



James Noel Gillespie

December 2, 1946 - May 22, 2025

James Noel Gillespie (a.k.a J., Jim), 78, of northeast Minneapolis left us peacefully on May 22, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Eleanor.

J. was born in Minneapolis on December 2, 1946. He attended Patrick Henry High School and the University of Minnesota and enjoyed a career of various creative roles, from his early days as a journalist, to owning a guitar shop, managing the Electric Fetus, and decades working in advertising and creative direction. As many know, J's life passion was music, from an extensive knowledge of many genres to having an encyclopedic memory for artists, albums and unusual instruments. He was a legend amongst friends and family for his epic vinyl and guitar collection and loved discussing music with anyone he met. J. is remembered for his magnetic personality, quick wit and one-of-a-kind sense of humor. He was married for 44 years and a father of two daughters who admired him for his kindness, unending encouragement, and ability to make anyone laugh. His jokes and stories will live on in those who knew him. Often the life of the party, it's safe to say any gathering of family or friends will never be the same without him.

J. will be forever missed by loving wife Kristin Kunzman, daughters Ellie and Rickie, siblings Mike, Annie, Ray, Audie, Joe, extended family on the Gillespie and Kunzman side and many dear friends. In lieu of flowers, go buy yourself some vinyl!

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Northeast Chapel
2901 Johnson St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 781-6828
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Memorial Service

MAY 30. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Northeast Chapel
2901 Johnson St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 781-6828
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Noel Gillespie.

May 29, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Noel Gillespie.



May 28, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Noel Gillespie.



May 28, 2025 at 09:55 AM