



James E. Swarthout

February 28, 1929 - March 30, 2023

A loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, James E. Swarthout died on March 30, 2023 peacefully at home, at the age of 94. Born in Evanston, Illinois on February 28, 1929 to Elizabeth and Floyd Swarthout, he was a life-long Lake Forest resident, graduating from Gorton school and Lake Forest High school.

Seventy years ago, Jim placed a ring on Terry Cantagallo's finger at Christmas Eve mass. They married and had four children; Rev. James (Claudia) Swarthout, Thomas (Carolyn) Swarthout, Dave (Cathy) Swarthout, and Cindy (Brad) Luetje. Together with 11 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and his many nieces and nephews, they built a life filled with laughter and joy.

Jim believed in "Service over Self." At age 18, he began as a volunteer fireman for the City of Lake Forest, which he spoke of to his grandchildren fondly. He also held roles as the Chairman of the Recreation Department Board, a 3rd Ward Alderman and Trustee for the North Shore Sanitary district. He served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army and was the Mayor of Lake Forest from 1975-1978.

From selling Fords to fighting fires his 94 active years were always centered on family, faith and Lake Forest. As a third generation Lake Forester, he was

well known, often seen driving his 1948 red Ford pick-up truck on his way to coffee in town. Jim and Terry held a Lake Forest Day party at their house every year, and was the highlight of the summer.

Living for 67 years in the home he built, across from West Park, you could find him and the many generations of his family and friends playing ball, skating at the ice rink and using their home as the center of activity and celebration. Their house was and remains an open door, with family and friends frequently stopping by. Their basement was used as the St. Mary's locker room, while Jim volunteered his time as their football coach. Family gatherings at the backyard pool brought together friends from around the community, which brought him great joy.

Jim, Dad, Grandpa and Papa had a smile that instantly made you feel loved. He will be remembered and missed dearly.

Visitation from 4-8 PM on Sunday, April 2, 2023 at Gorton Center, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest and on Monday, April 3, 2023 at the Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest from 10:30 AM until the 11:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial. Private interment at Lake Forest Cemetery. For information – Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

Memorial contributions in James's name may be made to Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital Foundation at <https://foundation.nm.org/where-to-help/lake-forest-hospital/> or calling (833) 443-8663.

Cemetery Details

Lake Forest Cemetery

1525 North Lake Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gorton Center
400 E. Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Visitation

APR 3. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Mary
175 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
<http://www.churchofstmary.org>

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 3. 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Mary
175 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
<http://www.churchofstmary.org>

Tribute Wall

JP

“ To Terry and family- No idea how I missed Jim's passing. I found out today from Renee's cousin Shirley. The times we had as trustees at the North Shore Sanitary District were wonderful. Jim was our leader and I learned so much from him about the District as well as life itself. He was truly my friend and a great human being. God bless and God speed Jim. John (Renee) Paxton.

John Paxton - October 03, 2023 at 07:03 PM

BG

“ To the family of Jim Swarthout. Our deepest condolences to all of the family. We have many good memories of Jim over the years. It was a privilege to know him. We especially appreciated all he did for the city of Lake Forest over the years. BJ and George Giannasi

Barbara Giannasi - April 04, 2023 at 04:11 PM

CH

“ 50+ years ago I had just returned home from the Army to start my life as a Lake Bluff resident and Lake Forest retailer. I had joined the Rotary Club in hopes of meeting other local business owners when I first met Jim Swarthout. Jim went out of his way to welcome me to the community and became a trusted mentor and friend. That's who Jim was - friendly and fun and inclusive. The Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" described Jim and his impact on his community and on all those lucky to know him. My thoughts are with Terry and the family and I know we are all comforted by memories of the life he lived and shared. Chuck Helander

Chuck Helander - April 03, 2023 at 11:55 AM

DC

“ Dear Swarthout family, Please accept our sincere condolences. Our parents enjoyed yours very much, many years ago now. Warm regards, The Zengeler Family

DZ Creigh - April 03, 2023 at 10:32 AM

TE

“ My Condolences to the Swarthout Family! Will pray for the happy repose of his soul! May he rest in peace!

Tom Egan - April 02, 2023 at 10:32 PM

DG

“ To the Swarthout Family, Wishing you peace, comfort, courage and lots of love at this time of sorrow. My deepest sympathy to you all. When I was a kid, I remember Jim being over at his sister, Jean Peddle's house next door, very often, when I'd be there with Linda. They were always laughing and enjoying themselves in the tv room, and had a very close family relationship, which I thought was special. The other memory I have is of how accommodating the C & S Service station ((which I believe Jim ran at the time), was to my dad, Tom Roberts, who owned the Village Garage, two doors from the station. Whenever he was in need of a belts, plugs, fuses etc. in an emergency, he could always run over to the service station and they'd have it. Jim always helped him in time of need. Years later we'd always watch the Lake Forest Day parade right there at the station.

♥♥♥ Diane Roberts Gold

Jimmy Jr. - If you read this, keep laughing and inspiring others, you have a gift.

Diane Roberts Gold - April 02, 2023 at 05:34 PM

TD

“ *Tim Doherty says, My prayers are with your family these days.*

Timothy L Doherty - April 02, 2023 at 01:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James E. Swarhout.*



April 02, 2023 at 09:18 AM

WU

“ *So many great memories with the Swarhout, as Summit neighbors, working with son Jimmy, a Wonderful person who worked with my recently passed mom who worked with them at The Recreation Dept. I always remembered how special their house was, it had to me a special warmth on our street. THIS is a true Lake Forester and may his memory serve all of us as a great reminder of we should be. Heaven is gaining some pretty incredible people who I miss terribly! To his growing family I wish you peace! Wendi Amundson Unrein*

Wendi Amundson Unrein - April 01, 2023 at 11:52 PM

JO

“ *And so another of the West Park neighborhood is gone. Jim always had a kind word when I'd walk by. The O'Neill's will be welcoming him into Heaven. Jane O'Neill*

Jane O'Neill - April 01, 2023 at 11:37 PM

LS

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of the loss of James Swarhout. My thoughts and prayers are with the whole family and friends. I've been greatly blessed by Mr. Swarhout and the whole family over the years.

Much love and sympathy,

Linda Sylvester

Linda Sylvester - April 01, 2023 at 05:47 PM

LD

“ Our deepest sympathies to your family. I worked for the Swarhout's when I was a teenager. Many wet feet compliments of the car wash. Wouldn't change a thing! Melody and I will keep you in our thoughts during this challenging times.

Larry & Melody Dunn

Larry & Melody Dunn - April 01, 2023 at 05:03 PM

JF

“ Oh, the Honorable James Swarhout...we will miss you so much. You gave so much to the community in your many years of loving service. You always wanted to know what you could do for the person in front of you. Never asking for what they could do for you. Whether facing an angry crowd at a Lake Forest Council meeting or a tee shot at the 10th hole at The Onwentsia Club...you always thought of the other persons needs. Thank you Jim for everything you have done for me and the larger US. You shall never be forgotten!.

John F Fischbach

john f fischbach - April 01, 2023 at 03:31 PM

JW

“ A great family from a Great Man Rip in peace . Jimmy and Barbara Walsh

James and Barbara Walsh - April 01, 2023 at 12:44 PM

JB

“ John Burns purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of James E. Swarthout.



John Burns - April 01, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James E. Swarthout.



April 01, 2023 at 11:18 AM

LF

“ Linda and Laura and families. purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of James E. Swarthout.



Linda and Laura and families. - April 01, 2023 at 10:18 AM

KB

“ Ken & Karen Bauwens purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of James E. Swarthout.



Ken & Karen Bauwens - April 01, 2023 at 07:26 AM

JL

“ Lynn and I are so saddened by the loss of Jimmy . He has been friends with our mom and dad forever and as the “Sorensen Girls” who visited them as often as we could. One of the first memories that came to my mind was the great story told of “The hunt to Highwood” where my dad Jimmy Ed Burns and several other Lake Forest boys would take the train to Highwood on a Saturday night became wedding crashers and all found their beautiful Italian brides. Thanks for all the great memories. Judy Sorensen La Greca ,Lynn Sorensen. Janet Sorensen LaFollette

Judy Lagreca - March 31, 2023 at 06:05 PM

MW

“ Matthew Walsh purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James E. Swarthout.



Matthew Walsh - March 31, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ To the whole Swarthout clan, I'm saying prayers and sending my love to you all.. I know that even when you know the end is near, it still doesn't prepare you for when it actually happens. I always loved how he would tell the story about my dad and him in highschool. I will miss seeing him on Lake Forest Day.



Terri McCormick - March 31, 2023 at 04:14 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James E. Swarthout.



March 31, 2023 at 01:01 PM



“ Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Dept. purchased the A Full Life for the family of James E. Swarthout.



Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Dept. - March 31, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Swarthout.



March 30, 2023 at 08:28 PM



“ *Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of James E. Swarthout.*



March 30, 2023 at 08:04 PM