



## James M. Jabara

January 13, 1929 - January 17, 2022

Jamiel M. “Jim” Jabara, 93, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away on January 17, 2022. He was born on January 13, 1929 to Sam and Mymonie Jabara in Mancelona, Michigan. He attended Michigan Tech University in Houghton, Michigan where he served as Vice President of his senior class and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

After serving as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, he worked until 1959 in structural steel design and sanitary engineering at Commonwealth Associates, Inc. in Jackson and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Seeing an opportunity to start his own business, he and his brother Kalid bought Plymouth Tank and Fabricating Company (later called Enviro-Fab, Inc.) and expanded to three locations in southern Michigan which they sold to the Hillman Company in 1976. Shortly thereafter, he launched J.M.J. Properties, a real estate development and management firm. Over decades Jim was instrumental in changing the face of downtown Plymouth with his many commercial projects. In Jim’s own words:

“We developed Forest Place and the Plymouth Landing in downtown Plymouth. We converted a lazy side street to a “second Main Street.” After our projects were completed, other store owners started improving and renovating their buildings, which turned this street into a thriving commercial district.”

Jim was a proud resident of Plymouth for sixty years and active in civic affairs as Mayor of the City of Plymouth from 1967-1969 and twice as City Commissioner from 1963-1971 and 1986-1993. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England visited our city in 1967 to celebrate the centennial of Plymouth's incorporation as a village during Jim's term as Mayor.

Jim contributed his time and boundless energy to countless civic organizations: he was the Founder, Charter President and a 60-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth and board member of the Rouge Valley Chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. Jim was a 50-year member and past Chairman of the Plymouth Corps of the Salvation Army and served as Chairman of the 35th District Court of Michigan. In addition, he was a board member of the Plymouth Family Services and the West Region board of the Michigan Cancer Foundation. In 1963 Jim was named "Man of the Year" by the Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was selected in 1990 as a Distinguished Kiwanian by the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation.

In 2000 Jim was inducted into the Plymouth Hall of Fame where his contributions to the community were recorded in the Congressional Record of the United States Senate. In the fall of 2021 Jim received the prestigious Ruth Huston-Whipple Award for Civic Engagement and in 2021 was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by Plymouth's "The Rock" Magazine.

An enthusiastic alumnus of Michigan Tech University, Jim was vice president of his senior class and a member of the President's Club and Second Century Society. He was also a recipient of the M.T.U Silver Medal and was a Life Trustee of the Michigan Tech Fund, having served ten years on the Board. In 1990 he was honored as a Distinguished Kiwanian by the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation.

As a private pilot and avid outdoorsman, Jim enjoyed flying, hunting and fishing throughout the United States, Canada and Africa. His home and office have many wall trophies on display. In 1983, pilot Jim and his three passengers survived a crash landing in a single-engine Cherokee Piper Lance when the fuel pump abruptly malfunctioned. Luckily all four survived and were able to walk away from the crash site.

Jim was married to Jean Jabara for forty years until her death in 1991 and has been married to Anita Jabara since 1996. He has two sons, Michael Jabara and Marty Jabara; step-son Jason (Koeun) Marra; three grandchildren, Zan (Brent) Jabara Oakley, James Jabara and Jenna Jabara; two step-grandchildren, Joseph Marra and Matteo Marra and two great-grandchildren, Jason Jabara and Ian Oakley.

Jim is survived by Essie Pringle and Abdeen (Holly) Jabara, the oldest and youngest siblings in the Jabara family, and is predeceased by siblings Frieda Rice, Selma Hegazi, Nayfe Jabara and Kalid Jabara.

Public visitation was held on Tuesday, January 25th from 2:00 – 9:00 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth, Michigan. On Wednesday, January 25th there was a private funeral service and burial for the immediate family. The family is planning a Celebration of Jim's Life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, c/o Mark Riegal, 47400 Stratford Drive, Canton, Michigan 48187 or the Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 or online [www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/plymouth](http://www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/plymouth).

To share a memory, please use the "Share a Memory" tab on this webpage.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **25**. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
[plymouth@vermeulenh.com](mailto:plymouth@vermeulenh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *James M. Jabara*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Jim was an amazing Person, he will be Missed..*

**Jim Marhofer** - April 19, 2022 at 09:36 PM



“ *Jack & S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James M. Jabara.*



**Jack & S.** - March 28, 2022 at 09:37 AM



“ *I remember Jim. Such a kind and giving man. One reason why Plymouth was such a great place to live, people like him.*

**Barb Carpenter** - February 11, 2022 at 01:05 PM

KJ

“ My Uncle Jim was just an amazing, high-energy, inspiring person. It's humbling to think about how much he cared for others and the impact he made in his 93 years. Wow. His younger brother, Nayfe (my Dad) really looked up to Jim. My Dad would used to say, "who would believe Lebanese kids from little Mancelona would be so fortunate in life..."

*Jim set a high bar for all of us and his memory inspires the Jabara families and all his friends. I was just lucky to have been in his orbit.*

*To Anita, Michael, Marty, Jason and all your family members - My wife Lynne and I are so sorry for your loss.*

*Kirk Jabara*

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**Kirk Jabara** - January 27, 2022 at 07:07 AM

SC

*Did he live on Maple Street in Plymouth and was Louise Jbara any relation to him*

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**Sandee Cooper** - November 04, 2022 at 01:49 AM

CF

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Jabara family. Jim was one of the most kind, humble, and giving individuals I had the pleasure to know. Rest in peace my friend...you will be missed.

*Cynthia Flora*

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**Cynthia Flora** - January 24, 2022 at 10:04 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dan Smith - January 21, 2022 at 02:19 PM

DS

*Speedy pancake maker Jim Jabara working his trade at annual Kiwanis Fall Festival Pancake breakfast. Love the ending shot of Jim having a great time serving others!*

Dan Smith - January 21, 2022 at 02:27 PM

LW

“ *I will never forget the kindness the Jabara family showed our family. The boys played in a band that played at my oldest sister's wedding. My father had just been killed in an car accident and my mother raised 5 of us alone. Mr Jabara refused to take any money from my mother for the boys service.it was an unbelievable kind gesture. RIP*

Lee Waid - January 21, 2022 at 07:12 AM

NR

*A truly Class act & great friend & a wonderful landlord at our Cozy Cafe*



Nick & Tiiu Ristich - January 21, 2022 at 09:00 AM

LS

“ Anita, Michael and Marty, I’m so very saddened by the Loss of Uncle Jim. Kind, Loving and a Wonderful example of a Man. I’m so glad I was able to spend Time with him Recently. When I lost my Dad at a young age, he stepped right in. When I told him I wanted to take over the Family Reunion he scoffed at me but finally relented. But in True Uncle Jim Fashion, he pretty much still “Called the Shots” He will be missed by all who Loved him! RIP❤️☐ Your Niece, Lila

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**Lila Hegazi- Shaw** - January 20, 2022 at 03:04 PM



“ Marty- I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My sympathies and condolences to you and your family.  
Carol Ross-Baumann (PSHS '73)

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**Carol Ross-Baumann** - January 20, 2022 at 02:08 PM

BD

“ To the entire Jabara clan, our condolences on your loss, but we hope you can keep the memories! Jim was a long-time member of the Paul Bunyan Club, and like others have said, was a kind, enjoyable and great friend, always willing to help out and encourage his fellow members. We will also miss him - Rest In Peace Jim!

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**Bob Donnay** - January 20, 2022 at 12:07 PM

JR

“ Anita, Michael, Marty, and to all of your families, the memories of Uncle Jim always bring a loving warm feeling. His energy was positive and enthusiastic and he was kind and always willing to lend a hand. His "can-do" attitude inspired many! His actions spoke louder than his words in all that he did for others. He had a twinkle in his eye and brought light and smiles to others. He definitely left things and people better than he found them. As a younger brother, Nayfe would have a few stories about him... like when Jim and Kal put Nayfe in the oven and told him to pretend he was a turkey roasting for dinner. Lol.

*Just wanted you to know that I am thinking of you all as you remember him and celebrate his life. Much love, Julie Jabara Reed*

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**Julie Reed** - January 20, 2022 at 11:14 AM

JM

“ Marty, I'm so sorry for your loss. You father did such a tremendous amount for the community. I know he will be greatly missed. Joy M.

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**Joy McClendon** - January 20, 2022 at 10:28 AM

NV

“ nadia V. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James M. Jabara.



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**nadia V.** - January 20, 2022 at 08:57 AM

SA

“ To the entire Jabara Family, with special thoughts to Anita, Jason, Koeun, Joseph and Matteo, please accept our deepest sympathies for your loss. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories of someone who accomplished much and gave much. May we all be inspired to live life fully just like Jim. Rest in Peace. Maria and Susy Anzollin

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**Susan Anzolin** - January 19, 2022 at 09:47 PM

TM

“ Jim was one of the “great ones!” I will miss you Jim! Thanks for the memories!

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**Tab Morin** - January 19, 2022 at 07:23 PM

CC

“ I remember Jim very well by his association in so many civic groups within the Plymouth Community. He and his wife, Jean were longtime patients and friends with Dr. Bob Evans, my first dental boss! We were all like family and I remember Jim’s beaming personality and just a real doer, always willing to pitch in wherever he could. He and his family donated the three wiseman that make their way to the Manger as Christmas approaches...I will remember him fondly even more now when the three Wisemen come to Kellogg Park at Christmas! Truly a great man and all around amazing person! Condolences and prayers for his whole family! R.I.P. Jim!

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**Cathy Champion** - January 19, 2022 at 06:27 PM

MA

“ Dear Anita, Michael, Marty, Jason and the entire Jabara Family,  
I could go on forever.... What a Gentleman and a Beautiful Soul! He was always full of life, love and faith. I used to love conversing with him! He was so engaging, eloquent and oh so knowledgeable! You can now look to the heavens with a smile on your faces knowing that you have an Angel watching over you!  
Sending loving thoughts  
Fabio, Maria Pia, Matteo (Cassandra) and Marco(Giulia) Bernabo



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**Maria** - January 19, 2022 at 02:41 PM