



## Mr. James Willard Nicolaisen Sr. of Hoffman Estates

November 20, 1959 - August 2, 2025

James "Jim" Willard Nicolaisen passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at home on August 2, 2025. Born in Chicago, IL, Jim grew up in Rolling Meadows and was a lifelong resident of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, where he built cherished relationships that spanned generations.

He was the loving father of James Jr. (Jason Williams) Nicolaisen and devoted partner of Patricia. Jim was the beloved son of Willard Nicolaisen and Dorothy Helmchen. After the passing of his parents during his childhood, he was lovingly raised by his dear aunt, the late Ruth Holton, who was widowed by both Robert "Bob" Morrisett and Harold Holton.

He was also the dear nephew of the late Walter Edwin "Jim" Nicolaisen Jr. and Virginia "Virge" Nicolaisen, all of whom preceded him in death. Jim was a cherished and deeply loved cousin to many.

Jim attended Rolling Meadows High School in Rolling Meadows, IL, and later William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois. A proud U.S. Army veteran, Jim honorably served two tours as a military police officer in Italy and Germany during the Cold War, which concluded in 1991. His commitment to service extended far beyond the military. In 1986, he joined Township High School District 211 and dedicated nearly 40 years of his life to Hoffman Estates High School and the Administration Center (ADC). Jim had a special

place in his heart for his annual vacations to Waupaca, Wisconsin. These trips brought him immense joy, filled with treasured moments alongside his beloved cousins and friends.

He had a lifelong passion for music—first through guitar, and later, inspired by his son, he embraced the piano. Known for his playfulness, warm humor, and kindness, Jim left a lasting impression on all who met him. The family is planning a Celebration of Life at a later date. Once arrangements have been finalized it will be posted here.

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos. For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences please click on the "Share A Memory" link above and you can leave a message. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o the Family; we will gladly forward it on to the family.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169.

<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/monuments-and-headstones/memorials-monuments-and-headstones>

# Cemetery Details

## **Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services and Cemetery Memorials**

2550 Hassell Road

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and v

Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

[ross@morizzofuneralhome.com](mailto:ross@morizzofuneralhome.com)

<http://MorizzoFuneralHome.com>

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ I met Jim in high school, one of the nicest guys you would ever meet. Jim was quiet back then, some jerks would take that as a weakness, I always stood by him ready to back him up. I hadn't seen him for at least 25 years. The company I worked for had work at Northrup in Rolling Meadows, who was working security? My old friend Jim and he remembered and recognized me right away. It was great to see him again. I'm so sorry for your loss.

---

**George Biermann** - September 25, 2025 at 10:05 AM

TC

“ So sorry to here of Jim's passing. We were childhood neighbors. Was so nice to see how his life turned out after he moved from our town. Was so happy to find him on Facebook and see how his life turned out. Such a nice man. Gone too soon. May you rest in peace Jimmy. You will always be a part of my childhood memories. ❤️

---

**Tina M Callahan** - September 02, 2025 at 02:39 PM

MH

“ Jimmy was my Very First Friend. We grew up in Lansing, IL. We used to ride our Bikes around Schultz Park. We did EVERYTHING Together.

We Loved playing ARMY Man around my house.

When his parents passed away, he moved to Chicago. I went to his house to play, and he was gone. I didn't know why. Never knew what happened to my friend.

When FB came along, we where reconnected. We had LONG Talks trying to Catch up on our Life Memories. Jimmy came to hear me sing in my brother's band last year.

He knew I was looking for an Electric guitar so he tells me, buy me lunch and you can have mine. Now thats a true friend. So, me living in Valparaiso and him in Hoffman Estates, we met in our home town. It was so good reconnecting with Jimmy.

We talked on the phone Every Week.

I haven't heard from him in weeks , so I figured I'd check in with him.

His girl Patty, just texted me with the AWFUL NEWS.

I AM SO SO SAD RIGHT NOW.

Jimmy, You Rest Easy My Friend.

Until We Meet Again.....



---

Mark Hanchar - August 24, 2025 at 07:31 PM

MH

*Jimmy was my Very First Friend ❤️ I ever had. We would ride our Bikes together and ALWAYS played ARMY Man at my house. This was when we were growing up in Lansing, IL. At the time I didn't know why he moved away back then. Had it wouldn't have been for fb we never wouldn't have reconnected.*

*When we did, it was GREAT. We would talk on the phone for HOURS. We had ALOT to catch up on.*

*We met up in Lansing in February. I took his Best friend, Patty out for a GREAT Lunch. He came to Lynwood, IL to have me sing in my Brothers Band. We took this picture that night. We look like Brothers. Even tho Jimmy was a year older, we even LOOK ALIKE. He would say, "It was the same Postman!!" Lol. Last time I talked to him was after his surgery and was going back to work. That was in July. When I didn't hear from him for weeks, I texted him to see if he was OK. That's when Patty responded back to tell me that my BEST FRIEND WAS GONE.*

*I am VERY SAD that I lost my Best Friend ❤️.*

*With a HEAVY ❤️ HEART, REST EASY MY FRIEND !!! 🙏 Until we meet again, Bring your Guitar and I'll bring the one you gave to me. My Deapest Sympathy to Patty and Jimmy Jr.*

---

**Mark Hanchar** - August 24, 2025 at 07:58 PM

BI

*So sorry to hear about Jimmy's passing. We lived across the alley from him in Lansing. He came knocking on my door when he was around 5 years old. His father hired a caregiver to take care of him when he went to work. Jimmy was around the age of my oldest daughter and he heard kid's playing in my backyard. Wasn't very long before they moved away. Was surprised to see him on FB and happy to hear his life story. My condolences to his family. RIP 🙏*

---

**Barbara Ganz Lansing, Illinois** - August 25, 2025 at 02:46 PM

JP

“ Jimmy I'm so glad we were able to reconnect later in life. You were one of my favorite childhood friends from the neighborhood and from Lester Crawl. I will sincerely miss you.



---

**Julie Peddy** - August 24, 2025 at 01:56 PM

BC

“ Jim,

*I found this poem by the Aztecs that our friends Betn and Lou lived by: "For so short a time have you loaned us to each other."*

*You succeeded at your goal of being your sons everything! He told us.... You succeeded at being a great friend to many of us. Our lives were forever deepened with the full spectrum of emotions shared. Thank you mostly for being yourself and sharing yourself, Jimmy and the various animals! The world lost a great man!*

---

**Betty Constance** - August 17, 2025 at 05:08 PM

CF

“ Jimmy you will be missed deeply by Tom and I you were a very important person in our lives from driving us to school and being our best man we are deeply saddened by your passing we will miss you sweet dear friend love always Tom and Chris Fuchs

---

**Chris Fuchs** - August 10, 2025 at 07:16 PM

JW

“ I met Jim several years ago while he was visiting family and friends in WAUPACA WI. He was invited to the WAUPACA Conservation League and shot a couple rounds of trap targets. He became a regular visitor every September when in the area, along with his son Jimmy and friend Patti. They were at a relatives graduation party at the League in May and we talked about them returning in September for their annual trap shoot. I will miss them being here.

---

**John Woodliff** - August 09, 2025 at 11:39 PM

RG

“ I would often start my days with coffee and conversation with Jim in the faculty dining room before we had to punch in and start our shift. We were able to be open and honest about everything and everyone we knew. Jim's sense of humor often amazed me and he had the ability to put a unique spin on the events that were constantly unfolding. He allowed me to be myself in his presence and was a very understanding person. He spoke of Jimmy often and was very proud of his son. It wasn't easy for him at times, but he rarely complained. He always gave 100%. I will miss him.  
*Bob Gatti*

---

**Robert Gatti** - August 08, 2025 at 11:07 PM

BW

“ I am sorry to learn of Jim's passing. He was always so kind and always had a smile and "Have a good day" to share. One of the first times I met and spoke to Jim at the Ad Center was when he asked who was the fireman that I had firefighter memorial plates. When I answered it was my son, he responded with that his grandfather was a chief (i believe) in the CFD. He shared many stories of his grandfather that I treasured. He was always so helpful in every way. I am so sad for us all losing such a kind man. My condolences to all who loved him dearly.



*Bette Wilmot*

---

**Bette Wilmot** - August 08, 2025 at 10:24 AM

DA

“ My heart is broken in learning of Jim's passing. He was a true friend - kind, thoughtful, and generous. My deepest sympathy to his family, especially Jim Jr., and to his many other friends.

---

**Dana Auman** - August 07, 2025 at 11:40 PM

AH

“ Jim will be deeply missed. He was incredibly kind, always positive, and an outstanding role model. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

---

**Azra Haq** - August 07, 2025 at 06:54 AM

AF

“ Jim always made me laugh. My first year there I was stressed from something annoying I went outside and screamed loudly. Didn't realize he was trimming the bushes outside where I decided to belt it out and he scared me by joining in my scream as he sang it lol and we both started laughing. We had a running joke about it. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

---

**Ashley Faklaris** - August 06, 2025 at 06:03 PM

BN

“ Jim was an amazing human with a kind and bright personality. He will be deeply missed. I send my condolences to his entire family.

---

**Barb Nocula** - August 06, 2025 at 05:10 PM

JS

“ I am deeply sorry to hear about the passing of Jim. He was always smiling, always upbeat, and ALWAYS had positive things to say with such a positive attitude! I worked with Jim at Hoffman Estates High School & at the AD Center! He will truly be missed! My deepest 💔 heartfelt sympathies to his entire family!

---

**Jennifer Smith** - August 06, 2025 at 04:22 PM

KL

“ Jim was such a wonderful and caring human! He was always full of humor, a smile and a willingness to help. My sympathies to Jimmy and the family- your dad was very special.

---

**Karen L** - August 06, 2025 at 03:56 PM

KM

“ Jim was one of the kindest, most helpful members of the Hoffman community. What a loss for everyone who knew him. He was always in the most positive mood and was so proud of his son.

---

**Kellie Morgan** - August 06, 2025 at 03:04 PM

KY

“ Jim was always a bright ray of sunshine at Hoffman. He was always friendly and was a joy to talk to! He will be missed! Thoughts and prayers to the family!

---

**Kay Yereb** - August 06, 2025 at 01:15 PM