



James J. O'Neill Sr.

February 18, 1925 - February 14, 2019

James "Jim" O'Neill Sr., of Mount Prospect, Ill., died Feb. 14, 2019, after a full, wonderful life of 94 years.

He was born Feb. 18, 1925, in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, Ireland. After a childhood that produced many cherished stories, he moved to Chicago in 1949.

Soon after, he attended an Irish dance where he met Margaret "Peggy" Hedderman, a native of County Clare, Ireland, and the love of his life until and far beyond her death in 1989. They married in 1952 and had five children: Hugh, Mary Kay, James Jr., Eileen, and Michael.

Jim worked for 40 years as a CTA bus driver.

He retired in 1989 and devoted himself wholeheartedly to being Grandpa (and Momo, Dancing Papa, and other nicknames) to his 11 grandchildren.

Jim could fix anything; was the best dance partner; read voraciously, even into his 90s; and gardened beautifully, with roses, daffodils, and phlox. He loved golf, both playing and watching it, and he was almost never without a cup of coffee.

Jim made friends everywhere he went, not only because of the twinkle in his eye and the charm of his brogue but also because he radiated kindness.

He was known to say "How did I get so lucky?" But it was those who loved him who were the lucky ones.

Jim is survived by his children: Hugh O'Neill and wife Sue; Mary Kay Fox and husband Doug; James O'Neill Jr. and wife Maggie; Eileen Henquinet and husband Rich; and Michael O'Neill and wife Kathy; his niece Rosemarie Egan and husband Pat; his grandchildren: Michael, Margaux, Brendan, Tommy (Jessica), Kelsey, Connor, Katie, Megan, Michael, Shannon, and Katelyn; nieces, nephews, and their children in Ireland, England, and Australia; and his dear friend Mary Barry.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 37 years, Peggy; his parents, Hugh and Elizabeth O'Neill; and siblings, Molly Curran, Lily Reilly, Maggie Murray, and Hugh O'Neill.

A wake will be held 3-8pm Sunday, Feb. 17, at Matz Funeral Home in Mount Prospect. Funeral mass will be celebrated at 10am Monday, Feb. 18, at St. Raymond de Penafort Church in Mount Prospect, with visitation preceding from 9-10am.

The family would like to thank the staff at Lutheran General Hospital and his home

caregivers for their compassionate treatment

Cemetery

Maryhill

8600 N. Milwaukee
Ave.
Niles, IL,

Events

FEB 17 Visitation 03:00PM - 08:00PM
Matz Funeral Home - Mt. Prospect
410 E. Rand Road, Mt. Prospect, IL, US, 60056

FEB 18 Lying in State 09:00AM - 10:00AM
St. Raymond Church
Elmhurst Road (Route 83) at Lincoln, Mt. Prospect, IL, US,
60056

FEB 18 Funeral Mass 10:00AM
St. Raymond Church
Elmhurst Road (Route 83) at Lincoln, Mt. Prospect, IL, US,
60056

Comments



“ We were neighbors with Jimmy and Peggy from 1969-1976 in Chicago and will always have fond memories of their friendship, wit and laughter. Some of our children and their children played together. Jimmy had beautiful roses in the front of their house, but Peggy told me a squirrel was eating the buds before they bloomed. I suggested putting red pepper flakes on them. When I later asked her if it worked, she said she wasn't sure but did see a squirrel rubbing his mouth furiously afterward. Jimmy brought me one of his precious red roses to our house when our youngest son was born. I thought this was such a sweet gesture. Our heartfelt sympathy to the O'Neill family. Judy McGarvey

Judith McGarvey - February 17 at 04:22 PM



“ From Judy McGarvey and family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



From Judy McGarvey and family - February 17 at 03:50 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



February 17 at 11:32 AM



“ With love and affection Sarah and Nick Lockwood xx purchased the Rose Impression for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..





“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



February 16 at 08:26 PM



“ Your Mom and Dad are fondly in our thoughts and prayers. My memories of my Uncle James And my Godmother Aunt Peggy as well as your family are some of my favorite and cherished

With Love

Cousin Dan and Kathy Carey

Dan Carey - February 16 at 04:43 PM



“ We grew up hearing about Jim and family when we visited our grandmother, Alice (Rooney) O'Shaughnessy, and finally got to meet him through his niece Rosemarie, and her husband Pat Egan. What a treat to finally put name and face together, and learn about family history. I'm so glad I finally had the chance to meet him, chat with him, and take him down memory lane through an old photograph album.

Celene Frey, and siblings Mary, Bill, and Mark

Celene Frey - February 16 at 03:56 PM



“ The Frey family 'cousins' purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



The Frey family 'cousins' - February 16 at 03:18 PM



“ Mary Barry & The Barry Family purchased the Rose Romanesque Bouquet for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



Mary Barry & The Barry Family - February 16 at 01:14 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



February 16 at 11:20 AM



“ Compliments on the poignant narrative of Jim's life that describes what a sweet, humble and engaging man he was. And that is exactly my memory of both Jim and Peggy in life. Also impressive is the striking family resemblance he bore to my grandmother, his Aunt Alice Rooney O'Shaughnessy. Perhaps the greatest tribute any of us could hope for is to be described as Jim was – sprinkling kindness like confetti. We share in your loss and anticipate the grand reunion that awaits us all.

We pray the Lord's Peace and Serenity for your family.

With Love, Michael & Ann (O'Shaughnessy) O'Connor

Michael & Ann O'Connor - February 16 at 10:44 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



February 16 at 08:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



February 16 at 08:22 AM



“ Since learning of Uncle Jim's death on Thursday many memories have been shared and many tears shed by his Irish Family My first memory is of the family's visit back to Ireland in 1964 and the excitement and anticipation of meeting our American Uncle and Aunt and their lovely family for the first time and it didn't disappoint It was a wonderful visit

One other memory and thankfully we have many is of a visit I made with my Mother Molly (Jim's Sister) to my sister Rosemarie's home in Chicago We went with Uncle Jim to an Irish Dance and I enjoyed dancing with him for the first time (boy could he dance)

I remember the next day he saying with a twinkle in his eye how his friends were inquiring as to who the "young one" he was dancing with I can still hear that hearty laugh

The world will be a darker place without you but hopefully you will be Dancing in Heaven with your beloved Peggy Love you always

Slan Leat Your Neice Philomena

philomena matthews - February 16 at 04:09 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James J. O'Neill Sr..



February 16 at 12:08 AM



“ RIP uncle Jim ———really enjoyed seeing you here at Hugh and Sues in Chandler with Rosemarie and Pat. Condolences to the family

alice oshaughnessy hoekstra - February 15 at 08:58 PM