



## Mr. James "Jim" Streicher

December 23, 1952 - February 24, 2019

James "Jim" Streicher, 66, of East Peoria, formerly of Pontiac, died at 4:35am on Sunday, February 24, 2019, surrounded by family at his home on the Illinois River. He was born on December 23, 1952, in Chicago to Kenneth and Anne (Kominowski) Streicher. He married Marsha Kinney on March 12, 1977, in Taylorville. She still resides in East Peoria. Jim is also survived by his daughter Julia A. (Brian) Byrd of Chicago and son Douglas J. (Jessica) Streicher of Crystal Lake; a grandson, Parker D. Streicher; one brother, Dennis (Cass) Streicher of Glen Ellyn; and two sisters, Cynthia (George) Wilkin of Bolingbrook and Janice (Doug) Berman of Zurich, Switzerland. He was preceded in death by his parents. Jim graduated from S.I.U. Carbondale and worked at Caterpillar for 37 years as a manufacturing engineer. He was named on 9 patents in the area of fuel efficiency and reducing emissions in diesel engines. Jim dedicated his life to his family and was known for his charm and sense of humor. Service will be Thursday at 12pm at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 444 E. Washington St., East Peoria, with visitation an hour prior. Entombment will follow the service at Springdale Mausoleum in Peoria. Memorials may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

# Cemetery

---

# Events

---

## Springdale Cemetery

3014 N Prospect Rd

Peoria, IL, 61603

**FEB**

**28**

**Visitation**

11:00AM - 12:00PM

---

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services

444 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL, US, 61611

**FEB**

**28**

**Service**

12:00PM

---

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services

444 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL, US, 61611

# Comments

---



“ A tribute video has been added.



**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 28 at 04:55 PM

---



“ I'm left with many fond memories of Thumper. I believe we first met while ghost hunting in Indiana with Gazzoo and the other miscreants. And thanks to Bill, my final memory will be our sailing adventure on Lake Superior, with Jim at the helm, aided by his trusty parrot.  
Fair winds and following seas, my friend.

**Larry Jacoby** - February 28 at 12:17 PM

---



“ Marsha, Doug and Jess, Julia and Brian,

Seems like not too long ago we were all close together, since you were our neighbors almost directly across the street, Now we are geographically scattered, as life often does to us. For that reason I am writing this short note to all of you because I don't see you as often as I would like to(darn it!). There is not adequate time as we greet each other while we celebrate Jim's life yet mourn his passing.

Anytime I walk past your old house on Apache, my mind and heart are filled with so many pleasant memories from when we lived so close together. I cannot help but chuckle and smile as I think back to the many good times we all had together as we were in the process of raising families or being part of those families.

Jim was a dedicated father and husband first and foremost. He was also man with a very positive outlook on life and he was very intelligent and thoughtful. Jim and I shared many great laughs and joys over the years. I think back to our times together when we went together with our boys to the local dirt track races at Fairbury. He often came with a grocery bag full of popcorn or peanuts, which he generously shared with all the folks who sat around us. We often laughed as we returned home about having to go into the house and grab the old toothbrush to get the track dirt out of our teeth!

Jim and I shared duties as Cub scout den dads. Neither of us had a clue what we were doing, but we managed to provide a positive environment for the boys in our care. Fond memories still reside with me as I think back to Pinewood Derby, camping

out and getting soaked in a tent in the rain, and the many fun things we did with the boys.

I especially remember a trip we took to Brookfield Zoo with the scout den. It was a February day but unusually warm when we arrived at the Zoo, Jim got out of the car and locked it. He then realized how warm it had become and he decided to put his jacket in the trunk of his car. He did so and when we returned to the car to make the trip home, he realized his car keys were in the pocket of his jacket, and of course we had no way to retrieve them. Didn't have key fobs or cell phones back in the day! Poor Marsha, After getting a call from Jim from a local phone, she had to make the trek all the way to Brookfield with the spare set of keys. Hey, nobody's perfect!!

Many a time after Jim and I returned home from a day at work, he or I would see each other out in the garage or driveway. One of us would wave and wander over to the others residence and over a beer (or two) we would talk about family life and solve all the world's problems! I so cherish those memories!

Marsha, you are now taking the first steps on a pathway of life that I have been traveling on for the last seven years. Right now the storm clouds around you are intense and it will seem that the sun will never shine again. I know, I've been there too, It does take time and things will seem difficult and quite out of sort for a while. Remember that the depth of loss and despair you may feel present is simply a reflection of the deep and abiding love you and Jim had.

Life is a gift from God. But God does not promise a life free of affliction and sorrow. But God does promise to be there guiding us and loving us during these difficult times. God does not make promises He cannot keep! Seek Him daily on your journey down this new road of life.

God promises that our bodies will be renewed someday if we cling to His word. Julia, Brian, Doug and Jess, continue to love and support your mother and mother in law as Jim would want you to. All of our lives get too busy, but do all you can to carve out time for a phone call or visit to comfort her as she begins a new phase of life.

Reflect on Jim's life well lived and carry those memories in your heart forever,.

All my love, your old neighbor John

**John Trewartha** - February 27 at 08:31 PM



“ Incredibly well said John. Thank you and God Bless.

Gazzoo

**Gazzoo** - March 02 at 07:53 PM

---



“ Hello all, my memories of Jim are not as in depth as some of the folks from the 'gatherings'. We kind of lost touch after h.s. and didn't meet up until generations later in Galena. At my first gathering, we were all watching Woodstock in the basement (pre-big screen), all older with the changes in appearances that accompany it. At some point we were remembering old times and I recall asking, 'What ever happened to that Streicher guy?'. To which someone answered, 'Streicher .. he's sitting right next to you!'. I remember being somewhat embarrassed, looked at Jim and apologetically said, 'So Thumper, yr Streicher'. Jim played it all very cool and laughed it off. This may have been the moment that inspired Gazzoo's nickname index.

That day Thumper, Raccoon and I became the 'smoker's club's, who would go outside to stoke our not good habit. I saw Gaz's post on Jim's 'matchbook' fireworks display, which I'd forgotten. In Jim's memory I have ceremonially lit tobacco and blown smoke to the 6 directions .. may it rise to where Raccoon & Thumper are sitting around the higher fire circle .. tz

Tom Zaborsky - February 27 at 04:46 PM

---



“ Takeda Small Molecule Quality (Exton, PA) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. James "Jim" Streicher.



Takeda Small Molecule Quality (Exton, PA) - February 27 at 12:37 PM

---



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Mr. James "Jim" Streicher.



February 27 at 12:15 PM

---



“ 34 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 27 at 10:49 AM

---



“ Here is one of my favorite memories of "Thumper's" kindness.

After we graduated from Holy Cross, I was the only one of our little group of friends that was going to college outside of Chicago. When it came time to leave for Urbana-Champaign for the first time and move into the dorm, my parents were not able to take me. Thumper to the rescue! We packed up my belongings into the Chevelle SS396 and he drove me down. Back then, the interstates were not yet complete, so much of the trip was on IL 47, which was a two lane road at the time. (I'm feeling dated as I write this!) He was tired, so he even let me drive the Chevelle part of the way. It was the first time I had ever driven a stick or that powerful a car. He tried very hard to be patient with me as I was driving his baby. Anyway, we got there safe and sound. Such kindness he showed me! He was a good man even back then.

Marsha, may you experience the comfort of angels - and your memories be sweet.

Blessings,

Jim "Doc" Sances

Jim Sances - February 27 at 10:27 AM

---



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James "Jim" Streicher.



February 27 at 09:45 AM

---



“ Enjoyed working with Jim at the Pontiac Cat plant.RIP Jim .Lyn Smith

Lyn Smith - February 27 at 09:18 AM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James "Jim" Streicher.



February 26 at 07:55 PM

---



“ A wonderful person and a true friend for 4 decades. Will miss you my friend.



Bill Baumann - February 26 at 06:34 PM

---



“ The internet does not have enough gigabytes to hold all the memories Sue & I have of Thumper. (aka Jim)

Thumper and I met cheering at Holy Cross HS games in 1966-67. Win or lose we had a blast together...winning always being more fun. A common love of having a VG time in general, Rock 'n Roll, some outdoors stuff and stupidity helped quickly bond us as close friends.

"Charm and humor" are mentioned someplace in these pages. True. Perhaps "wit" is a combination of those 2 qualities. Maybe not. Regardless he is unequalled by far in wit among all of us guys and there are more than just a few of us. Unequalled. By. Far.

Thumper is always in the team picture of the life of the party. We have had countless marvelous times together ourselves and with Sue & Marsha our brides. We could be doing something as simple as playing a single game of Crockett ( aka croquette) for 3 hours or as complex as touring Europe for 3 weeks. It really didn't matter which one. It didn't. They were equally as fun for us....one was just longer than the other.

He once created an entire sailing dictionary in preparation for a week long sailing trip 5 of us guys were taking in Lake Superior. On that same trip he came out of the cabin below wearing an eye patch, and a parrot was perched on his shoulder. Yep....an eye patch and a parrot. I think they both stayed in place for 3-4 days. He proudly wore his, " Captain Wild Bill's Sailing Adventure" tee shirt during our voyage. Four years later while we were in the piano bar in a cruise ship off the coast of Greece he was proudly wearing that same shirt. Wish I thought of that ! Hey...sailing is sailing !

Two of the times Thumper saved my butt was on May 1st, 1970. I had been over served ( so to speak) at a White Sox night game. Thumper and Zabo wanted to leave in the 7th inning. I refused because did not want to leave until we saw the fireworks. The solution? Thumper lit matches and threw them in the air and said, "These are the fireworks, Gazzoo." Satisfied, we left and started home on the el. I looked around and when I started loudly asking a question that should not be asked due to the circumstances, Thumper shut my mouth. Saving Gazzoo's butt #1. A short time later in the el station a Chicago policeman ( Officer White) did not think it was funny that I was trying to walk UP the DOWN escalator. Thumper...along with Zabo convinced the officer they would take care of me and I meant no harm. Thanks Thumper!

Our trips with Sue & Marsha to the Rose Bowl Parade? Great! Las Vegas? Lots of fun! Around Lake Michigan? Wonderful! "Just" hanging around with our friends at our homes or winery? Priceless! Thumper always makes a good time better. Always.

We stood up to each other's weddings. I am honored that Sue & I were invited to be present at the marriage of Julia to Brian and Doug to Jess. I know he & Marsha had fun at the marriages of our sons Kevin to Mara and Dave to Katie. Wonderful times.

I never worked with him professionally, but by the responsibilities he had with various positions at Caterpillar it is obvious Cat thought highly of him. By how he overall talked of Cat during his 37 years there, he liked Cat as well. VG combination.

Typically Thumper is in the first wave of the guys to show up & decorate for our parties. "What should I do, Gazzoo?" he would ask. I would tell him and it would get done. Period.

Concerts? Our first concert together was a double date to see The Guess Who in 1970. He drove his very fancy blue 1967 Chevelle. I forget the details of it's fanciness. Our last concert together....in this world anyway....was also a double date. Craz came along as well and we saw Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band. In between from what I recall we have seen Elton John, The Who, Chicago, Billy Joel, Buddy Guy, Paul McCartney, John Fogerty and more.

I only have a few characters left (see 1st line). God Bless you Thumper!



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James "Jim" Streicher.



February 26 at 10:14 AM

---



“ Marsha and family... I was so saddened to see that Jim had passed. I had worked with him for many years at the Caterpillar Pontiac facility. His sense of humor, analytical mind, and sense of curiosity will certainly be missed. You are all in my Thoughts & Prayers.

Steve Forney

**Steve Forney** - February 26 at 06:56 AM