



## James Francis McNamara

August 25, 1931 - May 16, 2025

James Francis McNamara, age 93, resident of Canton, Michigan & Sarasota, Florida passed on May 16th, 2025, at his Sarasota Florida residence.

James “Jim” was born on August 25th, 1931, In Detroit, Michigan, the son of the late Michael and Nellie McNamara (O'Donnell) who immigrated to the United States from Ireland.

He graduated from Western High School Detroit MI class of 1949.

Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years Frances (Lombardo), his siblings Mary (Terence) McKelvey, Irene (Frank)Verville, George (Julie) McNamara, and his granddaughter Sarah Jansen, his in-law parents Joseph and Sarah Lombardo (Bommarito), in-law siblings Chet (Lydia) Lombardo, Joseph (Cathy) Lombardo, Catherine (Bob) Thibault, Lydia Foster and Daniel Lombardo.

Jim is survived and missed by his children Timothy (Sue) McNamara of Rochester Hills, MI, Shari (Dave) Jansen of Albuquerque, NM/Sarasota, FL, and James (Sharon) McNamara of Canton, MI.

His memory lives on in his grandchildren Justin, Marcus, Aaron, and Michael McNamara, Mary and Joseph Jansen, and great grandchildren Miles, Daisy, Lucas, Beau, Duke, Goldie, Rory, Mason and Leah McNamara.

He is also survived by sister-in-law Pricilla Webb, brother-in-law Gerald Foster, nieces, nephews as well as great nieces and great nephews.

Jim was a proud army veteran who served his country in the Korean War from 1952 - 1953.

Upon returning from his duty overseas, he met and married Frances, the love of his life, and began his career with Michigan Consolidated Gas, retiring after 40+ years of service.

He and his wife Fran raised their children in Taylor, Michigan and moved to Canton Michigan after retirement. They also enjoyed 25+ years in Florida being "snowbirds" at their homes on Siesta Key and then Sarasota. He enjoyed the great outdoors and loved boating and fishing the lakes in Michigan as well as camping. He also enjoyed golfing, tennis and gardening. Jim was a devoted Detroit sports fan and faithfully rooted for the Lions, Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons and Michigan football.

His true love was his family, whether it be watching sunsets with his wife Fran on the beach, chasing around any game within driving distance to watch his grandkids sporting events or walking his beloved dogs Sophie and Soldier. He loved spending time with his kids and grandkids at the lakes in Michigan and especially cherished his time with them in Florida where he spent winters for over 25 years. He was a master of fixing just about anything and was always there to keep a car on the road or spending countless hours tackling a difficult plumbing problem that needed fixing.

He loved his Irish heritage and was always there to tip a beer or enjoy a highball with his friends and family. He will be remembered for his love of life, his many fond relationships, and his positive perseverance in everything he did.

A memorial service honoring Jim will take place on June 28th at Vermeulen Funeral Home of Plymouth, Michigan, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, at 10am, funeral service at 11am.

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

## Memorial Service

JUN **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

“ I live down the street from Jim here in Canton.

*Often times during my morning walks I would pass by his home and when the weather was nice I was likely find him and his little buddy Soldier in their driveway waving hello to passers-by. But I hadn't really gotten to know them until last summer.*

*One day as I was returning from a long walk, I spotted Jim and Soldier in the distance from the entrance of our complex.*

*I had seen them out walking before. Soldier always the faithful little companion slowly walking by Jim's side as they rounded the block, Jim with his walker.*

*Suddenly Soldier happened to notice me from afar. He began making a frenzied spectacle in an attempt to get me to notice him. He had never done that before and it definitely managed to get my attention!*

*That little guy had a way of being able to stand upright on his hind legs, his front paws stretched high up into the air, tail wagging, and thoroughly excited.*

*I ran up closer to them and said to Jim, "I think your dog really wants to meet me!" Soldier went bonkers! He was so happy that he was able to summon me over! I bent down and he wouldn't stop kissing me... this was the first time we actually met other than just waving from the street while casually passing by.*

*We got to talking a bit and I offered Jim any kind of help -if he needed it. And that was the beginning of our friendship. From that day on I would have many nice visits and conversations with him and I got to help walk and babysit Soldier as the bonus.*

*By the time I met them it was getting harder for Jim to get around and I believe soldier sensed that and took the occasion, reaching*

*out to make a new friend which helped take some pressure off of his dad by getting help to exercise him. I'll never forget that. They had taken such great care of each other. Two soul-mates ... I guess that's how I saw them.*

*Jim was a great guy, a gentleman, and a great American Vet. I only wish I would've gotten to know him sooner. I miss him here in the community and pray for Soldier in his new home.*

*Sincerest condolences to Jim's entire family.*

---

**Randall Lomako** - June 28, 2025 at 09:04 AM

RC

“ *Ryan and Lacey Copacia purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James Francis McNamara.*



---

**Ryan and Lacey Copacia** - June 27, 2025 at 03:04 PM

EL

“ *Eric and Kara LeRoy purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James Francis McNamara.*



---

**Eric and Kara LeRoy** - June 26, 2025 at 11:34 AM

SF

“ Steven & Chrystyna Thibault & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Francis McNamara.



---

**Steven & Chrystyna Thibault & Family** - June 25, 2025 at 06:37 PM

KP

“ Jim has been my 'across the street neighbor' for 25 years in Canton, MI. He was always there for great conversation and words of wisdom. First -- he and Sophie and then him and Soldier .... Sophie and Solder were his four-legged 'guards and conversationalists' with all the neighbors. Will miss you so much; thanks for all the words of wisdom you shared with me, especially these past few years.

*Karen P (and the boys, Twittin & Jadon)*

---

**Karen Perez** - June 22, 2025 at 11:26 AM

KM

“ So sorry to hear of cousin Jim's passing- have lovely memories of visiting Jim, Fran & Family in 1975 in Michigan and availing of their wonderful hospitality. Jim was our last remaining first cousin (son of U. Mike & A. Nell). Ar ais Dé go raibh a anam. Kathryn McCarthy (nee McNamara), Agnes Donnelly(nee McN) & John McNamara children of Christy - Jim's Uncle, Groody Hill, Limerick.

---

**Kathryn McCarthy** - May 26, 2025 at 03:19 PM

CA

“ We were sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We would see him on our walks on the VW Riverwalk this past season with always a smile and his dog at his side. May he R.I.P.  
Carleen & Dick Payne

---

**Carleen** - May 26, 2025 at 02:43 PM

CA

“ Soldier and my grand dog Otis were kind of friends. Of course, Otis was really just interested in rubbing against Jim. The walker made that a challenge, and Soldier didn't like the invasion much. But sidewalk friends we were. Jim seemed ageless, so now that we see he was in his 90's, Otis and I say Bravo! But, Jim and Soldier, you will be greatly missed here on Pesaro Drive. That is for sure. My condolences to all who will miss you. Carol

---

**carol** - May 26, 2025 at 05:50 AM

RR

“ I will miss Jim. We always talked football, in particular Michigan vs. N.D. He was a great guy and I'll miss him

---

**Rich Robson** - May 23, 2025 at 05:01 PM

ER

“ We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a lovely neighbor. Our doggies barked at each other, but when the barking was over, they were friends. He will be missed.

---

**Ellen Rothschild** - May 23, 2025 at 04:32 PM