



James L. Ranney

October 19, 1938 - August 29, 2022

James L. Ranney, 83, of East Peoria, passed away on Monday, August 29, 2022, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born on October 19, 1938, in East Peoria, to James E. and Helen (Sperry) Ranney. He married his wife of 58 years, Sandra Ruth Pfeiffer on December 29, 1963, in Ashton; she survives.

Jim was dedicated to many things, but his greatest love was his family--his son, James (Mindi) Ranney of Baltimore; five grandchildren, Zachary, Joshua, Nicole, Paige, and James "Max"; and his brother, Bill (Peggy) Ranney of Anaheim, CA, who are left to honor his memory. It broke Jim's heart when he lost his daughter, Christine, on November 18, 2021.

He loved to be out and about. Whether he was attending the Indy 500, which he did for over 40 years, attending a Bradley basketball, Bears, or Cubs game, or golfing with his buddies, Jim loved spending time with his friends. Jim graduated from EPCHS Class of 1956. In 1962, he earned a degree in biology at Eureka College and began his career in education as a science teacher and coach at Ashton Westview Jr. High School. Then, while teaching at Woodruff High School in 1964, he went back to Bradley University and received his Masters in Guidance and Counseling. In 1970, he earned his PhD in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University, where he was awarded the Raymond Foster Memorial Scholarship, and went on to work for the Troy Community Consolidated School District in Joliet as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research, and Title Project and as Junior High

Principal. In 1972, he was named an Outstanding Young Man in America by the Phi Delta Kappa Professional Fraternity for Men in Education. He moved back to the area to become the Director of Elementary Curriculum for Peoria Public Schools in 1973, where he worked until he retired in 1993.

As a proud resident of East Peoria, Jim took great pride in being involved in the community. His service began in 1975, when he became the Commissioner of Public Property for the City of East Peoria, a board member for the Tri-County Planning Commission, and a member of the East Peoria Kiwanis Club and Bicentennial Commission. In 1979, he was elected Mayor of East Peoria; a position he proudly held until 1987. During his time as Mayor, he served as the Chairman of the Tri-County Mayor's Association and was a member of several local groups, including the East Peoria Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-County Economic Development Council, where he served as an Executive Committee Member for 3 years, the Route 121 Task Force, Central Illinois Alcoholism Council, Big Brother/Big Sister, Peoria Lake/Illinois River Study Advisory Committee, the Eighteenth District Congressional Award Council, Peoria Area Volunteer Fire Prevention Advisory Council, Women Strength Sexual Assault Advisory Committee, Tri-County Tomorrow Steering Committee, and the United Way Home Health Care Task Force. He was recognized in Who's Who in America in 1983 and the Directory of Distinguished Americans in 1984. In 1985, one of his greatest achievements as Mayor was starting the Festival of Lights Parade.

In recognition of his years of dedication to the community, Jim was named the East Peoria Citizen of the Year in 1986. In 1987, he was honored as the Tri-County Citizen of the Year and was also awarded the Eureka College Alumni Award of Merit. The City of East Peoria honored Jim by naming the Public Service Building after him.

Jim was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, Sigma Zeta Science Honorary Society, International Reading Association, Illinois Reading Association, National Council of Teaching of English, and a past member of Illinois Association of Supervision & Development and the Association for Supervision and

Curriculum Development. He was a longtime member of University United Methodist Church in Peoria.

Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, September 2, 2022, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 3, 2022, with an additional half-hour of visitation prior to the service at 9:30 a.m., at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria. The Funeral Service will be live streamed on <https://www.facebook.com/deiterseastpeoria/>.

Memorial contributions may be made to University United Methodist Church or Central Illinois Memorial Kidney Fund (CIMKF). Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

SEP 3. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

SEP 3. 10:00 AM (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 L. Ranney



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 03, 2022 at 10:02 AM



“ James L. Ranney

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ Baltimore Hebrew Congregation clergy, lay leaders and members offer their condolences to the family of James L. Ranney. We hope that you are comforted by warm memories and support of family, friends and community.
May his memory be forever a blessing.

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation - September 20, 2022 at 09:25 PM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathy Sandy and family for the loss of Jim. He was such a fun person to be around and a great public servant.

MARILYN BOYLE - September 08, 2022 at 08:59 AM

JB

“ *Jim And Kathy Burdette lit a candle in memory of James L. Ranney*



Jim and Kathy Burdette - September 02, 2022 at 10:11 PM

JB

“ *Sandy and Family, Kathy and I send our sympathy and hugs to you. We just learned of his passing tonight. (9/2//2022) He certainly touched many lives and left his touch throughout the greater Peoria area. We feel fortunate to have met you both at the "old" Panera a few years ago.*

Jim and Kathy Burdette - September 02, 2022 at 10:11 PM

JB

Sandy and Family, I just wanted to offer my condolences. Jim will be missed by a lot of people, including myself. He was always someone I looked up to with the greatest respect and admiration throughout my career with the City of East Peoria. As a firefighter and Fire Chief, I always found him to a great inspiration and example of superb leadership. He was a good friend and will be greatly missed by the East Peoria Community.

Jim Bevard - September 03, 2022 at 12:27 PM

CF

“ *Sandy and family. Please accept our deepest condolences. Jim was a man deeply admired , respected and will always be in our memory as one of the good guys!*

*With deep sadness,
Bill and Cindy Fischer*

cindy fischer - September 02, 2022 at 05:37 PM

FA

“ Sandy we were all saddened to learn of Jim's passing. We enjoyed so many conversations with him over the years and shared a few laughs along the way. We always looked forward to you both coming down for the winter months each year. May your entire family find comfort in knowing how much we thought of Jim. Friends from Daphne, Alabama.

Friends from Daphne, Alabama - September 02, 2022 at 03:38 PM

JR

“ Our deepest sympathy on your loss of a wonderful gentleman father, and husband. I was on the planning commission , and he made us proud to be part of his amazing gift of creating a “new” forward East Peoria. In 1985 when I was transferred to South Bend, Indiana , we returned many times as our love for folks in the community. Our family Rebecca, Rachel and Stephen felt the same for our 15 years living in EP and 3 in Springfield as well as Madonna teaching at Woodrow Wilson.
May he Rest In Peace , with Love and hugs to all who cherished him. Jim and Madonna Rouiller

James Rouiller - September 02, 2022 at 11:58 AM



“ 44 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 01, 2022 at 02:05 PM



“ I had the privilege to work with Jim both as Mayor of East Peoria and in his roles at Peoria Public Schools. He was a wonderful man who impacted the lives of people throughout Central Illinois. On top of that, he was very simply a kind and nice man.

Roberta Parks - September 01, 2022 at 11:41 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James L. Ranney.



August 31, 2022 at 10:42 PM

BB

“ *Bill and Susan Bishop purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James L. Ranney.*



Bill and Susan Bishop - August 31, 2022 at 05:33 PM

PB

“ *Sandy-I'm sorry for you loss!! Jim was a great person and a really favorite client and always made people feel special!!! He always wanted to make sure I got a Christmas card from him before he left for down south he had a live well lived! Pam his barber*

pam burling - August 31, 2022 at 04:58 PM

EJ

“ *We were friends since kids & through adulthood. I always counted on him for personal reference for my employment.*

Earl E Gum Jr - August 31, 2022 at 04:07 PM