



James Lederer

September 5, 1947 - February 22, 2021

James E. Lederer, 73, Wakarusa, Kansas, passed away at his home, Monday, February 22, 2021.

Jim was born September 5, 1947, in at Ransom Memorial Hospital in Ottawa, Kansas, to John Sr. and Nellie Johnson Lederer. He grew up on the family farm six miles NW of Ottawa on Sand Creek Road. He attended both Oakland (a one room schoolhouse) and Michigan Valley Grade Schools. He attended one year at Appanoose High School until it consolidated with Pomona in 1964. In 1965 he graduated from Pomona High School where he played football and was voted most likely to succeed. Following graduation, he enrolled at Emporia State University studying biology. After one year, he enlisted in the US Air Force, serving our country between 1969 and 1972. His technical training was in munitions and he was assigned to Guam as direct support in the Vietnam War.

Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to Emporia to continue his education. After some time, he required hospitalization at the Topeka VA Hospital. It was then that he moved to the Topeka area to reside the rest of his life. Jim was a versatile handyman and held many jobs, including Blackburn Nursery, Jostens, and Gary Brown Towing Service.

Jim never knew a stranger and loved visiting with people. He was a

kindhearted, generous person, always asking what he could do to help. Jim loved to cook and often made pies, cakes or ice cream to deliver to friends or folks in need. He frequently brought his sister, Helen, bouquets.

In 2008, Jim met and married the love of his life, Geraldine Cummings Peterson. Together, they traveled, danced and enjoyed laughing and eating popcorn together. She preceded him in death on January 1, 2021. He sorely missed her.

He was a compassionate, caring man who loved his family and hosted numerous family reunions at his home in rural Wakarusa, Kansas.

Jim loved music. At the time of his death, he had a menagerie of music - a collection of musical instruments, CDs and sheet music. He frequently attended the Prairie Pickers Blue Grass performances and campouts. He could often be seen and/or heard sitting on his front porch, playing his guitar and singing gospel songs or bluegrass music to his cats! He would even take his guitar to the cemetery when he visited his parents' graves and sing "Amazing Grace" and "I'll Fly Away".

Jim will be greatly missed. We will miss his frequent phone calls, updating time and weather, letting us know that the sun is shining in the top of the cottonwood trees. And we will miss seeing him come roaring by in his collector 1989 Chevy Silverado pickup truck. We will miss his bear hugs, pies and serenades, but our memories and his love will remain in our hearts forever.

Grateful to have shared Jim's life are his siblings, Kay Johnson, Council Grove, Kansas, Jack Lederer (Terry), Gardner, Kansas and Helen Ramshaw (Ray), Wakarusa; and many nieces and nephews.

Jim was also preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Duane Johnson.

Visitation will be Monday, March 1, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Jim's Celebration of Life will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Inurnment will be in Shawnee Center Cemetery, Wakarusa. Due to the pandemic, masks and social distancing are required. Jim's service will be livestreamed on the funeral home Facebook page.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Topeka VA Medical Center to be used for patient needs and sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Shawnee Center Cemetery

Wakarusa, KS 66546

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

A Celebration of Life

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Lederer



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 25, 2021 at 08:21 PM



“ James Lederer

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ I am just so without words as to Jim's passing. We have not seen each other in 50 years.. How can that be? Jim, Terry Gray and I were "buds" at Westover AFB in Massachusetts 1970/71. We had some times together. Somehow, after we "got out", we connected and have been phone buds ever since! It has now been over a week since I have heard "Ed Novak... This is Jim Lederer in Wakarussa, KS" on the answering machine - and I miss those words horribly! Your tribute video is absolutely beautiful - the USAF pictures are wonderful! Our deepest sympathies to you, his family and all who knew him. Rest in Peace buddy!

Ed Novak - March 03, 2021 at 04:52 PM

LL

“ Jim was a joy to be around. I always looked forward to seeing him and Helen June when we went to grandma's. I still remember vividly the time when 3 of us went skinny-dipping in one of the small cow ponds. I jumped in and came up for air...and a BIG black snake was swimming right at me. I quick got out and Jim said "but it's harmless!" I didn't care. But I got that he was genuinely concerned. Jim was a caring, loving guy.

Jim will most certainly be missed by everyone he loved...and that's all of us. I believe that his warm and caring spirit will make a difference "over there," too. A light as bright as his will not be extinguished.

These words come to mind just now. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you..." John 14:27 Jim has also left his peace with us.

Thank you, Jim!

Larry Kent Lederer, Elk Grove Village (Chicago), IL

Larry Kent Lederer - March 01, 2021 at 07:16 AM

SP

“ I was so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was always so kind whenever I saw him. He was such a gentle soul and will be missed.

Sue Powell

Suzanne Marie Powell - February 28, 2021 at 02:17 PM

TG

“ So sad to learn of Jim's passing. I met Jim while we were in the Air force. We served in Guam together then went to Mass. Westover Air base. We had many good times and memories, and he came to Colorado when Irene and I got married. Gonna miss him dearly. REST IN PEACE Jim.

Terry Gray - February 27, 2021 at 07:07 PM

TC

“ Terry and Irene Gray Empire, Colorado purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Lederer.



Terry and Irene Gray Empire, Colorado - February 27, 2021 at 06:57 PM

LH

“ Rest in peace Jim. I will miss our phone calls. I think the sun is coming up over the cottonwoods.

Lillie (Harkins) Hontz

Lillie Hontz - February 26, 2021 at 01:59 PM

TL

“ Our prayers to Jim's family. I met Jim as a young child, we were playing in a baseball game; a ball hit to outfield came our way, it went straight over my head and Jim caught it. We were best friends in school with many memorable moments. Even that first year of college we roomed together. Definitely a caring man with music in his soul. He will be greatly missed.

Tom and Judy Love

Tom Love - February 25, 2021 at 08:44 PM

JA

“ Sorry to hear of Jims death! Deepest sympathy to the family! Bob and I will be unable to attend his service as we have prior commitments and will be out of town on Mon. He was a great guy and classmate! 🥰 Thinking of you all!

Judy Altic - February 25, 2021 at 08:27 PM

TJ

“ I was saddened to read about Jim's death this morning. I'll miss our frequent phone calls. Jim was a good man and a caring cousin. My thoughts & prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Tommy Johnson - February 25, 2021 at 01:22 PM

DJ

“ I'm very sorry to hear about Jim's passing. I so enjoyed our many phone conversations over the years and always enjoyed seeing Jim at our past family reunions. So many fond memories. I know that Geri's passing earlier this year broke his heart. You will be missed Jim.

Doris Johnson - February 25, 2021 at 12:45 PM

LB

“ Oh my, I'm so sorry to learn of Jim's death. I remember in high school seeing him at a band event in Topeka, and I was thrilled to see him there. That was many years ago as we were the same age. Rest In Peace, Jim ☐

Linda (Lederer) Brown - February 25, 2021 at 09:18 AM

MG

“ RIP. Jim. Enjoyed visiting with you not to long ago. My sympathy to the family

Mary Garber - February 24, 2021 at 07:03 PM

RS

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a kind person and I know he will be missed a lot by his family and friends. You have my sympathy.*

Ruth I. (Kaub) Stude - February 24, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Lederer.*



February 24, 2021 at 03:19 PM