



James B. McKeon

July 18, 1925 - February 20, 2018

McKeon, James B. (Jim), 92 of Plymouth, MI went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, surrounded by his family. Born July 18, 1925 to Paul and Edith (Trollman) in Fenton MI, he was their only child to be born in a hospital and is survived by his sister Eileen Fous, 97 (Flint) and Jack, 89 (Ann Arbor). He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years Shirley (nee Scott), brother Charles (Bloomfield Hills) and sister Mary Mora (Flint). He is survived by his 6 children: Marcie (Ron) Foster; Jim (Carol); Jean (Chuck) Martin; Rebecca (Richard) Horvath; Karen Holstad; Janet (Bruce) Lillie; 15 grandchildren and 7 great-grand children.

Jim grew up on a family farm in Fenton, and enjoyed telling stories of daily life during the 1930's. He made history come alive from his recollections of hitching up draft horses, winters without central heat, Christmas' with homemade gifts, feeding cats while milking cows, trading a goat for a doctors house call and many more.

Jim attended Fenton High School, playing football and baseball. Football was played without face masks resulting in an occasional dentist visit after a game. Baseball was much simpler and Jim claimed to be quite skilled at making bats on a lathe. He was on the Student Council at Fenton and President of the 1944 Senior Class. Notwithstanding his farm deferment, after graduation Jim enlisted in the Navy.

The GI bill earned him a trip to MSU where he continued his interest in serving others by finding homes for persons displaced by the war. He was elected to

MSU's Student Council and served as its President. He graduated in 1949 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation he worked at Detroit Radiator followed shortly by Ford Tractor. During this period Jim became a Professional Engineer, but more importantly he spotted another Fenton graduate – Shirley Scott, Fenton's 1st homecoming queen – who was attending Wayne State. Through careful study of class times and bus schedules Jim carefully planned what Shirley thought was a chance meeting. In the late 1950's Jim moved from Ford Tractor to Distribution Services Inc. (DSI), which moved to Plymouth in 1962. In 1965 Jim designed and built the company's main production area that was the largest clear span area on the country at the time. In 1985 he also built the Hamilton Street plant and later was an instrumental member of the Board of Directors at the at the time of the Company's sale. In 1973 he began McKeon, Inc. Real Estate, his many business interests continued to keep him involved in property management and commercial investments.

Community concerns have always been an important factor to Jim. He has been an advisor to Junior Achievement, and the Boy Scouts. He served on the Plymouth City Commission from 1966 through 1973, as a Commissioner, Mayor pro-tem and Mayor. As Mayor he visited Plymouth, England and hosted the Mayor of Plymouth England during his time in Michigan. Jim has served on the Board of Directors of the Schoolcraft Development Authority, the Board of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, and since 1962 a member of the Kiwanis Club as well as a dedicated and involved member of Our Lady of Good Counsel's congregation. He was very honored when he was named to the Plymouth Hall of Fame.

When Jim needed to relax he enjoyed cultivating roses, a fine green lawn, time at his cabin on Burt Lake, but mostly telling and re-telling his grandchildren stories of his childhood growing up on a farm.

Visitation Sunday, February 25th 2-7 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth.

Rosary Sunday 4 PM.

In state Monday, February 26th 9:30 AM until the 10 AM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Interment Riverside Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Community Foundation of Plymouth, P.O. Box 700866, Plymouth, MI 48170 or the Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, 151 North Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

To share a memory, please use the Share A Memory tab on the web page.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

680 Plymouth Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 25. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Rosary

FEB 25. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

In state

FEB 26. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 North Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Funeral Mass

FEB 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 North Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall



“ *James B. McKeon*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Bernie & I always enjoyed seeing Jim at OLG, and around town. Early on, I was next door to his real estate business and we went to lunch occasionally. He was always available to talk about business when needed.*

I wish I had taken his advise on a couple of real estate deals. Last seen at the nursing home a few months earlier - Missed this announcement - sorry for the family and his friends.

Jack & Bernie Strickland

jack Strickland - September 11, 2018 at 04:23 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James B. McKeon.*



February 24, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of James B. McKeon.*



February 24, 2018 at 01:32 PM

RM

“ We read Laura's wonderful remembrance of her grandfather on her Facebook page. He was obviously a very special person who touched the lives of many people. Jean, Chuck, Laura and Andrea, may your memories of him and knowing a lit bit of him continues to live on in all his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren bring you comfort as you grieve his loss. Richard and Donna Martin

Richard & Donna Martin - February 24, 2018 at 09:29 AM

TF

“ Storytelling is both a gift and an art. it is best when sprinkled with a tad bit of fiction. When Uncle Jim started telling a story - one just had to listen. Truth and fiction merged weaving a part of the past that was captivating and insightful.

One of my most vivid memories of Uncle Jim was at a dinner ceremony following a golf tournament he invited me to participate in my teens. He sat back after dinner with a group of gentlemen and proceeded to light up the largest cigar I had ever seen. It must have been a 60x7 or 58x7. I think it took him an hour to finish it.

We will miss his good heart and kind smile here on earth. We know he is seated at the banquet table of Heaven - enjoy its feast.

Tom F.

Tom Fous - February 24, 2018 at 08:23 AM

FY

“ Jim was a good person and a good Irishman. He told me that Italians can cook, that the Irish were meat and potatoes people, and that I was lucky for marrying a good Irish woman. He always had a kind word and we enjoyed our many conversations with him. He was a philanthropist and he gave his time to help serve his community. He cared about people. I know this is a time of sorrow but take comfort in knowing that this world was a better place for having Jim McKeon in it. We will miss Jim with all our hearts but we will never forget him.
Frank and Maureen Yaquinto

Frank Yaquinto - February 22, 2018 at 08:21 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James B. McKeon.



February 22, 2018 at 07:13 PM

CS

“ On behalf of the Plymouth District Library Board of Trustees I want to recognize Mr. McKeon's impact on the creation of the Plymouth District Library. Mr. McKeon helped facilitate the property acquisition of the land for the library over 20 years ago. He was a kind gentleman who made a positive impact on our community. We send our condolences to his family. Mr. McKeon will be greatly missed.
Carol Souchock

Carol Souchock - February 22, 2018 at 05:51 PM