



## James A. Lawson

May 3, 1982 - December 29, 2023

James A. Lawson, 41, of Peoria, passed away on Friday, December 29, 2023, at his home. He was born in Bridgeton, MO on May 3, 1982, to James Goldman and Jeannie Lawson. He married Jamie Courtway on May 23, 2014. He will be fondly remembered by his 2 daughters, Briana and Faith Lawson of Peoria; his mother, Jeannie (Terry) Heid of Peoria; his father, James Goldman of Peoria; 3 stepchildren, Alexis Gehrt, Tristan Courtway and Bailey Aaron; his grandmother, Willa Heid of Peoria; and his 5 siblings, Kristi Jackson of Glasford, Jackie Heid of Peoria, Ryan Dykgraaf of Washington, Katy Dykgraaf of Peoria, and Cory Heid of Peoria.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

James worked as a machinist at Caterpillar for 20 years and was a proud member of the UAW Local 974.

He loved being outdoors and working on cars. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed fishing.

The family will receive friends from 4-6 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, with a Memorial Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Briana and Faith's college fund.

Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria  
444 E. Washington Street  
East Peoria, IL 61611

## Memorial Service

JAN 8. 6:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria  
444 E. Washington Street  
East Peoria, IL 61611

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of James A. Lawson



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**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - January 09, 2024 at 03:30 PM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - January 08, 2024 at 03:25 PM

JH

“ A huge piece of my heart left with you the day you left us. I loved you the second I found out I was pregnant with you. I was 16 when you were born and I knew I could never let you go. You were my pride and joy always. Your blonde bouncy girls your smile that lit up a room your eyes sparkled with love. You were the kindest soul I've ever known and have such love for your friends and family. I'm so sorry I didn't do more and will miss you every second of every day until I'm with you can again. I've gained an angel my precious boy I love you mom

Jeannie Lawson Heid - January 08, 2024 at 12:17 PM

FL

“ My father was everything to me. Of course to be a father you need a have some stern ways, but in the end it created who I am as a person and I will forever thank him for that. I enjoyed every ounce of time I spent with him, although I wish I spent more. I miss you, dad.  
<3

Faith Lawson - January 06, 2024 at 11:14 PM

CC

“ Rest easy brother.

Curtis Craig - January 06, 2024 at 01:17 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James A. Lawson.



January 05, 2024 at 02:44 PM

DH

“ Look out heaven, John and James are together again!! To all of James's family I send my deepest sympathy, hugs and prayers for comfort! He was like family when the boys were growing up and causing a rukus everywhere they went!!!

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**Deb Woosley Hezlep** - January 05, 2024 at 11:27 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James A. Lawson.



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January 05, 2024 at 12:29 AM

BA

“ James and I became friends as youths, and maintained that friendship our entire adulthood. He shared his strengths, victories, empathy, smiles, his confidence, his strokes of brilliance, and infectious sense of fun. He shared his life, home, his amazing family and brotherhood with me, and everyone else he knew. He accepted my friends and family as his own. Even after long periods in which life, work, or family kept us too busy to hang out, he would see me, and the year or better that we were apart would fall away as if it never occurred, and we were all instantly brothers again...He gave me an indestructible friendship that weathered anything life could throw at it. The only thing he had that he didn't freely share with me was his pain. After all he gave, I regret that I didn't get to share that with him too. We love and miss you forever little brother. I hope, and wish I left as many positive marks on you as you left on me, and I promise to carry them with pride until we hang out again. I may not know when, but I know that you'll dissolve those years like seconds just like you always have.

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**Billy Albert** - January 04, 2024 at 03:51 PM

TS

*That was beautifully said, Billy*

**Todd Schneider** - January 09, 2024 at 04:16 PM

TH

“ *James was a good friend in high school. Going to miss him*

**tiffany harrison** - January 04, 2024 at 10:51 AM

KH

*We are so sorry for your loss 🙏 God comfort you all. Never easy prayer's. Keith & Kristi*

**Kristi HEID** - January 04, 2024 at 12:29 PM