



James "Jim" Walter Grabski

May 17, 1943 - May 26, 2026

James "Jim" Walter Grabski, 83, of Plainfield, Indiana, passed away peacefully on May 26, surrounded by his loved ones.

Jim was born in Hammond, Indiana, on May 17, 1943, to James and Alice Grabski. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, and his stepson. He is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Marylise Theresa Grabski; and her children, Kimberly and Robert J. Sexton, whom he loved as his own, as well as two sisters. He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren, Amanda and Brian Roskey; Joseph and Amanda Crosley; and Colten Sexton and Emma Thompson, along with six great-grandchildren.

Jim graduated from East Chicago Washington High School and went on to live a diverse and accomplished life. He attended school at Purdue University and completed its Reserved Officer's Training Corps program, transferred to Indiana University and earned a master's, and completed Army Officer Training in Washington, D.C.

Proudly, Jim served his country from 1965 to 1972 as a Captain in the United States Army, completing two tours of duty in Vietnam. Following his honorable discharge, Jim lived abroad in England, where he owned and operated a pub for two years. He returned to the United States in 1974 and dedicated 27 years to Northwood University, where he served as Dean of Management. As

an investor, he also owned and raised thoroughbreds.

In retirement, Jim rekindled his passion for watercolor and oil painting, becoming an accomplished artisan. His dynamic equine themes and Asian-inspired works were exhibited in Bloomington galleries, including The Venue Fine Arts and Gifts.

Jim will be remembered as an officer and a gentleman by his beloved wife, and as a strong, resilient patriot with a tender side—especially when it comes to anything sweet, particularly his wife's cookies, pies, and cakes. He was deeply shaped and softened by the love, devotion, patience, and understanding of his wife and family.

Jim will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. While he is gone from our sight, he is carried with us every day in our hearts and will never be forgotten. His spirit is forever imprinted on the lives he touched through his devoted Catholic faith and the friendships he made. Donations in his honor can be made to Tunnel for Towers or Wounded Warriors, two of Jim's favorite charities that he gave to every year.

A visitation will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church on Monday, June 1st, 2026 from 10:30am-11:30, with the praying of rosary at 11:30. A funeral Mass will follow at 12pm. Burial will be held at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center/Mary's Children Cemetery immediately afterwards.

Cemetery Details

Mother of The Redeemer Cemetery

8220 W. State Rd 48
Bloomington, IN 47404

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
2222 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Prayer of the Rosary

JUN 1. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Charles Borromeo Church
2222 E 3rd St
Bloomington, IN 47401-5385
(812) 336-6846

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 1. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
2222 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

MI

“ I am very sad to read about Jim’s passing. He was my dad’s (Richard Macek) best friend, from the days in the region, to the armed services, and onward to Bloomington. I learned so many things about my dad through spending time with them; particularly when they each had a few beers in them (lol). I will never forget those experiences and my heart goes out to all those who will miss him as well.

Mike Macek.

mike - June 13 at 12:39 AM

YG

“ Your Grandkids purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Walter Grabski.



Your Grandkids - May 29 at 12:04 PM

YG

“ Your Grandkids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Walter Grabski.

Your Grandkids - May 29 at 12:04 PM