



James L. Potter

July 26, 1945 - December 15, 2022

Potter, James L., passed away peacefully, December 15, 2022, surrounded by family. Survived by his cherished companion, Carolyn Nugent & favorite sister, Janna Pekaar. Best dad ever to Laura (David) Nelius, Louis, Susan (David Cormier), Maryanne, Joseph (Laura) and Harry. Treasured grandpa to Shane, Logan, Cecilia & Katarina. Dear uncle to Lara, Natalie and Hugo. He loved spending time with family, his pets, working on his Mustang, model trains or hitting the bike trails. He was a voracious reader and an adventurous cook. He never let the grass grow under his feet. Listen for the train whistle. Visitation Monday, December 19th from 1 - 8 PM with the Funeral Service at 7 PM, at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Inurnment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Michigan. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 19. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

DEC 19. 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Officiating: Pastor Drex Morton

Tribute Wall



“ *James L. Potter*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of James L. Potter.*



December 18, 2022 at 08:23 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of James L. Potter.*



December 18, 2022 at 08:48 AM



“ *I close my eyes and see Jim riding his bike next to me on six mile road going from Redford to Northville. Our bikes took a beating going down the toboggan run in Northville. Life in Redford in the fifties was a lot different then. Jim was a special friend. Sorry to lose him.*

Gary Ringrose - December 18, 2022 at 12:18 AM

BM

“ Jim, Carolyn, Bob, and I had lunch a few times at the Sidetrack restaurant in Ypsilanti. This is the site where a train derailed about a hundred years ago and closed the Ypsilanti depot for ever, but trains still rumble by blowing their train whistle. And that was the highlight of our lunch. We all are so going to miss him. Bob and Paula

Bob and Paula Merritt - December 17, 2022 at 05:01 PM

LN

“ Dad, I remember trips to visit family, or little vacations where we would take a side trip (Altoona, PA) to see a rare train engine that was going to be in the area, so you could get a picture. I recall the friends you would make with the people that bought your photographs. And as we kids grew older and would tell you of having spotted a train, we always knew your next question would be, “Did you get the engine number?” Every time I go over a railroad crossing or hear a train whistle, I think of you. So many memories come to mind. Walking along the sidewalks and you holding my hand, which felt so big and strong. Explaining to me that I should walk on the inside in case a car jumped the curb. You said it should hit you first because I had so much more life to live. I wish you did too.

Laura Nelius - December 17, 2022 at 05:28 AM

DN

“ I met Mr Potter for the first time when I came over to pick Laura up for our first date. I was already extremely nervous but when he showed me where he kept his gun, I knew I was being told to be on my best behavior. Great man and a great memory.

David Nelius - December 16, 2022 at 08:38 PM

LE

“ We were neighbors when Marianne and Jenny were little. The first time Jenny spent the night, I met Jim in the middle of the street after it was dark because Jenny really wanted to come home. Andy would probably remember the gorilla hunt along the Rouge River. I remember the time I called and just asked that he turn on their porch light because someone really wanted me to open my door. Thanks Jim Blessings, Laura Elliott

LAURA H ELLIOTT - December 16, 2022 at 06:01 PM

LK

“ One of my favorite Mr. Potter memories is when he and Carolyn picked up Joe and myself from the Amtrak station and took us to Ford Garage for lunch. At that lunch I learned he loved crime noir books as much as me! It was really fun talking with him and bonding over authors like James Ellroy, Dashiell Hammett, and Raymond Chandler. You were a wonderful, loving father-in-law and I'll miss you.

Laura Kostovich - December 16, 2022 at 10:25 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James L. Potter.



December 16, 2022 at 08:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *James L. Potter*.



December 15, 2022 at 11:48 PM



“ *Mark and Kim Heinzelman* purchased the *Serene Retreat* for the family of *James L. Potter*.



Mark and Kim Heinzelman - December 15, 2022 at 08:27 PM