Debije - Eindhoven, the Netherlands - niece, nephew-in- - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I am SOOOO sorry to read this Mr. Jim was a "giant" of a man in so many ways. I'm so glad you all were together until the end. Love, hugs and prayers to all of you.

Karla Shaw (Perry) - Glen Burnie, MD - Long-time family friend - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ My grandfather was a gentle giant to all who gazed up at him in both physical awe and thoughtful reverence. A protector. A patriarch. A pillar of strength we could all lean against when we were weakened by life's trials.

Though deeply saddened by the passing of this wonderfully beautiful soul, I am equally happy to be able to honor the life of my favorite man while being surrounded by our great, loving family.

May the days to follow bring comfort in the arms of our loved ones and serenity in the knowledge that Pop is still watching over us all with a love as grand as his stature.

Jerry - MD - eldest grandson - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ It's shocking to hear of a friend's death, even though we all get older, but the memories of Jim remain.
We were stationed together in Japan in the early 1960's ... in fact, lived next door to Jim and Carol for 2 years. Most of our kids (both families) were born in Japan and started out life together.
We lived in a great neighborhood on base and we all did a lot together ... including the day we flew 3 large kites (for most of the day) while Jim ran around trying to find more string (actually heavy cord because they flew so high).
Jim was a great basketball player and kicked my butt many times ... in fact, I think he could have turned pro.
Guess I'm rambling on, but just wanted to relate a few memories of our time with Jim.
Barbara and I haven't seen Jim or Carol in quite a while, but it doesn't lessen the sadness we feel on his death.
Burnie & Barbara Willey

Burnie Willey - The Villages, FL - Friend - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Angie Bob and family, so sorry for your loss, still remember while we were all on Medical Mission when you got message that he was so ill. Prayers always to you...Dale and Sandra Rutledge

sandra rutledge - bluford,il 62814, IL - friend - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Hugs and prayers.

kelli besst meyer - davenport, IA - family - April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM