



James William Magnuson

April 11, 1930 - December 6, 2020

James William Magnuson, 90, passed away peacefully on December 6, 2020. He is survived by Jean, his loving wife of 64 years; his son Bruce (Judy); granddaughters Jennifer (Jason), Stephanie (David), Kathryn (Jacob) and Sarah (Eric) and two great grandsons, Anders and Magnus. Preceded in death by his daughter Susan; sister Pat and parents Elizabeth and Kenneth. A private funeral will take place on Saturday, with a burial at Fort Snelling next week.

Jim was born on April 11, 1930 to Kenny and Elizabeth Magnuson. A few years later his sister, Pat, was born and the family of four live in a modest home on Garfield Street in the up-and-coming Northeast Minneapolis.

After graduating from Edison High School, Jim joined the Army for two years. He started his post-military career at the Minneapolis Star delivering newspapers in the early morning hours before getting a full-time job at Honeywell as a machine operator. It was at work that a security guard set him up with Jean Edlund over a (supposed) mutual love of wrestling. After their first date at a wrestling match on February 14, they married less than six months later in Jean's hometown of Kelliher, Minn. on July 7, 1956.

Jim received perhaps the best gift (at least according to Bruce) on his birthday the following year when their son, Bruce James, was born on April 11, 1957. Four years later they were blessed with a daughter, Susan Laura, on September 22, 1961. Tragically, Susan passed away at 7 years old from an undiagnosed medical condition. It was one of defining moment in Jim's life and one thing that has brought our family great peace in losing our husband, dad and papa is knowing that he's finally reunited with his little girl.

Jim enjoyed golfing, bowling in both mixed leagues with Jean and in men's leagues, and tinkering around in his garage. He could spend hours out in that one car detached garage and Jean never knew quite what he was doing.

Those who knew Jim could easily speak to his loyalty, which translated into a 37-year

career at Honeywell, where he stayed until his retirement. Jim welcomed retirement and was able to spend a lot of time traveling with Jean, visiting almost every state and even taking a tour of many countries in Europe with his sister Pat and brother-in-law Don.

Jean and Jim had solid marriage and she said he was a sweetheart and claimed he had endless patience. They had a shared love of traveling and continued to go to Branson, Missouri annually well into their retirement.

Jim and Jean were active members of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights for many years. Throughout the years Jim volunteered as an usher, hosting post-service coffee and cookies, cutting the grass and at the annual Christmas bake sale. If he wasn't fulfilling one of his assigned duties, you could find him with a Styrofoam cup of coffee in his large hands, gossiping with the other men after Sunday service.

Before retirement and beyond, Jim was ecstatic to become a papa by way of four chatty and energetic granddaughters (rumor has it they have likely been this way since birth): Jennifer, Stephanie, Kathryn and Sarah. They were the light of his life and he spoiled them with endless patience, attending nearly every swim meet and soccer game, rides to and from middle school, high school and college, hugs and I love yous.

As his family grew through the years to include daughter-in-law Judy, four grandson-in-laws, a grand dog and two great grandsons, he happily embraced each new addition.

When Jim and Jean were in their late 70s, they sold their blue one-story in Columbia Heights, and moved to the Realife Cooperative in Coon Rapids where they made a whole new set of friends and enjoyed playing poker and bingo, often joined by their granddaughters or son-in-law, David. From there, when they required more care, they moved to The Farmsted where they enjoyed puzzles, visits from their family and leaving the cooking to someone else for a change.

Our husband, dad and grandpa and will be missed for countless reasons. His love of hamburgers, Arby's, cinnamon rolls and blue mints. The smell of peppermint and aftershave when you hugged him. His jokes; especially the Lutheran ones! His funny stories about his time at Honeywell, raising Bruce and the silly things his granddaughters used to say. His puns, dad jokes and jolly laugh. Listening to WCCO on his porch, reading the paper and lounging in his Lay-Z-Boy. When he'd cheerfully wake his granddaughters after a sleepover with "Good morning, good morning! It's grand to be on hand! Good morning, good morning to you!"

We love and miss you, Papa. Thank you for all you've taught us by example about being a good person, provider and for the love you showed your family each day. The way you loved us is your legacy.

Comments



“ Uncle Jim was one of the finest men I've ever known. His love for family was perfect.
♡

Connie Erickson - December 11, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James William Magnuson.



December 10, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Stephanie Hoff - December 09, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Uncle Jim was one of the finest, kindest, friendliest men I've ever known. Being part of an Air Force family, Mom, Dad, and I only visited "home" in Kelliher once yearly, at best. Uncle Jim and Aunt Jean always made us/me feel welcome and special. I have happy, fun memories of Cousin Susan, too...playing jacks. I always wanted to be part of this family. I love you, Aunt Jean and Cousin Bruce.

Until we meet again, Uncle Jim. Please wait for us by Heaven's Gate when its "our turn" because we're all just "walking each other Home." I love you all.

Connie Erickson - December 10, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ Our condolences to Aunt Jean, Cousin Bruce, Judy and family in memory of the most mellow uncle a person could have. Uncle Jim always wore a smile, especially when around his grandchildren and their families. I have many happy memories of staying at your home in ‘The Heights’ when our family used to travel to The Cities in the 50s and 60s on our visits down from Thief River Falls. God bless you both, Aunt Jean and Uncle Jim.

Stephen Edlund - December 09, 2020 at 10:58 AM