



## James John Messink

June 5, 1926 - September 6, 2019

JAMES JOHN MESSINK

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We have all had people who affected us significantly. The most influential person in our life has been our father. As his children, almost every personal trait or habit that is good or positive in ourselves, we can trace back to him.

Dad was born in Dubuque, Iowa the youngest of three children. He enlisted in the US Navy and served his country during World War II. After the war, he attended Michigan Technological University and studied civil engineering. Dad started his career as a civil engineer and progressed to be the field superintendent on large construction projects. He supervised the building of many notable landmarks in the Detroit area including the Renaissance Center, the People Mover elevated structure, Palace Arena, and the Penguin and Monkey houses at the Detroit Zoo. By the time he retired, he was VP of Operations for a large construction company.

Dad taught us the value of hard work and providing for his family. In an industry of tough construction workers, foremen, union officials, truck drivers, and business owners, he taught us the value of diplomacy over confrontation or harsh words. When he saw situations that he was unhappy with, he didn't complain, but got involved to create solutions. He jumped into our school's Dads Club, Scout troop, church, and other organizations to make sure they served his family well. He was always involved, but never drew attention to himself. He'd rather be doing something positive, but preferred to do it quietly, without fanfare. He avoided the public spotlight, but always acknowledged those who helped him in life.

He wasn't an emotional guy, but he always told us kids that he loved us. And he set an example of romantic love by always treating Mom with love and respect, and by the many small and big ways he publicly showed his affection for her.

We learned so many life skills from him... respect for others, money management, devotion to your spouse, how to bait a hook and grow tomatoes, looking after friends in time of need, carpentry, and the immense value of a kind word - plus many others that are so ingrained that we don't even realize them.

Jim Messink breathed his last on September 6 2019, at the age of 93. We miss him already.

Jim and his late wife, Joyce, raised 5 children: Joanne Talarek, Paul (Robert Toburen) Messink, Tom (Maureen) Messink, Barbara Macdonald, David (Leona) Messink, 11 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

The services for Mr. Messink will be private.

Donations in memory of James can be made to the Salvation Army  
[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)

# Comments

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“ I may not have known him well, but I knew his wife and children loved him - and that was enough for me. I'll remember his laugh, and I'll remember how awed I was that he was still playing tennis long past the time others his age had stopped. My condolences to all the family. Love, Vincenza

Vincenza - September 15 at 03:58 PM

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“ Vincenza lit a candle in memory of James John Messink



Vincenza - September 15 at 03:55 PM

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“ I knew both Joyce and Jim. They were both so involved in our days at St. Gerard's. Sorry I couldn't make the funeral this morning, but will offer mass tomorrow at Marywood for a very loving couple. Fr. Jim Scheick

Fr. Jim C. Scheick - September 14 at 07:18 PM

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“ Elaines, and Mencarellis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James John Messink.



Elaines, and Mencarellis - September 13 at 11:10 AM

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“ Our deepest condolences are sent to Jim's family and friends. We will miss seeing Jim's soft smile and gentleness when he spoke. We feel blessed to have met him and for him to have known our parents; and to have had a friendship with my father during his short stay together. May his cherished memory continue to inspire all of his

family always.  
Sharon & Paul Levine

Sharon & Paul Levine - September 10 at 09:55 PM

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“ Uncle Jimmy was the finest man in my life. He was loving, gentle, kind, intelligent, and an honest and patient counselor. The world is short one awesome man and Heaven's population is up one pure soul. Our lives were made happier and we always felt loved because of Uncle Jim. He will always be in our hearts and memories.

Patty and Hank Sauerman

Patty and Hank Sauerman - September 10 at 10:55 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Photos & Videos



Patty and Hank Sauerman - September 10 at 08:57 AM



“ Great picture. I'm sure he was fishing just as soon as he gave Joyce a hug. LOL

Vincenza - September 15 at 04:01 PM

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“ Uncle Jim WAS an icon for the entire family: a loving individual, caring, supportive, kind, generous; a gentle and wise advisor whenever I went to him for counsel. He was the king.... a leader for great example of virtue to others. Uncle Jim will always be remembered, to me, for his great affection and decency. He will be missed every day...forever. nephew bill.

Bill Messink - September 09 at 03:55 PM

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“ Uncle Jim was an ICON and a legend. A kind and gentle man with that iconic laugh of his which always made you feel good. He will truly be missed and loved by all. I have so many great memories and will treasure the many yearly visits I made to see Uncle Jim and Aunt Joyce. Love you Uncle Jim. Jim Messink and family.

