



James Arthur Wiggins

October 19, 1932 - January 5, 2026

James "Jim" Wiggins was born in Brooklyn, New York, to a family with deep Minneapolis roots. Music and performance shaped his early years. By age nine he was singing professionally with the boys' choir at the Little Church Around the Corner in Manhattan and he later toured with the Bretton Woods Boys Choir. After the early deaths of his father and sister when he was only 13 years old, Jim moved to Minneapolis with his mother Florence and siblings Bob and Carol, helping raise the family while working and attending school.

Jim's outgoing spirit flourished at Marshall-University High School, where he emceed programs and built lifelong friendships. He was drafted into the U.S. Army shortly after meeting Bobbie Perry, the love of his life. Though trained as heavy infantry, he spent most of his service as a cook and hospital assistant at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Jim and Bobbie married in 1953. She joined him for his last year in Kentucky before moving back to spend the rest of their 59 devoted years together in Minnesota. They raised four children and built a life centered on service, generosity, and community. Jim worked several jobs, cooking at a skid row restaurant and stock clerk for Lee Overalls before becoming the owner of the Pixie Diner in Richfield. He loved that work and it shaped his managing skills for the successful corporate career that followed as a purchasing manager and senior buyer for Leisure Dynamics, Lakeside Toys, Tonka Toys, and

Rollerblade.

Deeply committed to helping children, Jim and Bobbie adopted Margie from Korea, then Jason from Vietnam. They helped found Partners Aiding Children Today (PACT) which brought Vietnamese children to Minneapolis for heart surgery. They adopted Nga, a Vietnamese nurse with that program, as an adult. They fostered many other children and Jim served on the board of the Parent Association of Treatment Homes (PATH), an organization helping foster parents with challenging placements. Jim also volunteered hundreds of hours mentoring youth through the Homework and Hoops Program and received the Whittier Community Recognition Award in 2005.

Athletic and energetic throughout his life, Jim played softball as a catcher, coached Little League, and played tennis well into his late eighties. He traveled widely, both for work and later for pleasure. He loved to sing, dance, do crosswords, and entertain his growing family and many friends. His warmth, humor, and kindness were enjoyed by everyone he encountered. After Bobbie's passing in 2012, he shared many happy times with his partner from tennis, Dorothy Rossing until her death in 2024.

Preceded in death by wife Bobbie, son Jason, and his siblings, Jim is survived by his children Nga Edmonson, David, Brad, Margie Dreher, and their families. He will be remembered for his generosity, positive attitude, musical spirit, and unwavering belief in the potential of every child.

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Nokomis Park 612-721-1651

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hope Presbyterian Church
7132 Portland Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55423

Funeral Service

JAN 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hope Presbyterian Church
7132 Portland Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55423

Graveside Service

JAN 20. 1:30 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Lore. Les, and the Flygare Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Arthur Wiggins.*



Lore. Les, and the Flygare Family - January 13 at 07:58 AM