



James Arlen Gilbert

AUG 11, 1950 - OCT 26, 2025



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James Arlen Gilbert, 75, of Decatur, IL peacefully went to his Heavenly home on October 26, 2025 at HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL., after suddenly and unexpectedly suffering a brain hemorrhage.

A Celebration of Jim's life will be held at The Cross located at 3253 N Brush College Road, Decatur, IL in the Grand Palace building on November 15th at 11am. After the Celebration service, a meal will follow. Casual attire is suggested. Interment services will be held for both Jim and his wife, Debbie, at Mount Gilead Cemetery, Decatur, IL, at a later date.

Jim was born in Decatur on August 11, 1950, the son of Robert and Audrey (Ricci) Gilbert. He married Debera Jean Kennedy, the love of his life, on November 17, 1989, in Decatur. This union was blessed with three much loved children. Debbie preceded Jim in death on January 6, 2025.

Before retiring, Jim was a long-time employee in food service and maintenance at Lake Shore Manor. He enjoyed fishing, bowling including Wii bowling, drawing, playing video games, cards and BINGO, and listening to country and gospel music. He was an avid sports fan and followed his favorite teams: St. Louis Cardinals, Dallas Cowboys, Fighting Illini and his high school alma mater Mt. Zion Braves. Jim embraced the Baptist faith. But most of all, Jim loved his family and his friends with his whole heart. He didn't know a stranger. He could always be found talking with folks and helping them out in any way he could. Jim was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all whose life he touched.

Jim's life and memories will be cherished by his children James W.R. (Ashley Tucker) Gilbert, Frances M. (Delaunte) Austin, and Matthew A. Gilbert, all of Springfield, IL; siblings Robert Gilbert Jr. and Donna Van Natta, both of Decatur; and grandchildren Jayden, Nichole, Rayne, Jamie, Mia, Aiden, Ashton, and Aleah, all of Springfield; special nieces April Young and Sherry Reimer, both of Decatur; and a host of family



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and friends.

As a tissue donor with the Gift of Hope, Jim's loving and giving spirit will help improve the lives of up to 25 people. To continue his spirit of giving, please consider making donations to Central Illinois Foodbank, Northeast Community Fund of Decatur or organization of choice.

Jim was greeted in Heaven by his wife, his parents, and his brother, Rodger Gilbert.

Moran & Goebel Funeral Home is providing cremation services for Jim.

Condolences may be shared with the family at <https://www.moranandgoebel.com>.




Events

James Arlen Gilbert

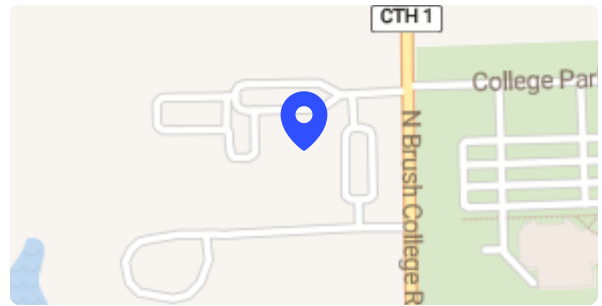
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Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, November 15, 2025

 11:00 AM CT

 **The Cross**
3253 N Brush College Road, Decatur IL 62526





Memories only last if you share them

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



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