



Mr. James Bruce Banfield

April 14, 1939 - March 10, 2015

James Bruce (Jim) Banfield

Ithaca - James Bruce (Jim) Banfield left this life on the evening of March 10, 2015, in the embrace of loving family members. Jim was a "gentle giant," born in Ithaca, NY on April 14, 1939, the first of eleven children born to Lawrence R. Banfield and Charlene M. Wood Banfield who predeceased him in 1993 and 2004 respectively. He was also predeceased by his brother Lawrence D. Banfield in 2006. Jim graduated from Lansing Central School with the class of 1958. He served in the US Army Reserve from 1956 to 1964. He worked as a machinist for over forty years in the Ithaca area, including positions with Kolar Inc. and later retiring from Alpine Machine Inc. On August 12, 1967, Jim married the love of his life, Peggy Teeter Banfield, who survives him. Together they enjoyed a deep and abiding love and a full and happy life for nearly 48 years.

Jim was a member of the American Legion Post 1107 in Union Springs for 32 years, a member of the Ithaca Lodge 666 of the Loyal Order of the Moose for 41 years, and a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles.

Besides his wife, Jim is survived by his nine siblings - Sandra Myers; Connie (Gerald) Evans; Judith Meade; Jack (Nancy) Banfield; Jill (Melvin) Holub; Kathleen (Carl) Haff; Kathryn (Paul) Tunison; Terry Banfield (Sharon Opiela); and Barry (Tara) Banfield. He will also be remembered fondly by a wide circle of nieces and nephews. Other survivors include his brother-in-law Robert (Janice) Teeter. Jim was also blessed with the love of a "second family," the Bryants, who are grieving his passing - Rick (Diane), Kim Bryant Wyckoff (Todd), Ricky, and Kevin (Kaitlin).

Jim was a big man - 6'4" and over 250 pounds, but inside that formidable body there lived a tender heart full of creativity and a lust for life. He was liked everywhere he went, and it was well known that he could strike up a friendly conversation with anyone. He and Peggy enjoyed many years living on the east shore of Cayuga Lake, where they hosted many raucous parties and family gatherings during their time living there. Like his mother, Jim

had a love for words, and he enjoyed crafting stories and poems, many of which were published in local papers over the years.

Jim's essence was captured in recent comments made by a beloved niece when she said, "Let's take a moment outside of the sadness to recall what an interesting guy Jim was. We could not go to his house without him showing at least ten gadgets he'd invented AND fabricated to make his life easier in his house. We could not visit him without him sharing a story he had written or a poem he had crafted that showed his terrific sense of humor and irony. He was a creator. An inventor. A joker. A person who loved to laugh (or to snicker). He was a man who put a lot out into this world, and he loved to share it all. In his last days, he played out the last bits of how he truly felt life should be played out. Every bit of his process reflected the courageous and tender man he was, and I so appreciate him showing us how to do it."

Jim will be remembered for these and many other things, and while his family members and friends are grieving the loss of him, we delight in knowing that he lived the life he wanted, day by day, moment by moment, hand in hand with his lovely bride Peggy. Rest easy Dear One.

Memorial donations may be made in Jim's name to American Legion Post 1107, 8 Schobey St, Union Springs, NY 13160 or to VFW Post 961 at 423 West State Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

The family has been assisted with arrangements by Herson Wagner Funeral Home. There will be no funeral or calling hours. A gathering in celebration of Jim's life will be held later in the spring.