



James Louis Zelnis

May 30, 1954 - March 28, 2012

James "Jim" Louis Zelnis

Age 57 and a resident of Hammond, Jim passed away on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at North Oaks Medical Center. He was born in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. He was a loving father, son, husband, and Mr. Bill and Rose Johnson's favorite son-in-law, he will be missed dearly.

Jim leaves behind his wife, Susan Johnson Zelnis; children, Joshua and Ryan Zelnis; daughter-in-law, Lyn Zelnis; grandsons, Luke and Carter Zelnis; mother and father-in-law, Bill and Rose Johnson; nieces, Bobbi Walkup Schmondiuk, Erica Walkup, Amanda Zelnis and nephew, Tyler Zelnis.

Preceding Jim in death were his parents, Eleanor and Walter Zelnis; brothers, Paul Dennis Walkup and David Zelnis.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the religious services from the chapel of Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home, on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 3:00 p.m., with visiting hours beginning at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Randy Ray will officiate the services.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate a donation to the American Heart Association at PO Box 840692 Dallas TX 75284-0692.

Condolences and other information are available online at www.thompsoncares.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Suzie, Josh, Ryan and Family; Sending our Love and Sympathy. I will cherish all of the wonderful memories of Jim throughout the time I had the opportunity to have him in my life: CAHS CLASS OF 1972; CHARLEROI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH...OUR CLASS REUNIONS...all of you mean so much to me. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. With Love and Sympathy, Elizabeth and George##imported-begin##ELIZABETH A. HICKMAN/GEORGE C. TEDROW, JR##imported-end##

April 07, 2012 at 06:03 AM



“ I am so saddened to hear of Jimmy's death. I have fond memories of playing in Speers as children when he, his brothers and parents were alive. Those memories will never go away. May God bring comfort to you and your family, Susie.##imported-begin##Bob Balogh##imported-end##

April 05, 2012 at 09:19 AM



“ Hi Sue, me and my family are very sad to here about Jim. we are in shock. I'm so sorry and wish you and your family the besy##imported-begin##Dean Taylor##imported-end##

April 02, 2012 at 08:36 PM



“ Susan & Family, We remember Jim from Speers Hill. He was a great guy. You're in our prayers.##imported-begin##Doug, Tom & Barry Griffith##imported-end##

April 02, 2012 at 09:20 AM



“ I pray that God will reach out his hands and comfort you and your family in this time of loss. In the short time that I knew Jim, I came to know that he had great character and a unsurpassed love for his family. I pray that I will see him again in God's Kingdom. Susan, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Jack Lee###imported-begin##Jack Lee###imported-end##

April 02, 2012 at 08:55 AM



“ I met Jim in the mid 90's when we both worked for Save-A-Lot Foods.

Jim, myself and my former manager Paul Scott became great friends.

I made the trip to Columbus, Ohio to assist Jim with the transition to the DC of which he became manager.

I would often tease Jim by referring to him as David Hasslehoff (sp?). This was due to Jim consistently wearing black leather gloves with knuckle holes (and he did resemble DH).

Jim repaid my ribbing by taking me on a ride in his Jeep. Bumpiest ride of my life. I knew he was enjoying every pothole and rut we drove in and over.

Later, in 2010, I found myself unemployed with a wife and two kids (14 and 12), in the middle of a recession.

On a prayer, I was able to find and reach out to Jim (via regular mail) to ask him for assistance with my job search.

It was like no time had passed between us. Jim, in his usual big hearted and gracious manner responded back to me with news that there was an opportunity which he thought I would be a good fit.

This news brought me back from the helplessness I was feeling and gave me new hope.

Even though Jim told me that I was offered the position due to my interview results, I knew deep down that he went to bat for me and that was the only reason I was able to become employed with Walmart (6057).

Once in Hammond, Jim and Susan made every attempt to make

sure I felt welcomed and not lonely as my family continued to reside in Ofallon, Mo.

I had fantastic dinners at their lovely and warm home and there were many times they would call and invite me to accompany them on outings (Thanks Susan).

I do and will continue to miss Jim very much and I doubt that I will ever have the opportunity to meet such a warm and sincere person again.

I will never be able to repay his kindness and what he did for me and my family.

So long for now my friend.##imported-begin##Doug Fiedler##imported-end##

April 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Zelnis family,*

What a tremendous family you have! The legacy of the man who led it will live on through his lovely wife and two fine young men. We are all better just for knowing people like Mr. Zelnis and you will all be in our thoughts and prayers.

Shawn Parsell and the Panther Volleyball Program##imported-begin##Shawn Parsell##imported-end##

April 01, 2012 at 09:41 PM



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time. Jim was a great guy and will be missed by so many. Hugs and kisses to you all.
Curt, Brenda, Brooke, and Beth Morgese###imported-begin###Zelnis Family###imported-end###

April 01, 2012 at 09:37 AM



“ How I wish now that we could have got together on my last trip to the " Big Easy". Always so much to do with so little time. I will miss my friend! My heart goes out to you all.###imported-begin###Curt Morgese###imported-end###

April 01, 2012 at 09:12 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to Jim's Family. My thoughts/prayers will be with you.###imported-begin###Greg Meno###imported-end###

March 31, 2012 at 09:19 AM



“ Susan, Josh, Ryan, Lyn, Luke and Carter words cannot express our deepest sorrow in the loss of Jim/Pap Z. He was a remarkable man and will be missed by so many. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all of you. We wish you God's loving comfort and pray He gives you strength at this time. Love, Daniel and Sarah###imported-begin###Daniel and Sarah Earlywine###imported-end###

March 30, 2012 at 09:34 PM



“ Words are inappropriate to express my sympathy for your loss. All of you should have enjoyed sharing your life and experiences with Jimmy for many more years. I know that he will stay with you both in spirit and in memories. We have all been blessed because Jimmy was part of our lives.##imported-begin##Rick Rudawsky##imported-end##

March 30, 2012 at 09:19 PM



“ Susan, Josh, Lyn, Ryan, Luke & Carter, we have such heavy hearts with grief for the loss of Jim/ Pap Z...yet our hearts are overflowing with loving memories of him and for love to all of you. Please know we are praying and thinking of you all as well as for Jim/ Pap Z. With all our love.##imported-begin##Mark & Jenni Murray, Cecilia & Maggie##imported-end##

March 30, 2012 at 09:10 PM



“ Dear Susie, Josh, Lyn and Ryan - Our hearts are grieving as we know yours are. We have been so blessed over the years with a very special friendship. Wonderful memories to be treasured. Never would have thought we would both travel from Ohio to Louisiana and experience "Gustav" together in Shreveport. We love you and will continue to lift you all in prayer.##imported-begin##Rod and Jan Gossard##imported-end##

March 30, 2012 at 05:48 PM



“ Ryan, We are deeply saddened by the sudden death of your Dad. Family is one of the most important things in this life. Spend the coming days remembering all the special memories you have of your Dad with your family. We will be here for you for whatever you might need upon your return to Ohio.

All our love,
Bill, Renita, Logan & Taylor##imported-begin##Renita
Hillis##imported-end##

March 30, 2012 at 05:22 PM



“ Susan, Josh, Lyn & Ryan
My heart aches for you. You have been and will remain in our thoughts and prayers. Even though I will not be with you on Sunday, I am in spirit. Be thankful for your faith. love Jay & Mary##imported-begin##Jay Schenk##imported-end##

March 30, 2012 at 05:06 PM