



James Harlan

August 30, 1948 - August 1, 2024

James Matthew Harlan, 75, died on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at his home in Janesville, IA.

He was born on August 30, 1948, in Mt. Pleasant, IA, the son of Leslie and Francis (White) Harlan. He graduated high school in Colorado Springs, CO, before attending junior college in Ft. Collins, CO. On September 29, 1972, he was united in marriage to Terrie Murrow in Denver, CO. They later divorced.

He worked for the Cedar Falls Fire Department for 35 distinguished years, retiring in 2012 as the driver/operator of Pump Truck 502. Jim was awarded Firefighter of the Year and received a Certificate of Honor for his response and recovery during the May 25, 2008 tornado and the major flooding of June 2008. He was involved in the Fire Prevention Program within the Cedar Falls school district for many years and served as a mentor to many of the new and existing Fire Fighters throughout his years. After retirement, Jim continued to be active in the Local IFF 1366 and served as the lead contractor negotiator for many years.

Jim was passionate about music, concerts, cars, hunting and annual fishing trips with family and friends. He loved his Denver Broncos and was an avid fan for UNI and the Iowa Hawkeyes. He enjoyed spending time with his grandkids and dedicated his love and time to all his many dogs throughout his

life. He was honored to carry the Olympic torch in 1996 and to catch the world line record Brown Trout in 1995.

Jim is survived by his sons, Jason (Christine) Harlan of Derby, KS; grandchildren, Arianna and Cael Harlan; Todd (fiancé Debbie Dreesman) Harlan of Appleton, WI; fiancé Helen Pearce of Cedar Falls and his beloved Golden Retriever Hannah Harlan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Shirley Ann Pearson and Dolores Benton; and one brother, Frederick Harlan.

Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls with a memorial service following at 7:00 p.m. Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 7th at Hillsboro, IA Cemetery.

Jim was a member of the Cedar Valley F.O.O.L.S since its inception in 2010. Memorials may be directed to: F.O.O.L.S Fraternal Order of Leatherheads (215 Bergstrom Blvd, Cedar Falls, IA 50613) or Retrieving Freedom (1152 230th St, Waverly, IA 50677).

Cemetery Details

Hillsboro Cemetery

Hillsboro, IA 52630

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

A Time of Remembrance

AUG 6. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Graveside Service

AUG 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillsboro Cemetery
Hillsboro, IA 52630

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Jim and I were cousins but since we were raised in Colorado he was more like a brother to me. Without a doubt he was a gentle kind man. He always went along with my crazy schemes and many times it got us in trouble, but never once did he throw me under the bus and say it was my idea. I was very fortunate to have been able to visit him shortly before he passed. We reminisced and laughed and laughed. I will be forever grateful we had that time together. There is a hole in my heart and Jim you will be forever missed! Love you!
Cousin Janet Gregonis

Janet Gregonis - August 09, 2024 at 09:46 PM

KP

“ Uncle Jimmy was my maternal grandmother's little brother, and he was always jovial and fun. I will forever remember all of the firefighter memorabilia he collected and kindness towards others and animals. In honor of Jimmy, I made a donation to ASPCA to memorialize his love of dogs-- notably Miss Hannah. I will miss your infectious laugh Uncle Jimmy <3

Kara Peebles - August 08, 2024 at 01:26 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album James Harlan Service



RFS - August 07, 2024 at 12:14 PM

YA

“ Your friends at ICUL, ICUF, & AMC purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of James Harlan.



Your friends at ICUL, ICUF, & AMC - August 06, 2024 at 10:32 AM

TP

“ Tamara P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Harlan.

Tamara P. - August 05, 2024 at 10:58 PM

JW

“ So sorry for your loss 😞 Helen and family. You have our deepest sympathys. RIP! Jim.He has gone HOME now! To our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! In Jesus name, Amen!

James Wahner - August 05, 2024 at 09:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Harlan.



August 05, 2024 at 01:31 PM

YC

“ Your friends at CFCCU planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Harlan.

Your friends at CFCCU - August 05, 2024 at 01:31 PM

YF

“ Your Omni family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Harlan.



Your Omni family - August 05, 2024 at 11:22 AM

YF

“ Your Omni family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Harlan.

Your Omni family - August 05, 2024 at 11:22 AM

MF

“ Mike and Kathy Dodds and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Harlan.



Mike and Kathy Dodds and family - August 05, 2024 at 09:46 AM

MF

“ Mike and Kathy Dodds and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Matthew Harlan.

Mike and Kathy Dodds and family - August 05, 2024 at 09:46 AM

WA

“ WDM Architects purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of James Harlan.



WDM Architects - August 05, 2024 at 09:20 AM

WA

“ WDM Architects planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Matthew Harlan.

WDM Architects - August 05, 2024 at 09:20 AM

AB

“ Jim was my neighbor and father to my 2 friends Jason and Todd. He was tolerant of the noise we made trying to play Rush in his immaculate garage and blasting Rush on Todd's stereo (in the time before earbuds). Jim had everything in its place, ready for action, like the archetypal fire fighter. Clearly a hard worker and dedicated to order. I admired him for that. Much later my wife and I ran into him in a store with our infant son. Jim beamed in pleasure to see Colin. The joy of the older generation witnessing the birth of the new. I will miss Jim. Rest in peace with golden retriever hair on your shirt cleaning rag in hand and the Bronco's schedule on the end table by your easy chair.

Aaron Boyd - August 04, 2024 at 09:39 AM

MA

“ *Manette R Anderson lit a candle in memory of James Harlan*



Manette R Anderson - August 04, 2024 at 01:43 AM

MA

My Father worked with Jim for many years and I enjoyed talking with him when I stopped into the station, I'm so sorry to hear this:-:-)

Manette Bell Anderson - August 05, 2024 at 12:46 PM

AP

“ *Anne Pearson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Harlan.*



Anne Pearson - August 03, 2024 at 01:15 PM

AP

“ *Anne Pearson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Matthew Harlan.*

Anne Pearson - August 03, 2024 at 01:15 PM