



## James "JD" Thompson

June 24, 1936 - November 24, 2022

James "JD" Thompson, 86, of East Peoria, passed away on Thursday, November 24, 2022, at Grand View Special Care Center in Peoria. He was born on June 24, 1936, in Birdtown, MO, to James O. and Thelma (Grisham) Thompson. He married his wife of 59 years, Pauline Pendergrass, on July 26, 1955; she preceded him in death on September 24, 2014.

He was also preceded in death by his son, James; sister, Barbara; and brother, Richard.

He is survived by his daughter, Darrah Strubhar of Pekin; 3 grandchildren, Craig (Jennifer) Strubhar, Aimee (Caesar) Shanine, and Ashley (Brandon) Duff; and 6 great grandchildren.

JD worked for the City of East Peoria from 1973-1998, retiring as Director of Public Affairs. He volunteered with the Folepi Parade and designed the original Frosty and Rudolph floats. In his free time, he built steel guitars and enjoyed fishing.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Services will be private. Inurnment will be in Mountain Grove, Missouri at a later date. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ James "JD" Thompson

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



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**Dick Dodson** - January 09, 2023 at 09:12 AM



*I will always have great memories of my working relationship and friendship with jay.He was loyal and dedicated beyond measure to the city of East Peoria . Together with Dennis Triggs they landed many development projects that the community will long benefit from.It was a privilege to know and work with J.D.*

**Dick Dodson** - January 09, 2023 at 09:39 AM

DT

“ I first met Jay about 44 years ago and worked closely with him for the last 17 years of his career with the City of East Peoria. He was knowledgeable, smart, honest and savvy. His commitment to the City of East Peoria was unmatched. He didn't just turn the lights out at the end of the day, go home and forget about the City. He was basically on the job 24/7. I remember Jay calling one weekend and asking me to meet him at the river front where construction on the marina had just commenced. Someone had spotted an oil slick on the bank. This discovery had the potential of shutting down construction permanently, foreclosing the development of the marina and Harbor Point residential development. Jay didn't hesitate to do the ethical thing - report the oil slick to the U.S. Coast Guard. Before the weekend was over, we were relieved to learn that the oil had washed ashore from a barge discharge into the river. This meant that there wasn't permanent contamination and construction could continue. This is how Jay approached his job. Do everything possible to advance the interests of the City, but always take the high road. He was the City employee who took the lead in the difficult and unpopular task of acquiring property necessary for the transition of downtown East Peoria into Town Center I and Town Center II. He is the employee who took the lead on securing the casino license for the City that has resulted in millions of dollars of revenue. Employees with his work ethic, skill and loyalty are rare. We worked hard, but laughed a lot. Judy and I miss Jay and Pauline.

*Dennis Triggs*

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**Dennis Triggs** - November 30, 2022 at 05:14 PM