



James LeRoy VanDriel

December 26, 1941 - May 19, 2024

James L. VanDriel, age 82, of Eden Prairie, passed from this Earthly life to begin his life in heaven, on May 19, 2024. Family was with him. He passed peacefully while dreaming.


Preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Ester VanDriel; brother, Gene VanDriel; and wife, Barbara VanDriel. He will be forever loved and missed by his brother, David (Kate) VanDriel; stepchildren, Debbie Pierce (Bruce Olson), Jeff Pierce (Kathy), Tim Pierce, Mark Pierce (Barb); daughter, Libby Tomes (Dan); grandchildren; great-grandchildren; along with many relatives, dear friends, and special neighbors.

Jim lived a full life. Born on Dec 26, 1941, in Hudson S.D. He grew up in Rock Valley, IA on a beautiful Century farm. Jim graduated from Wartburg College with a BA in Economics. He spent his working career in sales. He served 26 years in the Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of Captain, of which we all are very proud. Of the many places he visited in the Reserves, Iceland was his favorite. He got to see Jefferson Airplane and The Grateful Dead at The Fillmore in San Francisco. We think that's pretty cool! Jim and Barb loved to travel both abroad and in the US. The North Shore area of Lake Superior became their happy place. They always took the back roads. Jim loved family time, laughter and his garden.

We are grateful Jim and our Mom found each other and he became part of our lives for 35 years. They loved each other deeply and are now together. Love is everything and that love is with us all forever.

A private burial will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

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