



James "Jim" Polacek

March 6, 1930 - April 25, 2020

Jim Polacek, 90, of Cedar Falls died Saturday, April 25th at Western Home Nation Cottage. His death was not related to COVID-19.

Jim was born March 6, 1930 in Minneapolis, Minnesota the son of James V. and Florence Polacek.

At the age of 8 he moved with his parents to the Steele County, Minnesota farm which was to remain a major interest for the rest of his life. His early education was in a rural school, Pillsbury Military Academy and Owatonna High School. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS degree in Agricultural Engineering.

He married Margie Chambers June 22, 1952 and worked for John Deere Product Engineering Center for the next 50 Years. He served two years in the Air Force, stationed in Korea.

Jim was a 60-year member of First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo where he served as Deacon, Elder and member of the Foundation Board. He was a member of SAE, ASABE, and Tau Beta Pi, and enjoyed singing for many years with the John Deere Melodeers. Jim was an avid biker and proud of having ridden RAGBRAI with his sons and grandchildren for 25 years, an activity he continued until age 80. He also enjoyed many family bike trips throughout the U.S. He traveled extensively throughout the world for John

Deere and he and Marge treasured their many overseas trips together and with friends. Jim loved his family, his farm and all things green and yellow.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother- in-law, and many good friends.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 68 years and three sons: Tom (Dee) of New Brighton, MN, David of Minneapolis, MN, and Jeff (Angie) of Afton, MN; and seven grandchildren: Catherine (Howie) Kvasnik, and Alex (Amanda) Polacek both of St. Paul, MN, Joe, Eric and Wade Polacek all of Minneapolis, Martha Polacek of NYC and Anna Polacek of Oberlin, OH; and great grandchildren, Mickey Kvasnik and Layla Colby.

A Memorial Service is planned for a later date. First Presbyterian of Waterloo will play one of Jim's favorite hymns on their carillon Monday, May 4, at noon. You may visit the church Facebook page at that time to hear the hymn and observe a moment of remembrance and prayer. <https://www.facebook.com/fpcwaterloo/> In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to First Pres-byterian Church of Waterloo Foundation or the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra.

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *To: Marge and Family
From: Judy and John Focht*

Judy and I were saddened to hear of Jim's passing. We are with you all in the spirit of sympathy and love.

Personally, I just want to say that we have appreciated our professional and personal relationship through the years. We at Cedar Heights recognized and appreciated your support for our endeavors as educators. You produced three wonderful sons and your strong and supportive parenting is most evident.

We also remember seeing you folks in Green Valley and spending time with you there,

We shared one hobby for sure.. and that is biking. I recall seeing you out on the trails on several occasions

Blessing to you Marge and to all of your family.. With you in loving spirit.

Judy and John Focht

John Focht - May 07, 2020 at 04:56 AM

WJ

“ *Marge and family -- gosh, I've known Jim for a long, long time. I am sure we met before we moved to Waterloo because Jim worked with many of us and was well known throughout the Deere Engineering organization. He always made a great contribution and always was a pleasure to be with. Then, Kay and I moved to Waterloo and both of us got to know you, Jim and family. The world is a better place because of Jim and we offer you our sincere condolences. Willard & Kay*

Willard & Kay Jenkins - May 03, 2020 at 05:52 PM

MK

“ *It was an honor and privilege to know and work with Jim. I have many fond memories. May he rest in peace.*
Mervin Kizlyk

MERVIN KIZLYK - May 03, 2020 at 11:54 AM

CH

“ *Margie, I am so sorry for your loss and grief. While it has been many years since we worked together I have thought of you and Jim many times. I pray that all the heavenly hosts are celebrating Jim's arrival. May God bless and comfort you and your family .*
Love, Chris Harshbarger

Chris Harshbarger - May 01, 2020 at 10:59 AM

BM

“ *Dear Marge and Family:*
We were saddened to learn about the loss of Jim. We shared many good personal and business times at Waterloo and Welland. With our deepest sympathy.
Bill and Lydia MacGregor

Bill MacGregor - May 01, 2020 at 08:48 AM

PO

“ *Marge and Family -*

Truly sorry to hear about the loss of Jim! I have you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Pete Olson - April 30, 2020 at 08:32 PM

DM

“ Jim was so authentic and hospitable. He and Marge included me in weekly pizza nights when I was temporarily living in Cedar Falls for 5000 series tractor project. May he Rest in peace.

Deb Murphy - April 30, 2020 at 01:12 PM

BM

“ Dear Marge & Family,

Bob and I want to extend our sincere sympathy to you and your family. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time. Bob & Lanora Miller

Bob & Lanora Miller - April 30, 2020 at 10:33 AM

HS

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult. Sorry that his service needed to be delayed but love the carillon idea. Hap and Cindy (Sommerlot) Spencer

Hap and Cindy Spencer - April 30, 2020 at 10:02 AM

VH

“ With deepest sympathy to you Marge and your family

Bernhard and Vera Haas

Vera Haas - April 29, 2020 at 05:29 PM

LO

“ Sending my deepest sympathy to you Marge and your family.
Louise Odle

Louise Odle - April 29, 2020 at 12:10 PM

DA

“ Thoughts and prayers to you Jeff and your entire family



Dave Allard - April 29, 2020 at 11:54 AM

DH

“ Marge and family - so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. The two of you are such special people and bring so much light to the world. I know your family will miss him and all of us will miss him as well. Blessings to all!

Donna Harvey - April 29, 2020 at 09:33 AM

CK

“ Dave, I am so sorry to hear the passing of your Dad. You have gained a wonderful angel on your shoulder. May your heart heal in time with beautiful memories. Sending prayers and hugs to you my dear childhood friend.



Christie Kruse - April 29, 2020 at 08:34 AM