



James "Jim" Austin

May 8, 1945 - July 23, 2025

James "Jim" Austin, age 80, of Canton, Michigan, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2025.

Beloved husband of Arlene (née Rimarcik) for 57 years. Jim and Arlene were married on June 8, 1968, in Detroit and built a life rich with love, laughter, and family.

Loving father to Pam Austin, Katie (Tony) Bahu, and Kelly (John) Doyle.

Proud and devoted Papa to Emily Bahu, Alexa Bahu, Connor Doyle, Austin Doyle, and Johnny Bahu.

He is also survived by his dear sister, Gerry (Kenny) Sulewski, and many cherished relatives and friends.

Born on May 8, 1945, in Highland Park, Michigan, to the late Cliff and Mary (née Kasetta) Austin, Jim grew up with a deep appreciation for music, sports and family. He graduated from St. Andrew High School in 1963, where he played both basketball and baseball. He carried his love for classic doo-wop music and dancing throughout his life.

A proud U.S. Army veteran, Jim served in Vietnam, attaining the rank of

Specialist 5. He was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with a bronze service star, a testament to his courage and commitment to his country.

Jim dedicated 29 years to Ford Motor Company, working in IT Operations before retiring in January 1996. Retirement didn't slow him down--he spent another decade serving the Plymouth-Canton School District as a beloved crossing guard, where he became a familiar and friendly face to students and families.

A longtime parishioner of St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, Jim found strength in his faith and community. He was a proud member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and lived a full life marked by service, integrity and joy.

Jim had a zest for life and a knack for fun. He enjoyed boating, water skiing, camping and snowbird travels with Arlene. Whether he was playing washers and horseshoes, coaching softball, cruising in a classic car or bowling, he approached every pastime with his signature enthusiasm. Known as a perfectionist, Jim was also known for his warmth, humor and signature phrases: "Peace, love & happiness," "No fighting," and the ever-curious, "Is it fresh?"

Visitation will take place Monday, July 28, from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth. A Rosary service will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by time for family sharing.

Jim will lie in state on Tuesday, July 29, from 10:00 AM until the Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 South Lilley Road, Canton.

Jim's cremated remains will then be laid to rest with Army Military Honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery on Thursday, July 31, at 2:30 PM.

Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301.

To share a memory or message with the family, please visit the "Share a Memory" tab on this page.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 28. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Rosary Service

JUL 28. 6:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Lie in State

JUL 29. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church
555 S. Lilley Road
Canton, MI 48188

Funeral Mass

JUL 29. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church
555 S. Lilley Road
Canton, MI 48188

Committal Service

JUL 31. 2:30 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Please arrive 15 minutes early; the service will begin promptly at 2:30 PM.

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Brian S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Brian S. - July 29, 2025 at 08:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 28, 2025 at 05:03 PM



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

July 28, 2025 at 05:03 PM

JR

“ memory

justine rethlake - July 28, 2025 at 02:55 PM

JR

“ We have donated to DAV in Jim's me Justine and Tim Rethlake

justine rethlake - July 28, 2025 at 02:55 PM

JR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Following your family from afar in Minneapolis, I can see how much you will all miss him. I do remember being at your wedding and dancing as a young cousin. God Bless you all and may Jim rest in Gods peace. Justine (Celusnak) Rethlake.

justine rethlake - July 28, 2025 at 02:48 PM

LF

“ Love, Tony, Wafa, and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Love, Tony, Wafa, and family - July 28, 2025 at 12:25 PM

LF

“ Love, Tony, Wafa, and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Love, Tony, Wafa, and family - July 28, 2025 at 12:25 PM

CA

“ Cathy, Allison, Dawn and Amanda purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Cathy, Allison, Dawn and Amanda - July 28, 2025 at 10:45 AM

MM

“ We’re deeply saddened by the passing of our dear neighbor. One memory that will always stay with us is the fall when my husband was away in California. Without a word, he rode over on his mower and helped clear the leaves from our yard. It wasn’t something we asked for—he just saw a need and took care of it, the way he always did.

Another moment we’ll never forget was Veterans Day at our kids’ school. He came standing tall and proud, and our children couldn’t stop smiling. They kept pointing him out and telling everyone, “That’s our neighbor!” His presence meant so much to them—and to us.

He was more than a neighbor. He was a quiet hero, a helping hand, and someone we’ll always remember with gratitude and love..

Sincerely,

Mazen and Mona

Mona M - July 28, 2025 at 08:19 AM

BS

Jim and I worked together in the early 70’s on the midnight shift at Ford Credit. We became instant friends and that friendship has lasted ever since. Jim was such a great guy, he will be sorely missed. When you see Murph and the Colonel tell them I said hello. Love you my friend!
Brian

Brian Schaumburger - July 29, 2025 at 08:00 AM

MM

“ Mary M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Mary M. - July 28, 2025 at 12:38 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 27, 2025 at 11:29 PM



“ With With love, Jill, Ryan and Hunter Lay purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



With With love, Jill, Ryan and Hunter Lay - July 27, 2025 at 11:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 27, 2025 at 10:31 PM



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

July 27, 2025 at 10:31 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 27, 2025 at 09:16 PM



“ John Bahu purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



John Bahu - July 27, 2025 at 06:40 PM



“ Matt, Sara, Jonny, Maddy, Olivia & Nate purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Matt, Sara, Jonny, Maddy, Olivia & Nate - July 27, 2025 at 06:34 PM



“ James, Dawn, Sean, Robert & Dolores purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



James, Dawn, Sean, Robert & Dolores - July 27, 2025 at 01:22 PM

JD

“ James, Dawn, Sean, Robert & Dolores planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

James, Dawn, Sean, Robert & Dolores - July 27, 2025 at 01:22 PM

TC

“ The Middle School Crew purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



The Middle School Crew - July 27, 2025 at 12:33 PM

DB

“ We have many fond memories of Jim going back over sixty years. We'll always remember his great smile and love of music and cars, starting as a teenager. Jim was a lifelong friend that we'll truly miss.
Dave & Claudia

David Bowes - July 27, 2025 at 10:52 AM



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

July 27, 2025 at 10:37 AM

CS

“ I was just a goofy friend of Alene’s that invaded Jim’s space from time to time, but he was always so kind and welcoming to me. Always happy and willing to have a chat.

But truly the best and most wonderful thing about Jim - is how much he cherished his Arlene. My sincerest and heartfelt condolences to you, Arlene, and your entire family.

Jim was one of a kind. ❤️

Cyndi Spurlock - July 26, 2025 at 10:48 PM

CS

“ Cyndi S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Cyndi S. - July 26, 2025 at 10:42 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 26, 2025 at 08:30 PM



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

July 26, 2025 at 08:30 PM

KJ

“ Kristin and Chris Gregg, Kendra Jacobsen purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Kristin and Chris Gregg, Kendra Jacobsen - July 26, 2025 at 06:27 PM

HF

“ Henwood Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Henwood Family - July 26, 2025 at 06:08 PM

HF

“ Henwood Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Henwood Family - July 26, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 26, 2025 at 02:14 PM

KA

“ Kevin A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Kevin A. - July 26, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 26, 2025 at 09:08 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



July 25, 2025 at 08:12 PM



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

July 25, 2025 at 08:12 PM

GF

“ Gary and Jeanne Fite purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Gary and Jeanne Fite - July 25, 2025 at 07:41 PM

TS

“ The Chabalas, Jessica, & Stacy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



The Chabalas, Jessica, & Stacy - July 25, 2025 at 06:34 PM

TS

“ The Chabalas, Jessica, & Stacy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

The Chabalas, Jessica, & Stacy - July 25, 2025 at 06:34 PM

BF

“ Beltz, Bennett and Ward Families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Beltz, Bennett and Ward Families - July 25, 2025 at 06:13 PM

SM

“ Jim was the kindest, most gentile spirit I ever knew. He was so much fun through our years at St Andrew & he was loved by all. Even when we'd see him at Archie's with his car club buddies, he would always come over & acknowledge his old friends & bring Arlene over as well. I have no doubt where he is now. Rest in peace Jim. My heartfelt condolences go out to you Arlene & your entire family. You all had the best of the best & may that be your comfort during the difficult days ahead. God Bless.
Sharon Mioduch

Sharon Mioduch - July 25, 2025 at 05:12 PM

DN

“ Dear Arlene and Family,
our sympathies on your tremendous loss.
Dianne and Bill Neihengen

Dianne Neihengen - July 25, 2025 at 04:52 PM

BJ

“ Bruce, Donna, Ken and Judy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Bruce, Donna, Ken and Judy - July 25, 2025 at 04:35 PM

BJ

“ Bruce, Donna, Ken and Judy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Bruce, Donna, Ken and Judy - July 25, 2025 at 04:35 PM

KZ

“ My condolences to your family Arlene. While we were friends at OLGc many years ago, I am glad we became reacquainted on Facebook. Jim seemed like a great guy. Hugs all around.



Kathie Zatarga - July 25, 2025 at 03:46 PM

KD

“ The Day family sends their condolences, you are in our hearts and prayers. We hope you can find peace at this difficult time. God Bless your family. Love the Day family 💜

kelly day - July 25, 2025 at 03:44 PM

LM

“ Love, Jamie McLenaghan purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Austin.



Love, Jamie McLenaghan - July 25, 2025 at 03:29 PM

LM

“ Love, Jamie McLenaghan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Love, Jamie McLenaghan - July 25, 2025 at 03:29 PM

JE

“ Jim and Arlene are forever friends. I was maid of honor at their wedding...both Jim, my husband Ken are Vietnam Vets...we've attended our kids wedding....forever friends .
Loving memories of Jim will always be a part of forever friends.

Judy Eggly - July 25, 2025 at 03:29 PM

KD

The Day family sends their condolences. Your family is in our hearts and prayers. We hope you can find peace at this difficult time. God Bless you and your beautiful family 💜 love the Day family.

kelly day - July 25, 2025 at 03:33 PM

SS

We offer our sincere condolences to Arlene and all of Jim's family and friends. He had a great smile and was a very friendly neighbor. May he rest in eternal peace. With prayers for God's blessings on his soul and for those who will miss him the most.
Russ, Susan, Ryan and Laura Seely

Susan Seely - July 25, 2025 at 05:44 PM

KD

“ Kelly D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Austin.

Kelly D. - July 25, 2025 at 03:28 PM