



## James Joseph McMahon

February 29, 1936 - March 4, 2021

James Joseph McMahon Sr., 21 technically 85, of Chana, IL, formerly a longtime resident of Huntley, passed away on March 4, 2021, in the comfort of his home.

He was born February 29, 1936, a leap year, the son of Daniel and Loretta McMahon; brother to 11 siblings; loving husband of Pat, for 65 happy years; and father to, the late Teresa (Merle) Morrow, Sharon (Mike) Gilbert, James (Rita) McMahon, Julie McMahon, Donna (Gordon) Green, and Daniel McMahon. Jim was a proud and loving grandfather to 9 grandchildren and Papi to 5 great-grandchildren.

Jim's love of the outdoors was shown through his years of work at the Sod farms and Wilson's Nursery. His most favorite pastime was his pristine lawn and manicured gardens. Mowing his yard on his zero-turn bright and early, daily, put the biggest smile on his face. Jim was a jack of all trades. Mastering welding, mechanics, and all things zip ties and electrical tape. He enjoyed tractor restoration and his pride and joy were his two beautifully restored 1953 Golden Jubilees. His face lit up and he enjoyed every minute spent with Pat and their great-grandchildren. He proudly supported all activities that his grandchildren participated in, being a willing victim even at times. He loved a big family dinner and there wasn't a meatloaf he didn't enjoy. He was known to give a driving lesson to an underage child or two and was a hot dog on ice skates back in the day. He enjoyed the company of his dogs Max and Molly.

He is preceded in death by his parents; 6 of his 11 siblings; his daughter Teresa, and his beloved dog Molly.

Jim's favorite poem was Trees by Joyce Kilmer. so In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting monetary donations to the family to purchase a tree in memoriam for Jim.

I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed

Against the earths sweet flowing breast  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray  
A tree that May in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain  
Who intimately lives with the rain  
Poems are made by fools like me  
But only God can make a tree

Private visitation for the family and relatives will be held at the James A. O'Connor Funeral Home, with the public invited to the 1:30 PM Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, March 9 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 10307 Dundee Rd, in Huntley. Please do not arrive at mass before 1:15 PM. Masks and Social distancing will be required. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. Mass will be streamed live on Tuesday following a link from our website under Photos and Videos for Jim.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## St. Mary Cemetery

Dean Street

Huntley, IL,

**MAR**

**9**

**Mass of Christian Burial**

**01:30PM**

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St. Mary Catholic Church

10307 Dundee Road, Huntley, IL, US, 60142

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**James A. O'Connor Funeral Home** - March 08 at 03:27 PM

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“ Dear Pat and family,

I was so sorry to hear of Jim's passing.

My memories living in Huntley were a big part of Jim, you and the kids that will be cherished always.

I love the poem and will be making a donation towards purchase of a tree in Jim's memory.

My love and deepest sympathy to all.

Kathy McMahon

**Kathy McMahon** - March 10 at 08:58 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words.

Love, Pat and family

**julie mcmahon** - March 11 at 04:38 PM



“ Thank you for you kindness.

Love, Pat & Family

**julie mcmahon** - March 11 at 04:39 PM

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“ My memories of Uncle Jimmy consist of going out to the country in Huntley with my family and a few times with grandpa Pospisil . It was always a looked forward time. We knew we would get some homemade food made by Aunt Pat and get to go out shooting in the quarries with Uncle Jim and a little fishing in the canal streams on the sod farms. Our cousins were close to our ages and we always got along great. Really will miss you Uncle Jim and your matter of fact speaking . Rest In Peace until we meet again.

**John Pospisil** - March 09 at 01:15 PM

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“ To Aunt Pat, Sharon, Jim, Julie, Donna and Dan,

I can remember coming out to your house so very long ago. I always enjoyed the time we could spend with the McMahan family that lived out in the "country".

What I remember most about Uncle Jim was his great smile. He and Aunt Pat always made me feel so welcome.

I am so sorry for the loss of your husband, best friend, father and Grandfather to all. He will be missed.

Cyndee Hughes (McMahon)

**Cyndee Hughes** - March 09 at 11:54 AM

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“ Jose and Tammy Baeza purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of James Joseph McMahon.



**Jose and Tammy Baeza** - March 08 at 04:15 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Joseph McMahon.



March 07 at 05:53 PM

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I have a lot of deep and nostalgic memories from growing up with my big brother Jim. Back in the early 1950's when Warrens Turf Nursery was just starting out in the fields of Palos Hills, Jim was one of the first if not the first employee of the company.

9 years my senior, Jim started taking me to work with him and I would be his personnel helper. All that while, I was watching and absorbing his every move. Through him in just a short time working in the nursery fields and shop, I was learning mechanical skills, safety procedures and operating power tools, equipment operations, work ethics and how to organize and work as a team to get things done. Most of all he instilled in me how to practice and use 'common sense thinking' at work and in every day life's decisions.

Anyone that knew Jim was aware that he was extremely meticulous. He loved to work on projects and challenges that required mechanical precision. The finished projects had to be perfect in looks, restoration and functionality. He was showing off his pride.

Farm tools and machinery was very crude in those early days so much of the sod manufacturing was done manually. Nothing but hard field labor 8, 10, 12 hours a day and lucky to have a half day off on Sunday.

Jim was Ben Warren the owners right hand man at the time and continued that relationship for the many years that Warrens remained in business. Ben Warren was a shrewd business man and agronomist which is an expert in the science of soil management and crop production. He would have ground breaking innovative ideas on lawn grass growing, harvesting and marketing. He would share those ideas with Jim and solicit his input and feedback. He would then turn to Jim to development and implement those ideas because he new Jim was the man to make it happen.

The business prospered early on with new housing starts, economic and industrial growth and the demand for landscaping and lawn grass. Warrens main office was in Palos but business expansion resulted in the company purchasing the new Huntley Branch farm. At that time brother Dan was the accountant and ran the main office administrative affairs in Palos. Jim was chosen to relocate to Huntley as the new Huntley Branch Manager which was to provide lawn grass and lawn grass products to the Chicago land market.

As the sod and lawn grass manufacturing and the company grew with more nurseries throughout the United States with branches in New York, California, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and franchises in many more states, Huntley was the first branch to be started and from its inception set the bar for the rest of the branches as the model and for other branches to follow.

See Page 2 for continuation ...



“ Thanks for the comforting and kind words. The kids.

**Sharon Gilbert** - March 08 at 08:15 AM

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Jim had product and manufacturing knowledge, mechanical skills and leadership abilities just to mention a few that were all exemplary. The secretaries, sales staff, truck drivers, customers, field labors, mechanics, suppliers and everyone that came around this man in day to day activities loved this guy. His honesty and sincerity was impeccable. The Huntley branch with Jim running the show had the bragging rights at the Branch Managers annual meeting held in Palos headquarters year after year.

Jim was a hands-on leader and would lead by example. He would sweat in the heat, freeze in the cold, get wet in the rain, shovel the snow or waddle in the mud right along side all of his staff and workers. 40 hour work week was not in his vocabulary. All his life he worked endless hours and strived for perfection. He was tireless.

He had dedicated Hispanic seasonal migrant field and shop help that would return every year in the spring because they loved working for this man so much that always treated them fair and respected their situation in life.

One memory that comes to mind from 55 years ago was one Saturday afternoon - Jim, Jim Jr. and myself came up to the Huntley Catholic Church St. Mary's and dug up all the old grass and weeds in the front of the church and replaced with new sod and shrubbery. Father Day was the pastor then in 1966. The grass and shrubbery now has probably all been replaced since then many times over even cemented but I like to think that some of the old grass and shrubbery that I planted with the two Jim's that day - the roots are still living healthy deep down in the soil and earth below.

Another fond memory was when one cold winter day in Huntley when Jim, myself and Jim Jones, the assistant manager and good friend. together took a road trip to Waterloo, Iowa to visit the John Deere manufacturing plant assembly line for an all day tour. I'll never forget that day. The three of us back then and even now loved our tractors, trucks, farm equipment and machinery.

Jim's 5 remaining siblings, Marge, Catherine, Patsy, Tom and myself all deeply mourn the loss of our older brother but can only rejoice in the fact that now he is reunited with his other fallen siblings - Sis, Mary, Rosemary, Dan, John and Mike. But most of all we need to cherish the thought of his joyous reunion with his beautiful daughter Theresa.

It was his compassion for life, the job, and the commitment to provide the best quality life for his family that he loved so dearly.

Jim, thank you for all the inspiration you have given me very early on and throughout my life.

Rest in Peace,

Your Loving Brother, .

Pat ...

**Patrick McMahon** - March 07 at 04:26 AM



“ Uncle Pat,

What a beautiful tribute to Uncle Jim. Makes me proud to be a McMahon.

To Aunt Pat, Sharon, Jim, Julie, Donna and Dan, please accept my deepest sympathy and know that I am thinking about all of you. I too adored Uncle Jim and my heart is deeply saddened at his passing. May God give you strength and peace.

With love,

Kelli McMahon Slemp

**Kelli McMahon Slemp** - March 08 at 10:49 AM

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“ Hi Julie

So Sorry About Your Dad. My Heart Aches for You and Your Family and The Little Ones that will not Understand Where He Went. They will look toward the Sky and be So in Awe that God took Him to this Wonderful Place called Heaven! God's Blessings to All.

Love Dave and Mary Jane

**Mary Jane Larsen** - March 06 at 09:51 PM