



James F. Reid

February 23, 1917 - January 8, 2011

Our “Papa” Jim Reid, 93 years young returned to his Heavenly Father, on a peaceful, cold, January morning, in his home, with his son. His family, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Visiting Angels and his other wonderful care-givers allowed Jim to remain at his home during his last six months. Thank you St. Joseph, patron saint of a happy death!

Jim was the only child of James O. and Frances (Keine) Reid, born February 23, 1917 in East Toledo. Losing his mother at the age of eleven, he was entrusted to the care of the Ursuline Sisters at Nazareth Hall Military Academy. His father James O. Reid the plumber was the only parent allowed to visit at Nazareth Hall the entire weekend exchanging plumbing and other chores for partial tuition. This experience was very rewarding to all by the wonderful memories left to this day.

Being an only child shaped Jim’s whole life, family was everything. He remained close to generations of his cousins till the day he died. Jim cared for his stepmother Elizabeth Schneblin till her death. Jim and his wife Emeline always had an open door policy at their house and the family members who stayed with them throughout the years made it seem more like a party for the four children Jim and Emmy raised.. In 1998, after 55 years of marriage Emeline (Petsche) Reid passed away, also at their home.

Jim not only built a family, he also built a family business, which continues to this day. His business career began in the office of Superior Casket Company of Toledo after graduating from Waite High School. Jim became a salesman and part owner leaving only to oversee war production at the Willys Overland plant during World War II.. Circumstances closed Superior in the 50's leaving Jim and Emmy with a personal debt they paid off over the succeeding years.as he went to work for several casket companies in Illinois and Indiana before joining the prestigious Chicago Casket Company. During this time, Jim developed Northwest Ohio and Lower Michigan as his territory while keeping Toledo as his home base.

In 1968, Jim and his son Thomas Reid formed James Reid and Son Casket Company, known today as Reid Casket Company. The company expanded and moved to their present headquarters at 3240 Monroe Street. Jim grew his company from father, son and one station wagon to nine employees and four delivery trucks in a 15,000 square foot facility.

The motto of his company is "serving those who serve the community".

According to Jim, "this is our family helping a family business help the families who call them in time of need". He served the industry full-time for 70 years but continued to visit customers occasionally, with his son Tom and daughter Judie, until recently.

Since the early '60s Jim has lived in the home he and his wife built near the Ottawa River, in the Shoreland/Riviera area. Jim is a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus. As a K of C member, he served mass in the St. Charles Hospital Chapel until the age of 70. He is a long time member of the Point Place Business Association. Jim was a member and recipient of the Casket and Funeral Supply Association Lifetime Achievement Award..

Jim is survived by his dearest friend Margie Rose. Also surviving are his four children and their spouses, Judith (William) Aubry, James Jr. (Carol) Reid, Bobbie Reid (Steven De Lucchi) of Union City CA and Thomas (Sandra) Reid. Jim has eight grandchildren, including Beth Raczko Lodzinski, David Tansey,

Margie Tansey Walter, Joy Tansey Peter, Justin Reid and Anne Reid Gerber. His great-grandchildren total 14.

He also has 12 step-grandchildren, William Jr., Daniel, John, Timothy and Patrick Aubry, Peggy Tressler, Janet Lankey, Adrienne Castellanos, Debbie Hall, Mark Marczewski, Danielle Wright and Michael DeLucchi. 30 step-great-grandchildren also survive.

He will be shown at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, 2 to 8 p.m., Friday, January 14th where a Rosary will be recited by the Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. The funeral will be held on Saturday, January 15, at St. John the Baptist Church, at the corner of Summit and 124th Streets, at 10:30 a.m., with a visitation in the Narthex of St. John Church beginning at 9 a.m. The family requests donations be sent to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or St. John The Baptist Church.

REPRINT from Blade:

Article published January 11, 2011

James F. Reid, 1917-2011: Local casket maker helped area families for 70 years

By JIM SIELICKI

BLADE STAFF WRITER

James F. Reid, 93, a Toledo native whose chance encounter with a businessman during the Great Depression led to a 70-year career in the casket industry, died in his Point Place home Saturday.

He had bladder cancer and was being cared for in his home by hospice the past six months, son Thomas said.

Mr. Reid was born in Toledo in 1917 and was a graduate of Waite High School. He found a job during the Depression moving machinery for a stove

company at Bancroft Street and Auburn Avenue, where he met the owner of Superior Casket Co. "He had just gotten a laborer's job" when he struck up a conversation with a businessman and was offered an entry-level sales position with the casket company, his son said.

When World War II broke out, he changed jobs and worked as a foreman with Willys-Overland, which was serving as a defense contractor.

After the war, he returned to the casket business, joining Chicago Casket Co., working from Toledo as a sales representative for northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

Mr. Reid's wife of 55 years, Emeline Petsche Reid, died in 1998.

In 1968, Mr. Reid and his son Tom formed James Reid and Son Casket Co., a two-man operation that since has grown to nine employees on Monroe Street near Auburn Avenue.

Mr. Reid said his father loved the camaraderie of one family business owner serving another family-owned business, which makes up much of the funeral-home industry.

"It was the people he served and worked with on a daily basis that was the biggest attraction for Dad," Mr. Reid said.

Mr. Reid developed his company into a boutique firm that served a smaller market that specialized in crafting personalized caskets that differed from the mass-market caskets available from national firms.

Joe Coyle, funeral director and owner of Coyle Funeral Home, said Mr. Reid was able to fulfill the wishes of families seeking a particular style of casket "in

a timely basis and with particular attention to detail." "And they did it with kindness and true concern for the families," Mr. Coyle said.

The business was his hobby, but Tom Reid said his father was especially close to his family and would use his time traveling on business to visit customers, to also visit extended family members and "generations of cousins."

Even in his 80s, he was still out delivering caskets to funeral homes and visiting with his customers. "He just enjoyed that so much. That's what he missed about his forced retirement," Tom Reid said.

Mr. Reid said his father was a devoted Catholic and lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus. As part of the Knights' service he served Mass in the chapel of Mercy St. Charles Hospital. He began that ritual in the 1950s and continued until he was 70.

Mr. Reid is survived by his friend, Margie Rose; daughters, Judith Aubry and Bobbie Reid; sons, James, Jr., and Tom Reid; eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; 12 step-grandchildren, and 30 step-great-grandchildren.

Tribute Wall



“ Jim was good man and great salesman, but most of all he was true friend in any situation. Take comfort in knowing that his reputation was well deserved and he kept his faith. Best wishes to all the family and our prayers are with you in this hour of need.

Dale###imported-begin##Dale Rice ricefun@comcst.net###imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Big Jim has been a very special part of our lives for over the past 40 years. His sense of humor and loving spirit will be missed by anyone who has had the privilege of knowing him. Our love and prayers to Tom, Sandy and the entire extended Reid family. So long, big Jim - we love you!

Ray and Twila Kopaniasz###imported-begin##Ray and Twila Kopaniasz tkopaniasz@comcast.net###imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To Jim's Family and Margie
I had the honor of meeting Jim with Margie at Birthday gatherings he was a joy to be around and full of life and warmth. Thinking of you all at this time of great loss.###imported-begin##Kathy Crossley###imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Judie, Bobbie, Tom and Jim*

Although I will not be able to attend the services, please know I will be there in spirit. I remember all the wonderful times as children we went on picnic's along the river, all the wonderful parties and get-togethers we had at Aunt Em's and Uncle Jim's place. We had some great times with you your folks and mine. I remember one time at my house Judie and I locked ourselves in the bathroom and Uncle Jim and my Dad had to get us out. Dad and Uncle Jim used to play the phone game by using the second phone upstairs and having some kind of code to answer questions (like a magician). We had many wonderful and warm times with our families.

You 4 are very lucky to have had your dad with you for so long in your lives. Don't forget those memories and don't forget to make warm and fuzzy memories for your family.

I love you and will miss the great times we all had. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love, your cousin Lois##imported-begin##Lois Hampton loishampton@cox.net##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Deepest Sympathies, Tom. warmest Regards##imported-begin##David & Donna Knight kietch64@yahoo.com##imported-end##*

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our prayers are with your family. I feel very fortunate to have recently spent time with Jim’s son Tom who shared many fond memories of his father. I was privileged to have been given a brief but wonderful glimpse into the life of a remarkable man who touched so many people.##imported-begin##Dwayne Heeter dheeter@matw.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Judi, James,Bobbie, Tom and the rest of the family, I was sadden about the death of your dad and grandfather and great greatgrandfather, and good friend. James was a good friend and I always love the smile he had on his face when ever he he would see you. He was a grace filled person. You could feel this when he spoke to you in his gentale way. I am sure he in the arms of the Good Lord and sharing many tale with the Good Lord. You have my love and support at this time of rejoicing of his wonderful life.
God Bless
Sister Ann Marie Mc Manus##imported-begin##Sister Ann Marie Mc Manus irishmcm Manus@yahoo.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the Reid family. As a little kid, I remember being really excited to go to the Reid casket company warehouse when my dad had to pick up caskets. Mr. Reid was always excited to see me and he was always funny, and every year he bought so many girl scout cookies! Hugs to all the Reids, Katie Coyle Todd##imported-begin##Katie Coyle Todd Katie@KatieToddArt.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathies for your loss. There is a void that cannot be replaced. Our loved ones have a permanent impact on our lives and they should never leave us. Their influence is invaluable all throughout our life, so they should be with us forever, especially when we have a problem and we need their advice. The God of all comfort wanted mankind to live forever and never experience suffering, pain and death. He sent his Son to earth to erase everything that plagues mankind, particularly death. God's Kingdom headed by Christ will establish a Paradise earth and bring our precious loved ones back again so we can enjoy living with them happy and healthy and sharing all our experiences with them, never to loss them again.##imported-begin##Marquell quellequelly@yahoo.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Words are always insufficient at a time like this, but know that we send our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Your Dad was a special man and a pleasure to be around. He had a kind and caring nature and was always prepared with some small piece of wisdom or story. He will be greatly missed by all. Our deepest sympathy to the entire Reid family.

Gary & Linda##imported-begin##Gary & Linda Hill##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Margie, Judie, Jimmy, Bobbie, tom;

I will miss the afternoons spent with your dad drinking coffee, talking and watching movies. He always had a kind word and a gentle heart for everyone around him. He will be missed.

Donna M.##imported-begin##"angel" Donna djm12271968@gmail.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom, Sandy and Family our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Cherish the memories and remember the good times.##imported-begin##Tim and Trish Weinstein trishweinstein@yahoo.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Just wanted to send my condolences to the family. It was heart-warming to see you and your father at the viewing of my husband Mel, and share the nice memories you had with me. Mr. Reid was a gentle-man in every sense of the word.##imported-begin##Ellie Majewski##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jim Reid...WOW...what a fantastic human being. I have hundreds of what I would call good friends, Jim would be one of those top shelf friends. Over the past 23 years I have had the privilege of spending true quality time with him. He was unquestionably a credit to the funeral industry and will be missed by all that knew him. I will miss you Jim.*

Chris Miller##imported-begin##Chris Miller timberlineindustries@gmail.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Judy, Barb, Jim and Tom*

My condolences, sorry I couldn't make the trip. I have some great memories though.##imported-begin##Dennis Dalton##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will remember all the great times at the hockey games and sharing popcorn. He was a great guy##imported-begin##Jeff Mack##imported-end##*

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom & Sandy:

We heard today of your Fathers' passing.

We understand your feelings. That combination of Sorrow and Joy that you are feeling Now.

May the Peace of Christ that your Dad now knows be with you, Sandy, and your Family as you traverse these next days.

Our Love,

Ken & Dee Nixon##imported-begin##Ken & Dee Nixon nixonkm@aol.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a fascinating man with thousands of stories - ALL true. I met Jim in 1972 in a Detroit funeral home. He showed me how to carry caskets up narrow stairways without dropping them. Ah the Chicago Bronze, heavy stuff. This was a genuinely nice man. He always stopped to spend time and visit and not just try to be a salesman. It was an honor knowing you Jim.##imported-begin##Bob Cover##imported-end##*

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom, Jim Jr, Judie, Bobbie, Margie & Family

I am going to miss Jim so much. He was quite a Character. Always could put a smile on your face. There we alot of laughs in the short time i knew Jim but they will stay with me forever. You all are in my thoughts and prayers and I Love you all!!!##imported-begin##"Angel" Mary Kay marykayrafko@yahoo.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sympathies to Tom and the rest of the Reid Family. Jim was a super guy who was always very helpful to us at our funeral home. He was a real asset to the funeral service profession, by providing a means for bereaved families to personalize a casket for their loved ones. The services of Reid Casket Company will continue, but Jim will be missed.##imported-begin##Rich & Andrea Traunero tfh@traunerofuneralhome.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Just heard of your loss. I know that your dad and my dad are now playing cards once again.

I know that your dad will never be gone, just keep the memories .##imported-begin##Rick & Joanne Phillips ottawarfe@aol.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Judy,
I just heard about the loss of your Father. What a wonderful life and tribute was shown in the Blade. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I know you will find inner peace and enjoy your trip to Florida. I look forward to seeing you at one of the luncheons God Bless.##imported-begin##Mike Buzene jmb42@buckeye-express.com##imported-end##

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jim always seemed happy and content. He gave us all an example of how to live with his good attitude. I read that a measure of greatness is how you help others. Jim certainly helped many families in his funeral business career. Yes, he was great in many ways. May love be what you remember most. Take care!##imported-begin##Mike Roessner mikeroessner@yahoo.com##imported-end##*

January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM