



James "Jim" Richard Ratliff

December 22, 1928 - July 9, 2017

James "Jim" Richard Ratliff, 88, of Bloomington, Indiana died Sunday, July 9, 2017 surrounded by family. Born 1928 in Bloomington, he was the son of Oscar Ratliff and Freda Branam Ratliff and was raised in Unionville, Indiana.

Jim married Norma Cooter Ratliff on August 5, 1948 and married Rita Hacker Frye Ratliff on August 30, 1993. Jim drove a semi-truck for 40 years. He was a Teamster and drove for Transport Motor Express (TMX) in Bloomington. After retiring he combined his passion for boating and served as the Lake Lemon Patrolman. He moved to Florida in 1986, and there he worked as a property manager at Fish Eating Creek Campground in the Everglades. He was thrilled to take actor Don Johnson on airboat fishing adventures and other celebrities during this period.

Jim loved boating of all sorts. He owned houseboats, speedboats, and cruisers. His sons fondly remember the water skiing, houseboating, and river trips on the Ohio and Kentucky rivers. Jim thoroughly enjoyed taking many children boating and skiing including neighborhood children, Little League teams he coached and his sons. He also was a talented roller-skater most of his life.

Jim is survived by his wife, Rita, sons, Tom Arthur (Janet) of Dickerson, TX, Mike Ratliff of Unionville, Rick Ratliff (Katie) of Napa, CA, Ron Ratliff (Kerry) of

Bloomington, and Rob Ratliff (Paula) of Ellettsville. His grandchildren include, Dawnna Ratliff of Bloomington, Shane Ratliff of Bloomington, Ian James Ratliff of Davis, CA, Josh Ratliff, of Columbus, IN, Benjamin Slinkard Ratliff of Bloomington, Sara Ratliff Palacios, of Columbus, IN, Isaac Ratliff of Ellettsville, IN, Chelsea Malwitz of Bloomington, Brian Arthur of Dickerson, TX, and Beth Arthur of Dickerson, TX; along with six great-grandchildren. Jim is also survived by Rita's children, Barry Frye (Lisa) of Owensburg, IN, Jodi Wildman (Andy) of Caneyville, KY, and grandchildren, Samantha Frye and Laura Wildman "Sugar".

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at New Unionville Baptist Church, 6020 East State Road 45, Bloomington. A private graveside will be held at Mt. Gilead Cemetery. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, have been entrusted with arrangements. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Jim's family at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Unionville Baptist Church
6020 East State Road 45
Bloomington, IN

Tribute Wall

JA

“ SO SORRY FOR
YOUR LOSS...JAN

JANICE - July 17, 2017 at 12:50 PM

DP

“ *Jim was a loved coworker of Dave at TMX and a good neighbor to Brenda and family when he served as Lake Lemon's patrolman. I know he was considered a friend of Dale and Ruth as well. Deepest sympathies to Rita and all the children in the loss of their beloved Jim.*

Dave and Brenda Polley - July 13, 2017 at 05:51 PM

JT

“ *Polly and I will always treasure our memories of Jim. I just remarked to Pastor Les this morning how Jim could figure out a way to witness for the Lord at any time to any person. I so regret the times I drove by his and Rita's home and did not stop to spend a few minutes, and am so glad that a few times I did. Rita is an angel who - as he always said - helped turn his life around. She cared for him through many physical problems. A good man, a good woman, both great Christians.*

John T

John W. Tilford - July 13, 2017 at 05:18 PM

FS

“ *My deepest sympathy in your great loss.
My heart goes out to you and your family.
I wish there were something I could do or say
that would ease your pain but know in your heart
I am thinking of and praying for you and your family.*

*I pass by the residence almost daily and would stop
and visit with Jim on my way to the Monroe County 911 Center.
I never really knew Jim but he was always out front and
I would wave as I went by and I finally took the time to
stop and chat with him and I am thankful I did.
Jim had many funny stories to tell and joked about
cutting on his foot and getting an infection while Rita
would scold him, he just laughed and said "all guys cut on their feet"
and Rita would grin and shake her head.*

*I am sorry I never got to really know Jim but am
thankful I finally took the time to stop and talk with
him and get to know a little about him.
Here's a big wave and a honk to you my friend,
see you on the other side!*

*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, still missed and very dear.*

Thinking of you at this time of your loss.

*Thoughts, Love and Prayers,
Freddy Sturgeon*

Freddy Sturgeon - July 13, 2017 at 10:05 AM