



James W. Howe

February 18, 1929 - January 21, 2017

James Warren Howe aged 87, lifelong resident of Custer, died peacefully on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Jim was born on February 18, 1929 in Custer, the son of Howard and Cecelia (Cossette) Howe, and graduated from Custer High School with the class of 1947. Jim served his country during the Korean Conflict as a Staff Sergeant with the United States Air Force. On October 25, 1950 he married Helen Grace Pratt and they celebrated 52 years by each others side until Helen preceded him in death on November 15, 2002. Jim was also preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers Richard and Duane.

Jim and Helen settled in the Custer community and began operating their dairy farm in 1955. Jim was very active within the community serving on the Mason County Eastern School Board for many years, was a Life Member of the Custer Gold Bar VFW Post 5096, volunteered with the Custer Fire Department and the West Michigan Old Engine Club, served on the West Shore Bank Board, and was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where he served as a Communicant, Reader, and member of Building & Grounds. Jim was also a charter member of the NFO Board, served on the local board for the Michigan Milk Producers Association, and enjoyed riding with the "Winter Nights Snowmobile Club." Whenever there was a need in the community, Jim always showed up whether it was for the school, church, fire department, or helping out his neighbors and friends.

He will be greatly missed by his children James Howe Jr. and wife Kristine of Custer, Deborah Albrecht and husband Raymond of Mt. Pleasant, Joseph Howe of Free Soil, Annette Howe and her friend Dean Samuels of Ludington, John Paul Howe and his wife Sheryl of Custer, his former daughter-in-law Debbie Howe of Custer, his grandchildren Dominic Howe (friend Tracy Peplinski), Amanda Howe, Jimmy Howe III, Christopher (Amy) Albrecht, Alan (Kara) Albrecht, Jeremy (Mary) Howe, MSGT Ryan (Renee "Red") Howe, Brett Garten, Kendra Ann Garten, Jared Garten, Lydia Howe, Hillary Howe, and Zachary Howe, 11 great-grandchildren, his sisters-in-law June Howe of Hart, and Mary Lou Miller of Ludington, and his brother-in-law Larry Pratt of Chicago.

The Celebration of Mass will be held for Jim at 11:00 am on Wednesday, January 25 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Custer with Rev. Daniel DePew as celebrant. Burial will take place at St. Mary's Cemetery. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Tuesday from 2:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00 pm, and on Wednesday morning from 10:00-11:00 am all at St. Mary's Church. The Rosary will be prayed for Jim on Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm.

Those who wish to remember Jim with a memorial donation are asked to consider St. Mary's Catholic Church, or Custer Fire Department.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

1000 South Custer Road
Custer, MI 49405

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Visitation

JAN 24. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Rosary Service

JAN 24. 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Celebration of Mass

JAN 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
85 South Madison Street
Custer, MI 49405

Tribute Wall

GE

“ Lots of memories of Jim. My favorite is when I bought the farm on Custer road a bit North of his. He told me "when you see your neighbors in the fields in the Spring, Put your feet up, wait two weeks, and then your ground will be ready to work. He was right.

Galen Eikenberry - January 26, 2017 at 07:01 PM

TP

“ *The memories I have of Jim were of a man who spoke what he felt. The many years that we were blessed to have him apart of our family events around the 4th of July at Jim & Sue St John`s home in Ludington always made for a time of enlightenment to the many stories he shared with us.*

I came to know Jim from his long and and very caring and loving relationship with my sister, Rose Grams. I was always so impressed by the gentle and compassionate care that was bestowed upon especially in these later years.

Rose was always by his side to insure he ate right, was taken care of and provided some much needed words of encouragement. This is a time when many turn away from a person who needs the extra care, but not Rose.

She loved and cared for Jim in a way that was much deeper than many will ever know. I know today she is feeling this loss greatly.

Our prayers go up for the family and friends that shared in Jim`s life. There will never be another James Warren Howe.

Lord Bless

Tom & Doreen Pawlak

Tom Pawlak - January 25, 2017 at 10:27 AM

LS

“ I remember Jim so well when I worked at State Savings Bank of Scottville (WSB). I remember so many times sitting down in the breakroom with Dawn J, Tom V and Jim. He always had a story to tell and wisdom to go with it. He would always say to me "There's no hope for you DeVries" I would just laugh and dish it right back out. By the time we left the break room you would always have a smile on your face. Jim did light up a room when he was around. Many memories to hold on to. And to Nettie (my dear friend) hold on to all those memories of your father and cherish each and every one of them. It is hard to lose a parent. But when your down remember his smile and hold that vision in your mind and heart and you too will start to smile knowing that he is always with you. Thoughts and Prayers to all of you.

Linda Devries Smith

Linda Devries Smith - January 25, 2017 at 10:18 AM

PC

“ I, along with several other younger farmers at the time, were blessed to serve with Jim on the ACRES co-op board of directors for a number of years. Jim brought his experience and wisdom to our meetings and us young guys learned from him. I recall during one particular challenging time on the board where Jim expressed how proud he was of us on how we handled a sub-committee decision. His words meant a lot to us.

I often bumped into Jim, during the day over at Alway's Implement Service. I appreciated my visits with him. His wit and his interest in what I was up to on the farm made it a pleasure to talk with him.

I offer my condolences to the entire Howe family during this time.

Peace to you all.

Pete Conrad

Pete Conrad - January 25, 2017 at 07:38 AM

KC

“ *Rest in Peace my friend. So sorry didn't get a chance to visit these past few years because of our distance from your home. Rose, our deepest sympathies to you also. You loved you kids, community and your farm and never was able to totally let it go. Ken & Sue Cisek*

Ken Cisek - January 24, 2017 at 11:15 AM

PS

“ *My sincere sympathy to the family of James W. Howe Sr. Now he is at peace with our Savior and all our loved ones that have passed. Lot's of great memories!! Jim was a great man and will be greatly missed by many!!!*

The Robert A. Smith family

Patty Smith - January 24, 2017 at 08:51 AM

PZ

“ *Phillip & Katie Zeeck purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James W. Howe.*



Phillip & Katie Zeeck - January 24, 2017 at 07:21 AM

DM

“ *With sincere sympathy to the Howe family. My dad was friends with Jim forever, when my dad retired Jim made one of his dreams come true by having him help out on the farm with planting or harvesting , baling hay, chopping corn or driving the trucks and tractors either to town to be unloaded or in the field. Thank you. I can recall when I was little and we lived on the farm north of Custer and going to the little house that was down from the house and farm are at now and playing on a swing that was in the front yard. He isn't hurting anymore and will be greatly missed.*

The George Parmentier Family.

Deb Parmentier McMullin - January 24, 2017 at 12:24 AM

SJ

“ Our condolences to the Family and all those who were a part of Jim's life. We grew to know Jim through Rose, who spent 14 years with Jim, building a relationship that brought smiles to both their faces. Building memories that will last a life time, as we all do with the ones we love. Our time spent with Jim, for dinners, family get togethers, game nights, Christmas time and rides around the farm as he proudly showed the farm and all the details will always be cherished. Jim had a vocabulary of his own, always followed by that grin, once you got to know him, you could shovel right back a him knowing he was teasing most of the time. He will be greatly missed by many, but let's keep the memory of Jim alive as we carry on from day to day as he would want us to. Prayers are being lifted up for you all, Jim & Sue st John

sue st john - January 23, 2017 at 07:13 PM

DT

“ Dick Howe's Family: June, Rick, Kim, Lisa & Tracie purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James W. Howe.



Dick Howe's Family: June, Rick, Kim, Lisa & Tracie - January 23, 2017 at 03:45 PM

DO

“ I have known Jim my whole life. There were many times I really thought he disliked me, until I gave back what he dished out, then we were all good after that. I loved how he said what he had to say and the wisdom he gave to many. My condolences to the family. I also want to send condolences to his companion Rose Grams of 15 years plus. Sorry for your loss.

Deanna OHagan

Deanna OHagan - January 23, 2017 at 03:44 PM

JR

“ My wife Doreen and I were neighbors with Jim's daughter Nettie and we were introduced to her family . I was invited to come out and deer hunt on the farm and formed a friendship with Jim and his family . The tractor he was pictured on was one my father in law rebuilt and Jim bought it form my mother in law . We have a little piece of the farm in our front lawn of our house we built . Jim showed up one day with a nice load of top soil, he said your going to need this you cant grow anything in sand . We never asked he just brought it that's the kind a guy he was . Now when I look at my lawn I will always have a little piece of the farm to remind me what a kind person he was . Our thoughts and prayer's are with your family . John and Doreen Rae



john rae - January 23, 2017 at 12:34 PM

CS

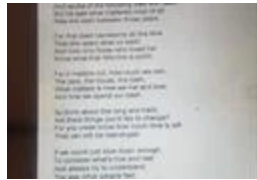
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Cathy Snyder - January 23, 2017 at 08:28 AM

CS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Snyder - January 23, 2017 at 08:19 AM

CS

“ Jim was first introduced to us by my sister Rose. He quickly became a great friend especially to my husband Larry. We had some great times in florida and in Michigan. He and I use to give each other a hard time always but it was all in fun. It is like the poem The Dash. It's what you did between the numbers of the dash. The birth date and death date. And I truly believe he did what he loved and thought was right no matter what people thought about it. He always had a good word for everyone and was quick to forgive and apologize when needed. He loved his farm and hard work and passed that on to his son John(even Hough they disagreed on the old school ways as compared to the new era ways) lol. Jim Wil be sorely missed by my husband as well as my family and friends who were introduced to him. May the angels administer to you now Jim and may you be in peace. Cathy and Larry Snyder

Cathy Snyder - January 23, 2017 at 07:30 AM

SM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sharon McCumber - January 22, 2017 at 08:27 PM

LS

“ Linda Shively lit a candle in memory of James W. Howe



Linda Shively - January 22, 2017 at 06:30 PM

LS

Mr. Howe was a great guy. He always gave me a hard time at cafe but it was in fun. He meant a lot to me. I couldn't wait to hear his stories or his jokes.

Linda Shively - January 22, 2017 at 06:34 PM



He was a mans man a friend and a person who will be Greatly missed

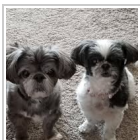
Arnold Catania - January 22, 2017 at 07:33 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



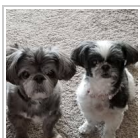
Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - January 22, 2017 at 05:28 PM



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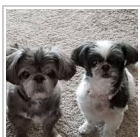
Vickie Wright - January 22, 2017 at 04:51 PM



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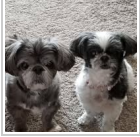
Vickie Wright - January 22, 2017 at 04:49 PM



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Vickie Wright - January 22, 2017 at 04:48 PM



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Vickie Wright - January 22, 2017 at 04:44 PM



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Vickie Wright - January 22, 2017 at 04:40 PM