



James M. "Jim" Dawson

JUL 2, 1926 - JUL 30, 2017



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James M. "Jim" Dawson

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Decatur – James M. “Jim” Dawson, 91, of Decatur, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, July 30, 2017.

Jim was born July 2, 1926 in Sterling, IL, the son of Edward and Elizabeth (McCormick) Dawson. A WWII Navy Veteran, Jim proudly served his country in the Armed Guard in the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres. An outstanding football player in high school, Jim went on to play at the collegiate level at Saint Mary’s University in Winona, MN. After college Jim was drafted by the Washington Redskins and later was inducted into his high school and college football Halls of Fame. Jim was V.P. at Wilkins Pipe & Supply retiring in 1991. He was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, past Faithful Navigator and member of Very Rev. Jeremiah J. Murphy Assembly #211, Knights of Columbus Darrell W. Beck Council #577, and past member of the City of Decatur Civil Service Commission. He married Suzanne Vonachen on June 26, 1948 in Peoria, IL.

Christened “Poppo” by his grandchildren, Jim was the ultimate family man who relished hosting the Dawson clan and friends every Sunday. Four generations enjoyed the pool, Cubs games on television, watching football, and devouring his legendary popcorn. He lived to see his beloved Cubbies win the World Series. Surviving is his wife of 69 years, Suzanne of Decatur; children: Mike (Marilyn) Dawson of Decatur, Pat (Ann) Dawson of Decatur, Tom (Cathy) Dawson of Lathrop, CA, Jerry (Rebecca) Dawson of Decatur, Marta (Steve) Kolbeck of Gardner, KA, and Maggie (Carl) McGehee of Macon; eleven grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, five step grandchildren and eight step great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; brother Bob, sisters: Betty and Babe and grandson Andy.

Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate his life will be at 10 AM Friday,



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August 4, 2017 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Rev. Richard Weltin, main celebrant. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 PM Thursday, August 3, 2017 in the Moran & Goebel Funeral Home. Burial will take place in Boiling Springs Cemetery, Decatur with military rites conducted by the Macon County Honor Guard. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Wounded Warriors Project or Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

The Dawson family is being served by Moran & Goebel Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2801 N. Monroe Street, Decatur, IL. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.moranandgoebel.com.

Video Tribute for James M. "Jim" Dawson:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/BB4LPCPZNTTN5WGY>



Tribute Wall

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Debbie Vonachen Robinson posted:

Uncle Jim and Aunt Susie were an example of a loving couple in their marriage. That could never be doubted when you were around them. They raised a beautiful, loving family. As a child, I always loved his big teddy bear hugs. I am so glad that we saw them both last fall. We love you all. Debbie Vonachen Robinson and Tom Robinson

August 8 at 4:30 AM



Tribute Wall

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MD

Marilyn Dawson posted:

Part two of Jim Dawson's eulogy to Poppo. You felt the special bond when you received a postcard from Treasure Island. Bonds were forged over the continued optimism that there would always be another year for his beloved Cubbies and finally when we celebrated their triumphant World Series victory after a literal lifetime of saying "maybe next year." We all watched new bonds form from the love of feeding geese, watching the world go by, and listening for my cousin Andy to whisper as the leaves rustled in the wind. Special moments were created simply over a silly nickname, a giant high five, or a particular serenade. Lastly, some connected with Poppo through a unique tenderness they shared, and whose tender hearts visited him, cared for him, took him for long drives, and never forgot Poppo when he needed it the most. I have always felt that the adhesive to my special bond with Poppo was our love of art and especially our fondness of doodling. Like many great artists who spend their whole lives working to create their masterpiece, Poppo left us all with his own masterpiece as well. Poppo's masterpiece is so overwhelming and distinctive that all of us would find it instantly recognizable. Poppo didn't create his masterpiece with paints and a canvas but with relationships and memories in his home at 955 W. Mound Road, Poppo's masterpiece. I watched my grandparents demonstrate their true love for their family, and their unconditional love for each other in this home they built together. They truly exhibit love from leading by example. I had the honor and pleasure to tell all of my grandparents as I began my journey into adulthood that I had learned many things in life. Some things were learned by reading books, some by going to school, but the rest was learned in my grandparents' homes. Now that I am building my own home, those words could never be more true. Poppo and Grandma laid the foundation on which all other relationships could be built. When I sit and reminisce about Poppo and Grandma's home, I'm overwhelmed with cherished memories from the smells of pipe tobacco and Old Spice, from the sounds of children laughing, water splashing, and car doors slamming, from the dramatic way he answered his phone, "Heeeeloooloo," from the savory taste of Poppo's special popcorn or the sweetness of the cookies he picked for the jar, from the feel of his tight grip when he shook your hand, and last but not least from the way he looked at my grandma on his 85th birthday and said to her as he was overlooking his family, "to think we did all of this." I'm flooding with memories. So many wonderful memories beginning to collect, and they swell in my eyes until my sight is drowned. My memories trickle down my cheeks, and each memory that drips from my face is a moment in time that I know I will never have again, but my gratitude is endless. All the memories that have been shared over the past few days, from my parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and our friends, have been enough memories to flood this building, which was such a special place for Poppo, and helped define the faith and virtue he had within his own heart, and helped contribute to his masterpiece. It will take time to adjust in a world without my treasured Poppo, and to my family, I know it will for you as well. Rest assured, I will be listening for Poppo's whispers serenading within the rustling of the leaves. I will continue to paint my own masterpiece with my sweet ones. And when times get tough I will always be reminded of Poppo's words. (Post card from Treasure Island) What great news!!! Grandma and I wish you and Laura many many great years together. Love is a great thing, and you will have all of us with you on your new journey. Wishing you the best. Poppo Grandma

August 1 at 7:29 AM



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MD

Marilyn Dawson posted:

Part one of Jim Dawson's eulogy to Poppo. Many of you might know my grandfather as "Big" Jim Dawson, but to our family he is known unmistakably as Poppo. I know him only as his grandchild, and even since my first memories of him, reaching up to grab a pack of baseball cards slightly out of reach with my cousins, Sean and Andy, standing next to me, he has always been larger than life and had a heart of solid gold. If you read Poppo's obituary, you saw that he had numerous achievements in his life that made him a great man, certainly deserving of the title, "The Greatest Generation". Poppo did many things in life that made him special, but I want to begin painting my picture of Poppo for all of you by recognizing a few things that he never did, at least in front of me, that made him a truly exceptional person. First, with the exception of one of his favorite stories about his dear friend Dick Forbes, and the reaction it received, I never heard Poppo cuss or talk inappropriately in front of his grandchildren. I never heard him raise his voice, argue, and in fact I never saw him seemingly agitated. When you visited Poppo and Grandma's house, the doors were never locked, and you were never made to feel unwelcomed or rushed to leave. Poppo was not judgmental, and he never talked over anyone's head. Even at a young age, you were part of the conversation. No special seats, no kids' tables, no shushing, and no one was ever made to feel that his or her stories or events were overshadowed by anyone else's. Everyone was equal; everyone was his family. He made all of his grandchildren feel deserving and as unique as their square on the grandkids' walk of fame, a series of hand painted stepping blocks leading to the pool. He provided us all with the foundation to build and grow into our own families. He set us all up for our own greatness. I have the special honor of being named after Poppo, but like all of my family sitting here today, and all of Poppo's grandchildren and their spouses, we all feel a special solid bond with Poppo. Poppo was a people's person, and he knew how to make everyone feel special. The relationships and bonds formed with him helped shape the men and women and the fathers and mothers we are today. These special bonds with his grandchildren may have been formed through a shared hobby, interest, or love of Catholic high school football. Bonds were formed on hot summer days playing volleyball or splashing in the pool. Many memorable conversations were formed over sharing a big bowl of his infamous popcorn and watching whatever sports game was on Sunday's tv, especially when his much loved Redskins were playing. Maybe Poppo made you feel special while smoking a cigar in the garage or while you were helping out in the yard. It could have been from watching cowboy movies or the Doppler in the den on a weekday afternoon visit. You might have felt a special bond from the gift that was picked especially for you or the special gleam in his eye as he toasted your marriage on Christmas Eve, our family's most special holiday. Some bonds were created over a specially made breakfast before a long ride home or a shared sense of patriotism or military service.

August 1 at 7:29 AM



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KA

Kathy posted:

Heaven just added a lot of fun....I remember everyone laughing whenever we were with your dad (and mom). He always made people laugh, smile and feel so welcomed! I picture Jack Driscoll and your dad catching up on things. I'm so sorry for your loss. Kathy Driscoll Coker

August 3 at 9:16 AM

DW

David & Jackie Wilhour posted:

To the Dawson Family: So sorry to hear of your loss! Always enjoyed to visit with Jim he was so proud of his family! Keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers! May God give you strength at this time! Your Friends David & Jackie Wilhour

August 3 at 6:22 AM

MS

Miles Schnaer posted:

Well, I don't know where to start sharing the Schnaer Families relationship with the Dawson Family, led by Mr Jim Dawson as I knew him as!! I (Miles) remember the Christmas Eve gatherings that I was invited to share at the Dawson home in spite of my Jewish heritage! The Dawson Family made me feel so welcome to their inner family heritage which I was very fortunate to experience! I will always appreciate how we were welcomed into the Dawson Family aura with tremendous respect and thankfulness!!Our love and respect will always be prevalent in our life!much love to you all,Miles and Paula Schnaer and Family 🥹🥹

August 2 at 6:34 PM

KR

Karen Rienbolt posted:

Sending condolences Maggie to you and your family. You spoke so highly of your grandfather always. God has welcomed another angel in to heaven. Thinking of you.Karen Rienbolt and Family

August 2 at 5:20 PM

CB

Carl Brumaster posted:

Dawson Family,We are sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.From the retirees of the Decatur Police Dept. and the Macon County Sheriff's Office

August 2 at 8:53 AM



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KM

Kitty Mitchell posted:

We send our condolences to Mrs. D and the entire family on the loss of a wonderful and very "special" man. We have a lifetime of memories that bring smiles and laughter to our family. Rest in peace Mr. D. Kitty Forbes Mitchell

August 2 at 4:13 AM

MD

Mike Dawson posted:

Thanks so much, JC. He thought so highly of you, even though he said we were the two biggest slobes when we roomed together for four years. Up to his last days, struggling with dementia, he would smile when I'd say "Hey dad, I heard from Johnny Clark today!"

August 2 at 4:05 AM

MD

Marilyn Dawson posted:

Thank you so much, Pam.

August 2 at 3:51 AM

MD

Marilyn Dawson posted:

Thank you so much for your kind words and memories, John.

August 2 at 3:50 AM

MD

Marilyn Dawson posted:

Thank you so much, Tim and Jennelle.

August 2 at 3:49 AM

TT

Terry Taylor posted:

one of the really "influential" people in my life. Can't thank him enough for the "life lessons" he taught me

August 1 at 2:37 PM



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JC

John Clark posted:

I spent alot of time around the Dawson household in high school, and Big Jim Dawson was a solid mountain of a man that I always looked up to. As I lost my dad at 14, Mr. Dawson kind of treated me like one of his boys and I felt a special bond with him. He was one of my heros and smile everytime I think of my interaction with him. I remember Mrs. Dawson just walking by, hearing all of our BS and bantering, just shaking her head. I needed a role model like him and he never let me down. My sincere condolences go out to my best friend Duce, his lovely wife Marilyn and all of the Dawson family and extended family.

August 1 at 2:05 PM

PA

Pam Aliabadi posted:

Lit a candle in memory of James M. "Jim" Dawson

August 1 at 10:03 AM

SF

Schook Family posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Dawson family

August 1 at 8:11 AM

PP

Peggy Forbes Pollack posted:

My heart breaks for you. I'm very sorry! Many childhood memories with the Dawson's. Fourth of July's, picnics, sleepovers with Maggie. So many to name! Most of all MY dads best friend!!! Rest In Peace Mr. D!

August 1 at 7:29 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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