



James W. De Munnik

February 3, 1942 - September 18, 2024

James William De Munnik, 82, of Chesterfield, Michigan, passed away peacefully in the morning of September 18, 2024. James was born February 3, 1942 to Willem "Bill" and Jilbert "Janette" (Waller) De Munnik in Detroit, Michigan. He is the beloved husband of the late Ellen (Cole) De Munnik, who passed away on July 10, 2023, after celebrating over 54 years of marriage.

He is the loving brother of the late Gilbert De Munnik and dear brother in law of Curt (Theresa) Cole and Norm (Janet) Cole, uncle of Michele (John) Marinucci, Karianne (Tony) Fallow, Kathryn (Todd Sloniker) Cole, Kirsten (William) Capeless, Megan (Andy) Knight, Nicholas (Kristin) De Munnik, and proud great uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Prior to his retirement, James proudly served in the US Army and then the Army Corps of Engineers for over 30 years. He enjoyed riding horses, hunting, and spending time with his family and friends. Jim and Ellen were both devoted parishioners of the New Haven Community Church. Jim's good nature and loving spirit will be greatly missed by his family and friends who take comfort in knowing that he and his beloved Ellen are back together again.

Visitation for James will be on Friday, September 27, 2024 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home located at 35259 - 23 Mile Road in New

Baltimore. His funeral service will be on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with additional visitation at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **27**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - New Baltimore
35259-23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047
(586) 725-0177
<https://www.gendernalikfh.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - New Baltimore
35259-23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047
(586) 725-0177
<https://www.gendernalikfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

RC

“ Meet Jim in high school but we didn't start our close friendship until we were 19. We did everything together until we were 27 and got married. Our close friendship continued after that. Our birthdays were 1 day apart and we celebrated them together for over 60 years. The stories and memories I have are precious. RIP my friend.

Robert Collins - September 27, 2024 at 01:29 PM

LB

“ Larry has known Jim since little league. I have known Jim since we were 14 years old. We have had many years of fun with Jim and Ellen camping in Florida where we live now. Jim had such a great laugh and could get everyone laughing. Rest in peace with Ellen.

Larry & Sandy Baluch - September 24, 2024 at 08:23 AM

LB

“ Larry & Sandy Baluch lit a candle in memory of James W. De Munnik



Larry & Sandy Baluch - September 24, 2024 at 08:18 AM

MM

“Every little girl should have an Uncle Jimmy. An everyday hero who you know will love you no matter what and will always have your back. I have photos of me as a toddler standing inside of my Uncle Jimmy’s cowboy boots. My desire to live like a cowboy started at such a young age. I do believe that one of my first words really was horse. Every birthday, Christmas, and any other “what do you want to have” opportunity produced the same response—a horse. It was Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Ellen, or as I fondly called them, Dad “D” and Mom “E”, who first afflicted me with this infatuation that became a lifelong love affair. To sit atop a beast so absolutely beautiful, graceful and powerful and to feel...to truly feel...alive first happened to me when I was just a few months old. Good ol’ Cindy—my first heart horse. The horse that could do no wrong owned by the aunt and uncle who also were my heroes.

My life has evolved quite a bit in the last fifty years and in each and every one, my fondness and love for my special aunt and uncle grew. Any time I had something to celebrate or tears feeling heavy within me—a call or visit happened. Over the last few years, the visits increased in frequency as I realized there would come a day when my conversations with them became ones in my mind rather than real life experiences. The shock and pain hit hard when I found out my beloved aunt died suddenly last summer, the day prior to her getting to go home from the rehab from her back surgery. My only thought was to be there with my uncle.

I am so thankful to have had the weeks to spend with him last summer. Most of it was just he and I, with me doing my best in helping him in his grief and taking care of all that needed to be handled. Over the last 15 months since her passing, I have talked to him nearly every day. I have gotten used to my calls with him as I drove home from work. We have laughed together and shared so many conversations that I will forever cherish. This summer we visited a few different times. The most recent was a few weeks ago, when we headed up to help move him into assisted living and to get his horse, Lucky, to bring him back to our farm. Uncle Jimmy always

promised me a horse—now I have the best horse he every had (per him). I still think Cindy and TJ were pretty amazing too!

Now, as Uncle Jimmy gets to be with Aunt Ellen again, I will cherish my memories of all of the experiences we have shared, and the life lessons I have gained. I have been blessed for the past 25 years to have enjoyed loving and living the farm life—if it weren't for my Uncle Jimmy and my Aunt Ellen, I may have never realized the deep passion that exists for me and horses. Each time I ride, or even spend time with my horses, I feel the most intense inner peace. Horse people get it...non horse people just don't understand...it's truly majestic.

Not only did my love for horses come from my Aunt and Uncle, but I also learned to love sewing and teaching also. I remember sewing pillows with Aunt Ellen one summer when I was about 6 or 7. I was so excited to have been able to take a piece of yellow fabric and have it become something! I smile as I create similar memories with our granddaughter—and see the glimmer of excitement as she sews.

To my dear Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Ellen—I miss you dearly and have faith that I will ride with you again... I'll miss hearing your voices but I will forever cherish the memories we created and the love you shared.

Michele Marinucci - September 23, 2024 at 11:31 AM

JA

“ Jim and I grew up in the 8 Mile / Waltham area on Detroit's east side . Our group of neighborhood guys spent many hours together, after school, playing baseball and football in the street and ice hockey on tiny rinks in the backyards of those whose parents were nice enough to let us build small rinks. I still have a photo of the Messiah Braves baseball team sponsored by a small church, that most of us did not attend, that Jim and I and our “ crew” played on.

Jim and I followed the same path attending Trix through eighth grade and graduating from Detroit Osborn in 1960. Sadly after high school we lost contact for many years, but managed to spend an hour or so catching up at one of our high school reunions.

I remember Jim as a kind, happy, and all around nice person. My thoughts and Prayers go out to his family and close friends.
Jeff Augustyn

Jeff Augustyn - September 22, 2024 at 09:15 PM

AM

“ My condolence to Jim's family. I'm his 2nd cousin on the DeMunnik side of the family. I got a chance to see him before covid hit. I had a nice visit with Ellen and him and two of his DeMunnik relatives. I hadn't seen them for over 40 years. My Prayers are with all of you.

Ann Van den Meerendonk - September 21, 2024 at 05:26 PM

SG

Larry has been friends with Jim since they were 7 years old. They played on the church baseball team. I've known Jim since I was 14 years old. We have enjoyed many years of fun with Jim and Ellen. We now live in Florida and have had many visits with Jim and Ellen when they would come to Florida with their camper. Jim will be missed by all of us.

Sandra & Larry Baluch Palm Beach Gardens - September 21, 2024 at 08:10 PM