



## James Bruce Irish

July 9, 1938 - November 25, 2017

James Bruce Irish of Grand Ledge passed away November 25, 2017 after a courageous 2 year battle with cancer. He was born in Lansing, Michigan, at his Grandma Finnis' house on Center Street on July 9, 1938. He was preceded in death by his parents Ward H. and Adeline Irish, Brother Stephen; Stephen's wife Susan and special nephew, Jim Vermeersch. He graduated from Grand Ledge High School in 1956. He was hired into the apprenticeship program with McConnel's Sheet Metal, got laid off and then in January 1957, he joined the Marine Corp with his friend, Dan Hankins. He fulfilled his obligation and was discharged February 1959. He hired into Fisher Body and later transferred to Oldsmobile where he retired in 1992 after 33 years of service. He met his wife to be, Carol Uschuk, the summer of 1959 and they were married May 15, 1961.

Right up to the end he loved high school sports and MSU basketball and football. He was also active in the Grand Ledge Bullpen Club and Old Newsboys for 30 years, plus Jim and Carol delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years. He was honored to be inducted into the GL Bullpen Hall of fame along with pillar of the community, Mr. Ron Richmond in 2015.

He enjoyed yard work, his garden, fishing trips to Canada, their family cottage on Horsehead Lake, New Years Eve at Maguire's cabin, playing no limit poker, and fast-pitch softball. Carol and Jim also enjoyed 25 winters on the Gulf in Alabama. His biggest satisfaction, even before he retired, was visiting men and women whom he felt had an impact on his life growing up and taking

them to lunch or on road trips and to GL Baseball and football games when possible. This included an occasional trip to Preston's for an adult beverage with a special friend, Stub. He also enjoyed taking Mr. Carl Wagner to St. Gerard mass on Saturday and out to dinner until Carl was placed in a retirement home.

Jim truly enjoyed his family life. He is survived by his wife Carol; 3 children: Karen (Scott) Warriner, Mike, Keri (Lee) Chevalier; 6 grandchildren: Bryanna (Jake) Manning, Kristen (Austin) Goble, Jake Warriner, James Michael Irish, Sophie and Ava Chevalier and 2 great grandchildren, Louise and Theodore Manning. He always attended all the grandkid's events including choir concerts, plays and sports. He is also survived by his remaining brothers and sisters; Jan Vermeersch, Kay (Erv) Star, Ward F. Irish, Michael (Pam) Irish, Fr. Robert Irish and Mary Jo (John) Thayer, along with numerous nieces and nephews. Jim always felt his 70 years living in Grand Ledge was the best thing he ever did because he could never find another town with so many special people.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, November 30, 2017, 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, Grand Ledge. Visitation will be Wednesday from 4-8:00 p.m. at the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge and Thursday at the church from 10-11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be given to the Grand Ledge Bullpen Club, 13433 Wind Spirit Drive, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 or St. Michael Catholic Church, 345 Edwards Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
406 N. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517) 627-2531  
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com  
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

## Visitation

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael Catholic Church  
345 Edwards Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

## Funeral Mass

NOV **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael Catholic Church  
345 Edwards Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

# Tribute Wall



“ *Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of James Bruce Irish*



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**Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home** - November 30, 2017 at 08:52 PM

MC

“ *We were sadden to hear Jim had passed away. Jim was one of the founding members of the Gulf Shores Men's Snowbird Coffee Club, now in it's 41st year. I had the pleasure of meeting Jim there and every time I ran into Jim he put a smile on my face. He will be deeply missed by his many friends he made at the Coffee Club. We pray the family can find peace and comfort in remembering the good times shared. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Irish family.*



*Mike Brenda Culverhouse*

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**Mike Brenda Culverhouse** - November 30, 2017 at 10:27 PM

JJ

“ *very sorry to hear of Jims passing, thoughts to his family and many friends, he will be greatly missed. Grand Ledge has lost an icon. my condolences. Jeff Jolley*

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**Jeff Jolley** - November 30, 2017 at 03:19 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Bruce Irish.*



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November 28, 2017 at 09:58 PM



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



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November 28, 2017 at 09:45 PM



“ *Bob , Vincenette , Lora , Rafael and Jennifer purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Bruce Irish.*



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**Bob , Vincenette , Lora , Rafael and Jennifer** - November 28, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Bruce Irish.*



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November 28, 2017 at 01:04 PM

SE

“ So sorry for your loss, Jim was always a friendly and happy person, may he RIP.

*Sharon Lukkarila*

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**Sharon Lukkarila Eisele** - November 28, 2017 at 08:52 AM

TJ

“ Tammy, Todd, Paul, Hunter, Taylor, James and Judy purchased the *Tranquil Seas* for the family of James Bruce Irish.



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**Tammy, Todd, Paul, Hunter, Taylor, James and Judy** -  
November 28, 2017 at 07:57 AM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of James Bruce Irish.



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November 27, 2017 at 06:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James Bruce Irish.



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November 27, 2017 at 05:49 PM

LL

“ Deepest Condolences to Carol and all of the Irish Family ... Jim was, by far, the best Supervisor I ever worked for at General Motors ...He was so hilarious when he was playing Poker .... He'd talk to the other players and literally get in their heads at the table ... He had a great grasp on sarcasm and was the king of one liners .... Loved running into him at Grand Ledge Football/Baseball games and his granddaughters Softball games ... Grand Ledge High School Sports will miss him as will everyone who knew Jim ... God Speed Jim .....

*Lyle Leatherbery, Delta Township, MI.*

Lyle Leatherbery - November 27, 2017 at 05:00 PM

JR

*Jim was a great friend, fellow manager @ GM, and A neighbor for 10 yrs in Grand Ledge. We send our deepest sympathy.*

*Jim Kathi Rypkema*

*Okemos*

Jim Rypkema - November 28, 2017 at 06:24 PM



“ 66 files added to the album Jim



Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home - November 27, 2017 at 04:20 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of James Bruce Irish.*



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November 27, 2017 at 11:05 AM



“ *Jim always said he was the luckiest man for coming to Grand Ledge. The reality is Grand Ledge was just as lucky to have the Irish family! -Coach & Melody O'Keefe*

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**Coach Okeefe** - November 27, 2017 at 10:14 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Sue Irish** - November 27, 2017 at 09:54 AM



*Thank you, Sue, for posting this. Means so much to us!*

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**Mary Jo (Irish) Thayer** - November 27, 2017 at 07:22 PM

DC

“ I've known the Irish family since I was born. His parents were my godparents.  
Our families grew up together. Side by side at St Michaels and in Grand Ledge.  
Many Easter Sundays year after year celebrated together , parties .  
Weddings . Celebrations and funerals...  
My entire family shares in your grief.  
My kids called Ward "The Big Guy" and I always thought of Jim as "Big Guy Junior". Grand Ledge will miss you Jim.  
Love and prayers , Debbie Murphy Church

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**debbie church** - November 26, 2017 at 06:08 PM

MT

Thank you, Debbie. This means a lot. Oh, the Murphy memories all the Irishes cherish! And I remember well your darling children on my parents' porch. Mary Jo

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**Mary Jo (Irish) Thayer** - November 27, 2017 at 09:47 AM