



James McKee

April 12, 1927 - January 17, 2021

James “Jim” W. McKee, 93, of Centralia, passed away Sunday, January 17, 2021 at the Cedarhurst of Bethalto.

He was born April 12, 1927 in Centralia, the son of Charles McKee and Carrie (Webster) McKee. He married Gwyneth “Gwen” Olwen Williams on August 20, 1970 and she preceded him in death on August 25, 2019.

Jim is survived by his two children: Kimberly Anne Baugh and husband Russ of Edwardsville and Scott Kenneth Poland and wife Cindy of Knoxville, Tennessee; a daughter-in-law: Ada Poland of Fayetteville, Arkansas; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Charles and Carrie McKee, wife: Gwyneth “Gwen” McKee, two sons: Mark Alan James McKee and John Richard Poland, two sisters: Mary Elizabeth Cox and Joan Bozett; A Brother in law John Bozett.

Jim served in the U.S. Navy Seabees during World War II.

Jim graduated from Centralia High School. He attended SIU Carbondale, Knox College, Aberlin College, and University of North Carolina. He graduated from Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee and the University of Illinois with masters in Mathematics. Jim was the Tennis coach and assistant Football coach at Harrisburg, Centralia High School, Florida State University and at Kaskaskia College for 22 years teaching and coaching, followed by 12 years in admin after retiring. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame at KC and the James McKee Scholarship at Kaskaskia College was started in his honor.

Jim was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Centralia, where he served as an Elder, former Trustee, and former Sunday School Teacher. He was also a member of the Red Cross Board, CCBA Board, and the Centralia City Board of Appeals.

Jim moved to Edwardsville in 2018 to live closer to his daughter, Kim. He made many new friends and was beloved by all who met him. Jim loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Jim always had a warm smile to give and sweet spirit to share.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM at the First Presbyterian Church in Centralia with Pastor Joannie Naraghi officiating. Burial to follow at Elmwood Cemetery in Centralia. Military Honors will be accorded at the gravesite by the Centralia American Legion Post 446 and the Centralia V.F.W. Post 2055. Visitation will be held Saturday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the church. Due to the health guidelines, everyone in attendance will be required to wear a mask and social distance. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the James McKee Scholarship Fund at Kaskaskia College and/or Marion Medical Mission and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, whom is honored to be of service to the McKee Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

First Presbyterian Church

Celebration of Life

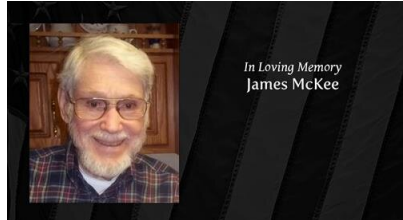
APR **10**. 11:00 AM.

First Presbyterian Church

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of James McKee*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - April 09, 2021 at 05:50 PM

BW

“ *"Mac" as we fondly called our tennis coach and Algebra teacher at Kaskaskia College was one of the nicest, most patient, kind, and caring coaches and teachers I've ever had. I took Algebra even though I didn't need to, just for fun, because Mac was the teacher. He and Gwen were such special people, full of life, love, and happiness. Memories of Mac are forever cherished. My sincere condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends.*

Becky Wessel - April 08, 2021 at 10:29 PM

MW

Jim and his wife were wonderful people. I didn't know them for as long as I would have like to but I knew them long enough to have some wonderful memories.

Mike Warden - April 11, 2021 at 05:02 PM

KB

Thank you for sharing. I certainly understand "taking the extra class" to be around someone inspirational :)

kim baugh - April 13, 2021 at 03:48 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of James McKee.*



April 06, 2021 at 09:57 PM



“ *Jim and Gwen were such a beautiful couple and such an inspiration to all of us at First Presbyterian Church in Centralia. I can still see them walking hand in hand at the rec center or around the neighborhood. I truly miss them but have fond memories. Nancy Jones*

Nancy Jones - January 28, 2021 at 01:09 PM



Thank you - they lived to walk up into their 90s even

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ *In 1954, when I was a Freshman at Harrisburg Township High School, Jim McKee was my algebra teacher. It was my favorite class. I vividly remember an incident in the old gym at lunch. Two large hooligans started a fight. Jim McKee came flying onto the bleachers, grabbed each by the collar, separated them, and marched them off to the Principal's office. We were all very impressed. Fifteen years later in 1969, I came to Kaskaskia College to teach history. Jim was one of the first faculty members to greet me and we shared a reminiscence about Harrisburg. Sharron and I are saddened to hear of Jim's passing, but we feel blessed to have known both Jim and Gwen.*

Randall Ervin - January 27, 2021 at 01:42 PM

KB

*What a wonderful story - thank you for sharing
Kin(McKee) Baugh*

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:22 PM

MM

“ *I am sadden by the loss of this wonderful man but so Blessed to have known him and his lovely wife Gwen, I helped them stay in shape 3x's a week, little did they know how much they helped me. I looked forward to the Sunshine they brought into the room and the stories. Prayers go out the family. God Bless you!*

Maqry Martin - January 23, 2021 at 11:09 AM

KB

Oh yes I remember hearing your name. Thank you - I miss them

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:24 PM

CC

“ *I need to make a correction in what I said in Uncle Jim,s tribute. I said that what my "brother" David wrote in his tribute was what I wanted to say also. In fact it was his son David Wayne who wrote it. I am so used to calling him David Wayne that I didn't stop to think that he is now a fine grown up young man who is also called David. I'm proud of you David. Uncle Charles*

Charles Cox - January 22, 2021 at 07:47 PM

RS

“ *I am one of many students he taught for Algeba in CHS, but had the pleasure of sitting at the same table at the last Class of 1960 reunion. He smiled when I told him, his Algebra class was my most favorite. He was very good at what he did.*

Roberta McCormick Sanders - January 22, 2021 at 07:10 PM

D'

“ I had Mr. McKee for math classes at CHS and Kaskaskia College. He was patient and soft spoken with his students while gently encouraging them do do their best. He was an example of a teacher one "never forgets". Job well done!

Dennis Pracht CHS Class '67 - January 21, 2021 at 10:27 PM

KB

Thank you - that's the kind of man he was - taught me life and true love in the same way. Thh he and you for sharing

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:27 PM

CC

“ In his tribute about Uncle Jim my brother David Cox said exactly what I wished to say.
Uncle Jim was truly a very special person. He and Gwen demonstrated what a good christian marriage should be. Their passing is our loss and heaven's gain, but I'm glad they can be together again.
Charles and Linda Cox

Charles and linda cox - January 21, 2021 at 08:11 PM

KB

Thank you Charles

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:28 PM

TG

“ Dearest Kim and family,

Jim was/ is such an honorable man and a true gentleman. Always with a smile and a kind word; he Walked out his Faith daily. Jim will be missed. He leaves such a beautiful legacy for his beloved ones. May his memory be eternal. Rest in Peace.

*Sincerest Condolences and Prayers,
Thurman and Georgia*



Thurman and Georgia - January 21, 2021 at 06:29 PM

KB

Thank you -there is truly an heartfelt void but the legacy of his devoted heart will live in

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ *Uncle Jim was a great man in many ways. From him I learned that a great man could be gentle, kind, and a rock solid christian - strong in your faith and love of God. i will greatly miss him and always have a special room in my heart dedicated to memories of him.*

Heaven truly gained an amazing soul when he arrived to join all the rest of the McKee clan (and the Cox bunch also)



David Cox - January 21, 2021 at 06:14 PM

KB

Yes - thank you David Wayne very nice tribute to dad - I miss him terribly but I look forward to rejoining him Mark and granny for sure

kim baugh - February 03, 2021 at 04:51 PM

PQ

“ So sorry to see Jim passed I spent a lot of weeks with Jim in cardiac rehab at St Marys in the late 90s and most of 2000
Phil Quandt

philip quandt - January 21, 2021 at 08:02 AM

WH

“ Our condolences to Jim's family and friends! Jim was a friendly man and I enjoyed engaging in conversations with him over the years!

Wayne Houser - January 21, 2021 at 07:31 AM

PB

“ So sorry to see Jim passed. I've known him since moving to IL in 1956 at our church. He and Gwen were such a great couple! Glad I got to see him at her funeral. Thoughts and Prayers to all!
Godspeed

Peggy Myers Beal - January 20, 2021 at 10:30 PM