



James A. Bitzan

May 8, 1934 - February 8, 2014

James "Jim" A. Bitzan, 79 year old resident of Onamia, MN passed away on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, February 14, 2014 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Onamia, MN. Burial will be in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. A visitation will be held from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Onamia, MN and 1 hour prior to Mass on Friday. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Jim was born to Albert and Caroline (Ledermann) Bitzan on May 8, 1934 at the family farm on Lake Moses in Millerville, MN. His childhood was full of opportunities fishing, hunting, and the many chores and challenges of farm life. He Graduated from Brandon High School, Brandon, MN, in 1952. After high school he attended St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. He enlisted in the US Army in October of 1953 during the Korean War. He was proud of his service to his country. After his honorable discharge in October of 1961, he was employed by Honeywell. In April, 1958 he was hired by the DeZURICH Corporation in Sartell, MN, where he worked until 1972. On June 6, 1959 he married the love of his life, Carolyn Mae Hockert. Their life together started out in St. Cloud, MN and then Sartell, MN. In 1972 they moved to Onamia, MN and opened Bitzan's Bait and Tackle Shop. Jim worked occasional construction jobs and drove launches on Mille Lacs Lake when business was slow. In 1991 they sold the shop and moved to the home they built and

currently reside. Jim worked for Grand Casino Mille Lacs for several years until his retirement. He was a member of the Sartell School Board; the Mille Lacs Search and Rescue Organization; the Lions Club; the VFW; and most dear to his heart, the Knights of Columbus (a faithful 4th degree Knight). Jim was very active in his church, Knights of Columbus, and his home business producing Jingle Reels "Jingle Meter" and his "Gabby Grabber" goose calls. He cut wood and went hunting and fishing until health issues would no longer permit. In the past month he was diagnosed with Leukemia and forged ahead with treatment and prayer. But sadly, a serious complication arose unexpectedly. At 1:03 AM on February 8th, 2014 James was welcomed into the kingdom of Heaven.

Jim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn, seven children, Monica (John) Ostrowski, Thomas Bitzan, Theresa (Guy) Anderson, Deborah (Collin) Crotty, Dianne (John Wilson), Angela (Kevin) Kail, and Micheal Bitzan; Two brothers, Edward, Charles (Sue); One sister, Bernadine Schiele; brother-in-law, George Dorn; fifteen grandchildren, Laura, Kate, Jessica, Steven, Daniel, Jordan, Jamie, Christopher, Sara, William, Ryane, Kaylene, Brandon, Peter, and Anna; One great grandchild, Mason; Many much loved in laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Irene, Margaret, Dorothy, and Florence; brother, Robert. three brothers-in-law, Leander Stariha, Phillip Schmidt and Willie Schiele.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery

Onamia, MN 56359

Tribute Wall



“ *James A. Bitzan*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Love you grandpa - it doesn't feel like it's been 6 years . Rest in paradise. Jo*

Jamie Ostrowski - February 08, 2020 at 10:01 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy Carolyn for your loss.
Lynn Brown*

Lynn Brown - February 13, 2014 at 08:13 PM

TF

“ Dear Bitzan Family,

May you find comfort in your husband and fathers memories, and strength in the companionship of the life you shared together! Your tears are not unnoticed by the Creator of Life, Psalm 34:17, 18. I certainly hope the help God can give at this time will make a difference. Although I have not personally met the family, I pray the tender mercy that God has always shown be with you now. May the prayers of others help in some small way to bring you strength, comfort and courage each day! Revelation 21:3-5 mentions a time when God will wipe all our tears away, death, sorrow and pain will be no more. May these thoughts from the scriptures bring you comfort and hope during this sad time!

With heartfelt condolences,

The Munro Family

The Munro Family - February 12, 2014 at 03:46 PM

DR

“ I STARTED AT DeZurik in May 1960 and got to know Jim threw his work in engineering and learned a good about the many products and applications. If my memory serves me well we had mutual friend Ben Stroh from MILLERVILLE! JIM WAS very active in establishing a local school dist. in Sartell. With his help and persistance the mission was accomplished and today is one of the most successful in Minnesota. I always admired Jim at work with DeZurik and energy in getting the school established in Sartell. We lost contact when you moved to Onamia and Jim started his new business of selling bait and I heard guiding fishermen on Milacs. Im cionfidant that Jim was successful in all he did as a husband, father, grandfather and etc. Please accept my sympathy to The entire Bitzan family and I apologize for my compuror errors. you do not have to acknowlege this note just know I remmber Jim
Dave Robertson I retired fromDeZurik in 1998

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dave robertson - February 12, 2014 at 12:37 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James A. Bitzan.*



February 10, 2014 at 02:34 PM



“ *I'm sorry to hear of Jim's death. He was an outstanding Knight of Columbus and a good friend of my husband, a fellow KC. He will surely be missed here on earth, but definitely welcomed in the Lord's arms. My sympathy to Carolyn and the family. Jan Kummet*

Jan Kummet - February 10, 2014 at 09:11 AM



“ *We were fortunate to meet Jim at Theresa and Guy's home. We are saddened by his passing and offer our sincere sympathy*

John & Andrea Everts - February 09, 2014 at 07:36 PM