



James Francis

December 26, 1956 - February 18, 2026

James Francis, 69, of Buffalo, Minnesota, passed away on February 18, 2026.

James was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He met the love of his life, Joan, and they were married for 34 years. Together they built a life and raised their family in Plymouth before recently residing in Buffalo.

He dedicated 39 years to Thermotech, where he took great pride in his work. He was especially talented in electrical work and could wire just about anything. If something needed fixing, he was usually right in the middle of it, offering his opinion. He believed in being prepared and making sure things were done correctly.

He loved being at the lake, especially ice fishing on Mille Lacs Lake. The fish house was one of his favorite places to be, surrounded by his kids and the "adopted kids" who were treated like his own. Time at the lake meant laughter, advice, and the familiar correction aimed toward Phillip that those closest to him will always remember. He also loved Christmas and was known for decorating his home for everyone to enjoy, a tradition that lives on through his family.

He stood firm in his opinions and was stubborn and strong-willed, but also incredibly fun to mess with, and everyone did often.

His family was his world. He shared a deep and special bond with his daughter, Lauren. He always looked out for her, and she loved being able to care for her dad.

Underneath the strong opinions was a man who would do anything for the people he loved. If you needed help, he showed up. If you needed advice, he gave it whether you asked or not.

He is survived by his loving wife, Joan; his son, Phillip, and daughter-in-law, Hailey; his daughter, Lauren; his sister, Betty Carlson; his sister-in-law, Barb(Art) King; his brother-in-law, Sully Schweitzer; his nephews, Adam Carlson and James(Haley) King; and many other family members and dear friends who will miss him deeply.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Connie Knutson; his sister-in-law, Diane Schweitzer; and his brother-in-law, Ron Carlson.

He leaves behind memories of lake days, garage projects, Christmas traditions, laughter, and a love for his family that will carry on through all of them.

A memorial service will be held Monday March 2nd at 2pm with a visitation beginning one hour prior at 1pm at the Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Memorial Service

MAR 2. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Tribute Wall

JA

“*Jess, Mark, Josh, Matt, Jeremy, & Alyssa purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of James Francis.*”



Jess, Mark, Josh, Matt, Jeremy, & Alyssa - February 25 at 10:04 PM



“*Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Francis.*”



February 25 at 11:26 AM

JB

“*Joan Besse lit a candle in memory of James Francis*”



Joan Besse - February 23 at 07:15 PM

ME

“*Jimmy was good at wiring thing I would always call him if I had a wiring issue I was at his house in buffalo for many days doing some work for the family. I will miss him but not forget him be well Jimmy your with are lord and savior*”

Mark Erickson - February 23 at 11:05 AM