



James M. Bellows

April 9, 1952 - December 23, 2015

James Bellows passed away on Wednesday December 23, 2015 at McLaren Macomb Hospital in Mt. Clemens. James was born on April 9, 1952 in Detroit, Michigan to Harry and Marion (nee Tite) Bellows. James is the beloved husband of Joan. Dear father of Rachel (Martin) Campbell, Cassie (Carlos) Cantu, Alisha (Luigi) Mastrofrancesco, and Mark Bellows. Dear grandfather of Jacob Bellows, Mackenzie Bellows, Kyle Campbell, Brady Campbell, Nolan Campbell, Miabella Cantu, and Charlotte Cantu. Dear brother of Kathleen (Alan) Bruggeman, Martha Mortiel, Lauren Quigley, and the late Carolyn Hetchler and Sara Gass. Visitation Sunday 2-9 PM at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (n. of 22 Mile Road), Shelby Twp. Funeral services Monday 11 AM at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

 Kathy
Bruggema

“ *Joan and family,
It is hard for me to say anything. I could not speak at the funeral. I think of my 63 year relationship with my brother and so many things flash into my mind. I realize that I never, ever had a disagreement with him. He just wasn't in any way a person who was ever combative. He was a lover, for sure, not a fighter. He avoided conflicts sometimes at cost to himself. He was a big, funny, tenderhearted, kind, adventurous, loyal fellow. To Everyone! I couldn't utter anything at the funeral. I am rarely tongue-tied. I was just filled with emotion. This has affected me profoundly. Jim is now in a place where there is no worry, strife, pain, time clock, debts or conflict. Bravo for that. He is in heaven.
But what a hole it left in the family and for everyone else who loved him. I pray, Joan, you will find a way to go on with Gods help without your best friend.
Love you.*

Kathy Bruggeman - December 30, 2015 at 07:11 AM

 HS

“ *Joan

I want to extend my deepest sympathies for the loss of Jim. The times that I shared with him Jim was a fun loving and nice guy who had fun from what he did and not at the expense of others. I will miss him,

Henry Sorensen*

Henry Sorensen - December 28, 2015 at 09:13 AM

KF

“Joan, I am so sorry about your loss. Jim seemed like he was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. May you find peace during this hard time. Remember all your greatest memories and treasure them. God bless❤️. Kathy Finazzo

Kathy Finazzo - December 27, 2015 at 08:08 PM



“Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James M. Bellows.



December 27, 2015 at 04:14 PM



“Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James M. Bellows.



December 27, 2015 at 11:06 AM



“Joan Oberdorf Bellows lit a candle in memory of James M. Bellows



Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:28 PM



“ *Thank you for all your kind words, they are giving me strength and comfort at a very difficult time. He touched so many lives in a positive way. Heaven gained another angel.*

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:04 PM

BH

“ I was somewhere around 7 or 8 years old when I can first remember who I always called (Jimmy) Bellows. I grew up across the street from Joan on Cass Avenue as a kid. Jimmy and my dad (Fred Hugo) were always great friends. I always looked up to Jimmy because he was always so cool. He had street bikes, dirt bikes, and the coolest white van with the most kick a** stripes on the side that he designed and painted himself that made him even cooler to me. He would leave Joan's house sometimes on a street bike and ride a wheelie like Evel Knievel down Cass Avenue. So to me, being that young and here's this guy with the coolest white custom van (that thing even squealed the tires - no vans do that!!), with a beautiful girlfriend from across the street (Joan) with dirt bikes and street bikes and riding wheelies down the road -- it just didn't get any cooler than that! Those are my first memories of him. Like I said, he was great friends with my dad so I got to grow up knowing him. He was always such a big, tall gentle giant who was always cool to be around. Him and my dad always did things like building dune buggies and going to Silver Lake Sand Dunes. He even went on a family trip with us to Japan. While we were there I remember Jimmy or my dad had a Beatles cassette or heck it could have been an 8 track back then, but what I remember about it the most was they played it over and over in the car everywhere we went so even to this day the Beatles always remind me of Jimmy. Over the years, he always stayed in touch with my dad and was always there to lend a helping hand with what ever my dad needed. My dad was always a great painter but he always said that Jimmy was the best. I know my dad always considered Jimmy one of his best friends. I'm almost 49 years old now, I have 2 kids of my own. The greatest compliment I think you can give a man is that he is a great father. That's definitely what I can say about Jimmy -- he was such a great family man and a great father. Anyone who knew him knew that. Words can't explain how sad I am for Joan and his family. He was truly a one of a kind man. I hope that knowing that he is in heaven and heaven is a beautiful place somehow gives your family some comfort in this sad time. Jimmy left an impression on me and I will never forget him. God Bless that big gentle giant ... sincerely Bobby Hugo

Bobby Hugo - December 26, 2015 at 09:40 PM



Beautiful tribute. He also taught me to ride a dirt bike, as street bike and dune buggy.

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:27 PM

MC

“ *My father-in-law Jim Bellows. Jim cared about the important things in life. Jim was a loving husband to his world, Joan. Jim was a great father to Rachel, Cassie, Alisha, and Mark. Jim was also a fantastic grand father(papa) to his many grandchildren. Whatever title Jim had to his family members...husband, dad, papa, brother, uncle, etc. Jim flourished in each role. Jim was the definition of a FAMILY MAN...he lived for his FAMILY.*

Jim was one of the most selfless men I have ever known. He would do anything for anyone anytime. There wasn't anything that Jim couldn't fix, or at least attempt to fix. This is one of the many ways Jim reminded me of my father. Jim always seemed to have a smile on his face. I was so lucky to have had Jim in my life for the last 8 years, and that I got to call him my father-in-law. I love you Jim

Marty

Marty Campbell - December 26, 2015 at 08:31 PM



He loved you too.

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:20 PM

DQ

“ Joan,
My sympathies to you and your children on Jim's passing! I can imagine your grief and pray for God's peace to comfort you and yours at this time. I know how strong you are and how you will draw on it during this time. Jim will be sorely missed. My deepest sympathies,
Dave Quigley

David Quigley - December 26, 2015 at 08:18 PM

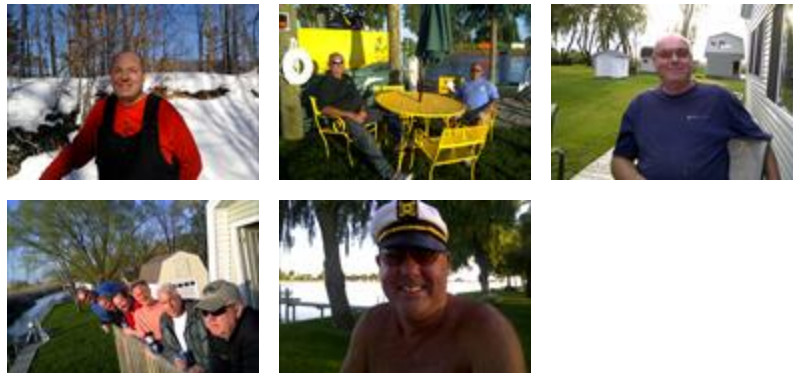


Thank you for your kind words.

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:18 PM

DT

“ 17 files added to the album Life Tributes



Doug Tite - December 26, 2015 at 05:50 PM



Doug, awesome pics. He loved the Weds night group! He will be greatly missed.

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James M. Bellows.



December 26, 2015 at 04:45 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of James M. Bellows.



December 26, 2015 at 03:23 PM



“ 212 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - December 26, 2015 at 02:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James M. Bellows.



December 26, 2015 at 01:58 PM

SB

“ It's hard to make the words come out that I feel inside and I can't even think of anything to say to ease the pain the family must be feeling. Jim and I weren't real close friends, but we were good friends and the news of his passing is just tearing me up.

Jim was just one of those guys that if you knew him, everybody had the same opinion of him - a real good guy and you just wanted to be his friend.

I remember I was only 11 years old when I first got to know Jim. I remember this because I was in the 5th grade and had a dirt bike. Back in the 70's riding dirt bikes was all the rage. We got to know Jim through a neighbor who also rode dirt bikes.

Every weekend a bunch of us would load up our dirt bikes and go riding in the gravel pits of Oxford or wherever else we could find a place to ride and have fun.

I remember my older brother telling me to stay out of Jim's way as he was a pretty fast and crazy rider and might run me over if I wasn't careful. So I was a little scared and cautious around him. After getting to know him, I saw he wasn't really this crazy maniacal guy my brother warned me about. He was actually a real nice guy and funny. Did I mention tall? Jim was one of the tallest persons I actually knew on a personal basis. He always looked like a big kid riding a little mini-bike. Not only was it funny, it was weird because Jim's personality was so calm and methodical - until he got on a motorcycle and then it was like he just robbed a party store or something. It was always WIDE OPEN and FLAT OUT.

As an 11 year old kid you're very impressionable. In my little 11 year old mind Jim was just a "really cool guy". He had the coolest motorcycles and he had a really cool Chevy Van with a custom paint job. Jim was sort of like a Fonzie to me.

As time passed on our weekend rides got fewer and farther

between. Jim had left such an impression on me that as i came of age, my first vehicle had to be a custom Chevy Van - just like Jim had. I also continued to ride dirt bikes and always remembered how Jim rode - fast and crazy, and that is how I wanted to ride too.

Somehow many years later Jim and I hooked up again. I was driving down the road and saw that crazy cool Van sitting in his driveway. I stopped and of course Jim was working on something in his garage like always. He immediately remembered me and it seemed like time hadn't even moved. He was still that smiling giant of a guy I knew as a kid. Talk soon turned to motorcycles and next thing you knew we were arranging to get together and go riding again.

We ended up going up north riding and camping a few more times before I had to hang up my boots to start raising children of my own. Jim and I kept in touch a few times just to chat and he was always generous with all kinds of fatherly advice. I remember talking about his son Mark and how maybe one day we'd go riding with him and I remember him telling me of Rachel's new baby and how proud he was and that we needed to get together again.

Not sure why things happen like this but just last week my wife was asking me whatever happened to that Jim Bellows guy because I would often talk about him and tell my boys stories of when we would ride together and how much fun we'd have. My wife and kids never got to meet Jim. She suggested I call him up along with my brother and a couple other friends we had not seen in a while. Invite them over maybe even for the Holidays. I thought that was a just a great idea. It wasn't 2 days later I got a call from my brother telling me of the terrible news. It felt like someone hit me with a 2x4.

As I mentioned, Jim and I weren't real close friends, but we were good friends. I wish we could have gotten together one more time. A part of Jim will live on in me just for having known him. I guess we'll have to wait to see him on the other side. In our thoughts and prayers Jim you will be missed but always remembered.

May God Bless the Bless the Bellows family

Shawn Bagos - December 26, 2015 at 01:14 PM



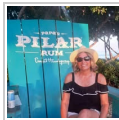
Thanks SHAWN, we had many fun times at the gravel pits and also at your riding club. Good times for sure!

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:15 PM

DE

“ jim your laugh.. your smile.. your heart.. friend of 38 plus years.. fun was infectious when you were around.Joan and family so important. . Camping with families or just our boys.. laid back always willing to help.. Blessed. . To be one of your many friends.. and more of a brother.. love and prayers to joan and family

dennisriehl@yahoo.com - December 26, 2015 at 07:49 AM



Thank you, many good memories for sure!

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James M. Bellows.



December 25, 2015 at 10:48 PM

KP

“ Dear Joan, Children, Grandchildren, Family and Friends of Jim,

My heart broke with the news of Jim's sudden passing. My memories and admiration of Jim go deep. I never heard a cross word from Jim over the 45+ years I was blessed to have known him. With Jim, I heard only teasing quips, commonly, and usually deserved,

I think back to the week, many years ago (early 70's) when we drove down to Bradenton Beach. FL in Jim's van on a little Vacation. We had such a great time. I was a bit immature at that time and did things that embarrass me now. Jim could have, and rightly so, been dismissive towards me. Instead, he coached me on how to, as he would put it, "Be Cool Man". That put Jim in my good people book many years ago.

For my Brother John, friend Donald Robbins, our late friend Robin Roantree, and my wife Renee, know this, "James the Flames" will live in our hearts forever as kind and gentle man, with never a cross word to us all.

I will miss my friend Jim,

Kirt Pankow

Kirt Pankow - December 25, 2015 at 05:03 PM



Thank you ;)

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:12 PM

MA

“ *Mary Arens lit a candle in memory of James M. Bellows*



Mary Arens - December 25, 2015 at 04:24 PM

MA

“ *I have so many memories of Jim and of course the love of his life, my friend Joan. Some of my favorite I won't mention....remember we were just kids! I'll always remember cruising around in Jim's van, laughing, growing up, doing what friends do! Jim was so in love with Joan....always! I'm glad that worked out the way it did. They are certainly best friends and soul mates. Joan, there are no words. God bless you, your kids, and your grandkids. Jim touched my life with his gentle ways and his infectious laugh, with his patience and with his kindness. These are the memories I will always hold dear! And how he used to order McDonald's fries and put them all together in the bag with salt and ketchup....such a smart guy! Thx Jim.*

Mary Arens - December 25, 2015 at 04:21 PM



Thank you friend, hope to see you soon. ?

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:10 PM

RC

“ Here we are.
At your and mom's house. The wonderful place we all still consider home. Being here is always comfortable and so full of love, you worked so hard to make sure of it. Eating, drinking, crying, laughing....your presents still wrapped under the tree.
So hard to believe.
I miss you so much dad.
Merry Christmas
Love, Rachel



Rachel Campbell - December 25, 2015 at 04:06 PM

NF

Rachel-I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Nicole Finley

Nicole Finley - December 26, 2015 at 02:17 PM



Thank you Rachel, you are my rock. I love you. ;)

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:09 PM

JP

“ Hello Joan and Family,

I am saddened to my bones over the loss of our Jim yet I am gladdened to my heart for having had him in my life. Although I won't physically be there with you all at this time please know that I will be there with you spiritually the entire time.

Jim has been my best, dear friend since we were 6 years old. I could tell you hundreds of stories from the pages of our co authored book "The adventures of Jim and John". It took us 55 years to complete it.

In it you would read that we did fun things, serious things, stupid things, family things, dangerous things, adventurous things, mechanical things, and always friend things.

Each thing in turn made us closer lifelong friends. We always had complete trust in each other and never questioned the other. No matter what we did, where we went, or whose idea a pursuit was; we always did things as an equal team.

Usually friends (no matter how good they are) have a serious falling out for some period of time. Jim and I never did. Now that I think about it, I am sure it is because we loved each other. However, since we are guys we never thought about it in those terms.

In each of our lives we all only ever have 1 or 2 lifelong friends. (friends since the time our memories took hold). Jim has always been and will always be that lifelong friend of mine. It is not possible to go back in time to form another.

And what a friend he was. I was always able to get his opinion, his extra set of eyes, or his set of extra hands when I needed any help on a project. I will deeply miss being able to call Jim on the phone and after he would answer - say "James and the Flames". I said that to him for 40 years or so because he was always working on a

project. It was as if he was always putting out fires.

Those fires are now out for Jim who worked so hard his entire life putting them out. Now we must all carry a piece of his big heart within us. I will carry my big friend in my heart for the rest of my life.

Again Joan and family, although I can't be with you now physically please remember that I am there with you spiritually. My spirit is now with my big, lifelong, loved, dear friend James for this one last page of our adventures together.

My love to you all.....your friend.....John Pankow

John Pankow - December 25, 2015 at 01:04 AM



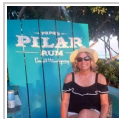
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Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:06 PM



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Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:07 PM



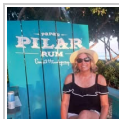
They are supposed to be hearts!

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:07 PM

AL

“ *I love you dad. I miss you so much already. alisha*

alisha - December 24, 2015 at 01:46 PM



He loved you more than you know;)

Joan Oberdorf Bellows - December 26, 2015 at 10:05 PM