



James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr.

December 22, 1959 - March 20, 2026

James "Jim" Murray Rouse, Jr., age 66, of Albia, IA, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Monroe County Hospital in Albia, under the care of Care Initiatives Hospice.

Jim was born on December 22, 1959, in Oskaloosa, IA, to James "Murray" Sr. and Margaret (Gray) Rouse. He grew up attending school in Albia and later moved with his family to Lakeside, California when he was 12, where he went on to graduate from El Capitan High School. He continued his education studying electronics and computer science while in the Marines. On December 27, 1981, he was united in marriage to Linda Topp in Yuma, Arizona. Jim and Linda were blessed with 3 daughters, Launa, Suzanne, and Sadie, and shared 44 years of marriage prior to his passing.

In his younger years, Jim worked alongside his father, Murray, doing construction work. He then served his country with honor in the United States Marine Corps for 20 years working as a Radar Technician and in air traffic control, retiring as an E7 Gunnery Sergeant. His service took him to California, Tennessee, Okinawa, and Australia. Upon returning home, Jim dedicated his career to doing construction and concrete work. He was extremely gifted at his craft and built numerous houses over the years.

A man of strong faith, Jim was a member of the First Christian Church in

Albia. He also belonged to the NRA (National Rifle Association), Astor Lodge #505, and Shriners International. Jim enjoyed collecting and shooting guns, especially at the Recreational Shooting Mounds. He had an interest in CB radios and loved playing computer games. He also enjoyed riding motorcycles, especially trail bikes. He was a history enthusiast and enjoyed watching the history channel. Above all else, Jim loved his family and cherished the time spent with them.

Jim is survived by his wife, Linda; 3 daughters, Launa (Timothy) Paul, Suzanne (Ryan) Howell, and Sadie Rule; 6 grandchildren, Lorelei Paul, Remi Paul, Thatcher Rule, Wembley Rule, Adelyn Howell, and Julian Howell; his parents, Murray and Margaret Rouse; a brother, Jeff (Diana) Rouse; a sister, Julie Messer; and his nieces and nephews, Jason (Meagan) Rouse, Tyler (Ashleigh) Rouse, Mallery (Kyle) King, Trevor (Brooke) Rouse, Jamie (CJ) Lukins, and Natalie Messer, Jim is also survived by several great nieces and nephews, cousins, and good friends.

Jim is preceded in death by his grandparents, Everett and Violet Rouse and Floyd and Alice Gray.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Jim's family present to greet family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the First Christian Church in Albia, with Pastor John Sowers officiating. Burial with military honors provided by the American Legion of Albia, Lovilia, and Melrose, will follow services at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Monroe County.

Memorials have been established to the First Christian Church in Albia, the Monroe County Hospital, and the Wounded Warriors Program.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Albia, IA 52531

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 23. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAR 24. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Christian Church
203 Washington Ave East
Albia, IA 52531

Tribute Wall

CR

“ I'm so sorry to see that my cousin Jimmy has passed away. I hadn't seen him since we were kids, but I have memories of him being just an all-around good guy. My condolences to his family.

Carolynn Rouse - March 28 at 06:05 PM

DJ

“ I served with Jim. So sorry to hear he has passed. Great sense of humor and all around good guy.

Doug Jordan - March 24 at 04:34 AM

LA

“ Laura lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr.



Laura - March 23 at 05:10 PM

JN

“ Jamie N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..

Jamie N. - March 23 at 03:44 PM

“ Jim’s life was a unique mashup of experiences; some coming from living in California, Tennessee, Okinawa, and Australia, others like his 20 years of service in the military or joy of trail bikes. Sharing those experiences, along with a love of history, made for great conversations when he found the time...and he would make the time.

However, I will always remember Jim as a truly transformative artist, someone whose creative expression transcended the boundaries of conventional mediums. Unlike many, Jim found artistry not in paint or sculpture, but in the very tools and materials of home construction. His vision and skill turned ordinary spaces into works of art, blending function and design in ways that were both unique and deeply personal.

On two projects, Jim took Helen and my vision and brought it to life with remarkable innovation and creativity. The first was the exterior of our home. Jim approached the project with a thoughtful eye, considering not only the architectural structure but the purposeful design we hoped to evoke. His use of materials, textures, and colors transformed our house into a welcoming sanctuary, reflecting both Helen and my personalities and his artistic flair.

The second occasion was the interior of our rental property. Jim’s approach was just as meticulous and imaginative. He understood our vision for a comfortable, inviting space and worked tirelessly to realize it. From the smallest details to the overall layout, every decision he made elevated the space, turning it into a place where tenants could feel truly at home.

Jim’s work has left a lasting mark on our lives. His ability to merge artistry with construction enriched our homes and inspired us to see the beauty in the everyday materials of life. Whenever I think of Jim, I am reminded of how he reshaped not just physical spaces, but our understanding of what it means to be an artist. His legacy lives on in the walls, rooms, and exteriors he touched—a testament to his

transformative vision.

Matt Foster

Matthew Foster - March 23 at 03:32 PM

DM

“ *Dan McDonald purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..*



Dan McDonald - March 23 at 08:36 AM

DM

“ *Dan McDonald planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..*

Dan McDonald - March 23 at 08:36 AM

JR

“ *Jason, Meagan, Ella & Lila Rouse purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..*



Jason, Meagan, Ella & Lila Rouse - March 23 at 06:42 AM

AF

“ Aunt Barb and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..



Aunt Barb and Family - March 22 at 07:16 PM

AF

“ Aunt Barb and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..

Aunt Barb and Family - March 22 at 07:16 PM

MF

“ Madison Family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..



Madison Family - March 22 at 06:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..



March 22 at 01:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..

March 22 at 01:26 PM



“ Oh my, Jimmy, we had some great childhood times! I remember sledding and playing on that huge pile of dirt your dad dug when our house got a new basement. Fly high in Heaven and give my love to Grampa and Grandma Rouse. My condolences to family and friends. My heart goes out especially to Uncle Murray, Aunt Marg, Jeff, and Julie. Also to his wife, children, and grandchildren. You're in my thoughts and prayers. Though miles separate us, I think of you.

Sherrie Gile - March 22 at 11:14 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..



March 22 at 08:56 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..



March 22 at 08:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..

March 22 at 08:52 AM



“ The Vasapolli Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Murray Rouse Jr..



The Vasapolli Family - March 22 at 08:10 AM



“ Jimmy we're going to miss you. You always liked to put on the Marine personality, but it didn't take much for Jason and I to say something so ridiculous you couldn't help but smile. I'll miss the crazy late night chats on military life, politics, and the spirited gun debates. I always appreciated your opinion, advice, and help. We'll always remember the trips to the range and teaching us all the cool gun knowledge you had. I wish you had more time with us Jim. There was much more fun ahead, but God was calling you home so those times will have to wait. We'll see you again someday, but until then, rest easy Uncle Jimbo and we'll never forget you.

Tyler, Ashleigh, and Piper Rouse

Tyler Rouse - March 21 at 10:41 PM



“ I got to know Jim when we were building our house in 2002. And always enjoyed our conversations. I wish Carol and I could be at the funeral. Gonna miss you Jim.

Gary Scott - March 21 at 08:12 PM