



James Michael Kramer

APR 29, 1954 - MAR 1, 2023



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MORAN & GOEBEL
FUNERAL HOME AND
CREMATION SERVICES

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James Michael Kramer

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James “Shark” Michael Kramer, 68, of Decatur, IL passed away suddenly on March 1, 2023, at St. John’s hospital, Springfield, IL. Jim was born to Harold “Jug” Kramer and Norma (Wright) Kramer on April 29, 1954. He was married to Deborah Lynn Paulsen on June 26, 1976, in Springfield, IL. He was the Supervisor of Horticulture for the Decatur Park District for many years, and opened his own business, Okaw Valley Sports Turf and Landscaping. Jim worked tirelessly to enhance the natural beauty of our hometown, designing himself the Rock Garden formerly in Nelson Park, as well as maintaining and fine detailing the Oriental Garden in Scovill Park. Jim was a member of Sts. James and Patrick Parish, Knights of Columbus, Decatur Jaycees, and was former president of the Decatur Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. He volunteered his time and expertise helping to run the scoreboard for St. Teresa High School football teams for more than 25 years, and helped to maintain the sports turfs, as well as educating future generations of sportsmen and women as a Master Instructor of the Hunter’s Safety program. Jim was an avid outdoorsman and his favorite activities included hunting and fishing (especially Muskie tournaments) with his brothers, children, grandchildren, nieces and many nephews. He grew tomatoes to be envied by many, and would share generously with all his friends, family, and neighbors. He had a thirst for knowledge especially about anything regarding submarines, fighter planes, warships, and the heroes who sacrificed so much to protect our country. Jim was a steadfast and loyal friend and supportive husband, father and grandfather. He could often be found teaching his grandchildren how to do things, making his famous pulled pork, chauffeuring “Papa’s Taxi Service”, or at his children's sporting, art, theater, or other events. He is survived by his dedicated and loving wife of 46 years, Debbie, son Craig (Kim) Kramer, daughter Julie (Matthew) Ford, five grandchildren: Jack, Lainey, and Ryan Kramer, and Grant and Connor Ford, all of Decatur; brothers Dan (Paula)



Obituary

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Kramer of North Branch, MN, and John (Carol) Kramer of Cambridge, MN, 21 nieces and nephews, many wonderful friends and colleagues. He was preceded in death by his parents, mother and father-in-law, his brother Dick Kramer, nephew Shawn, and niece Sarah. The family wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to The Doctors of Prairie Cardiovascular, particularly Dr. Theodore Addai, and Dr. Jeff Goldstein as well as the staff of St. Mary's and St. John's Cath Labs, Phil Shills PA, and Dr. Islam for their dedicated and compassionate care. A funeral service will be held at 12:00pm on Thursday March 9, 2023, at Moran and Goebel Funeral Home with visitation from 10:00am until the service time. Burial will be at Point Pleasant Cemetery, Long Creek, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Teresa High School, or St. James Parish. Condolences may be left to the family at www.gracelandfairlwawn.com



Events

James Michael Kramer

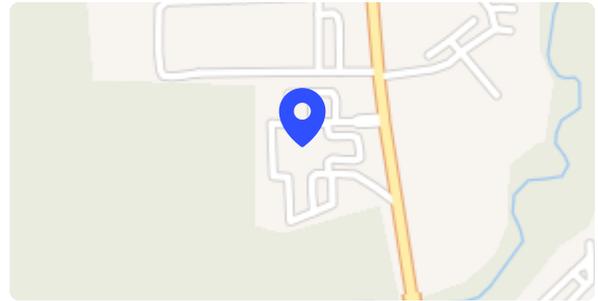
APR 29, 1954 - MAR 1, 2023

Visitation

 **Thursday**, March 9, 2023

 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

 **Moran & Goebel Funeral Home**
2801 North Monroe Street, Decatur IL 62526

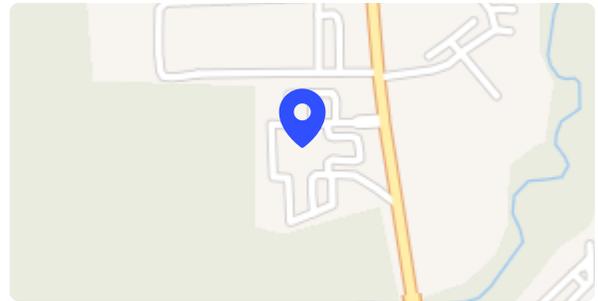


Funeral Service

 **Thursday**, March 9, 2023

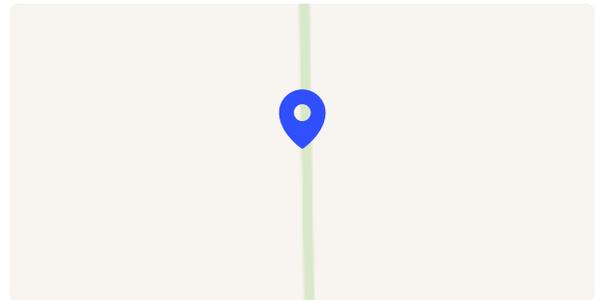
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

 **Moran & Goebel Funeral Home**
2801 North Monroe Street, Decatur IL 62526



Cemetery Details

 **Point Pleasant Cemetery**
Long Creek Township IL





Tribute Wall

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Rebecca Frazier posted:

I have known Jim Kramer my entire life. I knew him as Shark. That's how he first introduced himself to me. He was like an uncle to me. He was always smiling and happy when he came over. He was a close friend to my dad, Tom Frazier, and they would frequently go hunting together. I think that one of my most cherished memories of Shark, it was around my birthday, the big one, I was turning six that year and Shark stopped by that day. I thought it was to see my dad but this visit was all for me. I remember he had his hunting bag with him and I expected him to pull something wonderful out to show us all. Something that we might have for dinner this week. I was both correct and incorrect in my prediction. Out of the game bag he withdrew the most beautiful and, in my mind, the largest fan of feathers I had ever seen. It was a wild turkey's tail, he explained. It was a beautiful range of browns, golds, hints of red, and a tiny highlight of green. It was flat gorgeous. I gently held that tail, nearly dropped it, it was that large. And boy was it heavy! I remember stoking that tail, watching the colors dance in the light. It was super soft. I remember first hugging it then Shark. That was one of the best birthday presents I received then and one of the best memories I cherish today. Thank you again Shark and I know that you are enjoying a turkey hunt up in Heaven. Save a tail for me please. The cat got the first one you gave me and I am hoping on a replacement. Love, your friend, Rebecca Frazier.

March 8 at 6:18 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Kramer family.



March 6 at 2:33 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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