



James Michael Preisler

December 8, 1942 - January 29, 2023

It is with heavy hearts our family announces the passing of Jim Preisler at age 80 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Jim passed away on Sunday, January 29th, 2023 at his home in New Prague, MN surrounded by loved ones. Jim was born in 1942 in Rush City, MN and lived an extraordinary life filled with high-speed adventure, accomplishment, laughter, learning and love.

Jim's 38 months in the US Army Corp of Engineers were the most formative in his life. This life changing military experience ultimately led to his career as a design engineer.

After brief careers in corporate construction and operating the first licensed take-out restaurant in Edina, Jim spent a 47-year career in the motorcycle aftermarket industry. Starting at Drag Specialties in 1970, his product designs and development follow-through helped grow the business to an annual 28 million in sales. The recession of the 1980's culminated in Jim being named President to oversee the downsizing and restructuring of the company. From 1991, as President, COO, and owner of the remaining core of the manufacturing business, D.S. Manufacturing, until its sale to Lincoln Industries in 2015, Jim focused on the design, development and building the Khrome Werks line of motorcycle accessories and overseeing the contract manufacturing portion of the business.

Throughout his life, Jim remained active in his passion of motorcycle drag racing; initially as a professional NHRA drag racer to a hobbyist racer and life-long pleasure rider. In 1973, Jim held a national record in the quarter mile of 8.44 seconds at 170 mph on his double engine Harley. Jim was also a skilled woodworker and journeyman cabinet maker. In 2015, Jim embarked on a sizable HO model train layout feeding off his life-long love of trains.

Jim is survived by his wife, Cheryl; daughter, Pamela Koopman (Rod Taylor); stepdaughter, Heather Berg; brothers, William Jr. (Kathy) and John Becker (Mary); grandson, Matthew Koopman; and nieces and nephews.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life at 11 AM on Friday April, 28th at Washburn-McReavy Werness Brothers Chapel, 2300 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431. Visitation one hour prior. Interment to follow at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. The family requests remembrances be made in the form of contributions to The Fisher Foundation or your local animal shelter. For those unable to attend in-person, a livestream of the service will be available on Jim's page at www.washburn-mcreavy.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 884-8145
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Memorial Service

APR **28**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 884-8145
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Graveside Service

APR **28**. 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for James Michael Preisler in memory of James Michael Preisler



Washburn-McReavy - January 31, 2023 at 02:33 PM

JW

“ Thank you for sharing Uncle Jim's service. I'm sorry I couldn't make it.

It was good to see everyone there.

I don't know how this will be received, or if anyone really wants to know. Do with it what you will.

For the last year and a half I've been apprenticing in shamanic mediumship and learning to communicate, understand, and have interaction with the other side. I did not seek this out. This was a higher calling I was instructed to pursue by something much larger than myself. I show up as I'm guided, and do what's requested of me at the time. This is one of those times.

Early morning, January 30th I woke up, approximately 3-3:30, with feeling of overwhelming joy and excitement from my Uncle Jim. He's crossed over. His exuberance took over my being.

I was up and showered by the time I had realized what was going on. My guides, Archangels Michael and Uriel were wide awake, and up in my business at 4:30 in the morning. I heard them, along with chatter, and excitement from my Uncle Jim.

Apparently I'd somehow been assigned to escort him home. I'm not sure when exactly, or how it happened, but I was being thanked for the ride. I hadn't gone anywhere to my awareness, but if they say so...

I realize the concept might be bizarre. It was strange experience for me too.

Everyone deals with death in a different way. My point is to let you know, or maybe give you hope, or maybe peace and joy, that Jim's soul is home, exactly where it's supposed to be safe and sound.

He resides among angels. He is one of them, returned to where he came from, and is in an overwhelming state of excitement, and bliss

to be home.

It's the same energy I remember coming off of him when I was little. A zest for life. A curiosity and excitement for what was in front of him, and what was right around the corner.

Per his request, to Cheryl and Pam, specifically, and Dad as well... I'm telling you this in hopes it helps you heal, and help you get through whatever grieving you need to do. I hope you, too, get to feel the same immense joy, I was blessed to feel from his heart.

Dad, he kept saying, "Bill, this is so awesome! You gotta come check this out!"

Whoever needs to hear, or is ready to process this, Jim is here with us.

Talk to him as if he's never left, because he hasn't really. He's only transcended, and is no longer limited by physical form. It's a level of freedom which I have the impression he's always chased. He's there, present and full of love. His Light shines bright and will likely walk among us in the physical realm again.

So if you talk to him, remember to stop and listen. You might get a reply. Maybe not in voice, but in the lyrics of a song, or even a plume of smoke from a street rod, or rumble of a bike. What you need to hear will show up exactly when you need it.

Sending Love and Light,

*Jenny (Preisler) Willson
(Bill's daughter)*

Jennifer Dawn Willson - April 28, 2023 at 01:28 PM

BJ

“ *Brother Bill, Kathy, Dan and Jenny purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Michael Preisler.*



Brother Bill, Kathy, Dan and Jenny - April 27, 2023 at 12:51 PM

CE

“ *Cheryl,
So sorry for your loss. Many memories of Jim and yourself at Drag. Somedays, seems like yesterday. I was looking at Washburn-McGreavy for an obituary for a person at my last job (retired now) and Jim's picture/obituary was the first one. I was shocked that it would be someone that I knew. It was meant to be since I think of Drag co-workers often.
Take care and cherish all the memories throughout all the years.
Cindy Espelien*

Cindy Espelien - April 23, 2023 at 01:55 PM

SD

“ *Cheryl,
I'm so sorry for your loss. It's been many years since my life intersected with Jim & yourself but I'm certain that He was the same gracious man when he passed away as he was when I knew him so well during the decade of the '70s. So many amazing things were taking place & Jim was very much in the center of it. In part; those were the years of spectacular change as well as unbelievable racing and I was so fortunate to experience them via Jim's coat tails. He will be greatly missed. 😭*

Scott Dale - March 11, 2023 at 10:52 PM

JB

“ *My deepest Sympathy to your family!!!* ”



Joshua Blain - February 08, 2023 at 03:54 PM