



James Robert Townsley

July 7, 1932 - September 18, 2023

James Robert Townsley, born June 7, 1932 in Highland Kansas, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2023 in Shelby Township, Michigan at the age of 91. He is survived by his daughter; Roberta (David) Rusk, daughter Candy Sue (Larry) Chris, and son Jeffery Hubler, grandson; James Leon West, granddaughters; Alanna (Doug) French, Ashley Ann West, Mindy Marie West, Jackie Hubler, Julia Hubler, and a brother; Richard Louis (Janet) Townsley. He was preceded in death by his wife; JoAnn, parents; James and Hazel (Shankel) and brother; Bernard (Carol) Townsley.

“JR” was an aviator since the early 1950s Quintessential “stick & rudder” pilot – who also liked to talk on the radio! JR holds an Aviation World Record for a flight to Kitty Hawk (North Carolina) that took place on the 100th Anniversary of the Wright brothers historical first manned/controlled/powerd flight (December 17, 1903). Adventures, he had a few, Key West, was a favorite. There is a thin line between confidence and humility JR exemplified the line from a popular tune “Humble & Kind”: “... Don't take for granted the love this life gives you... When you get where you're going, don't forget turn back around and help the next one in line...” He changed the lives of many as owner of General Steel – where he helped several to obtain an iron-worker's journeyman card and a solid future for themselves and their families. If he were standing here today he would say - “Remember your roots.” Until the end he let you know how important it is to take heart, have a heart and that it

is the heart that matters most. Those who know him well can visualize those very long fingers taping his sternum and then blowing a kiss. An honorable member of the Masonic Order (Livonia Lodge 152)

A trusted friend

A loyal man

Visitation will be Friday from 2-5 pm at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (N. of 22 Mile Rd. in Shelby Twp.) His ashes will be interred in Grandview Memorial Gardens in Champaign, Illinois at a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

RR

“ *TWO OF HIS GREAT GRANDAUGHTER'S WHERE MISSED:
Alicia and Alyssa of granddaughter Alanna(Doug) French's*

Roberta Rusk - September 25, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ *99 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - September 21, 2023 at 03:52 PM

JW

“ *He was the type of Man that even my Grandmother knew, that only
Chuck Norris had the chance to compete against....*

James West - September 21, 2023 at 11:58 AM

JW

“ This man was more than just my Grandfather, he was my buddy. He had this way about him, a force to his aura, that had the ability to demand respect and also infuse with complete comfortability of his love and loyalty with just his presence. A lot about him was a mystery to most, ever casting a wonder to the depths of his influence and confidence held in the tone of his voice and the words that he spoke. I was always left in awe of him. He always let me in on some of that mystery telling me stories, which was one of his favorite things to do, but ones he'd say he'd never told anyone but me. He was remarkable to say the lease and embodied true leadership by example. Through his actions he showed the world what it was to truly be a man, a Husband, Father, and Grand. He showed the world what it meant to be reputable both in life and in business. He truly lived to the fullest standards of life seemingly without effort which speaks volumes given that it would have been too much to all of someone. He was without boundaries and soared boisterously and proudly. He was the greatest man I've ever known, My only regrets are not being the wingman he needed instead of the grandson he loved. You will forever live on through the great many hearts you have imprinted with your impression.

James West - September 21, 2023 at 10:35 AM

JH

You've painted a beautiful picture of him, Jimmy. He made such an impact on all of us.

Jackie Hubler - September 22, 2023 at 09:38 AM

DL

What a beautiful testament to your Grandfather. He was indeed a very precious man.

Denise LeBloch - September 22, 2023 at 04:43 PM

BB

“ JR was an extraordinary man with a big heart and unparalleled compassion. and drive. He has helped so many and expected so little in return. A genuine architect of not only buildings but people's lives of which he was skilled. I know he soars with the Wright Brothers now as those that know him best. We love you JR.

Beverly J Bradley - September 20, 2023 at 11:52 PM

JH

This is beautifully said and so accurate, Aunt Bev!

Jackie Hubler - September 21, 2023 at 11:10 AM

JH

“ It’s unfortunate that whomever wrote my Grandpa JR’s obituary doesn’t seem to have known him very well. Key details and people were missed that define this man. He made so many people feel like family to him. However, anyone that truly knows him also knows his real family.

For most of his life, he chose to live in Michigan with his wife Joann, raising two other children- Kandy Chris + Jeffrey Hubler, plus a number of grandchildren (James West, Ashley West, Mindy West, Julia Hubler & Jackie Hubler) & his many great grand babies. We shared countless thanksgiving dinners & Christmas’ together and many other memories in between. He loved his wife Joann and did his absolute best to care for her through the end of her life. It’s sad that he didn’t get the care he deserved in his final months. It has been so disturbing to see first hand the people he employed to care for him spend less and less time at his side as he deteriorated.

His family surrounded him in his final moments. I’ll never forget his huge smile and seeing how happy it made him to spend time with his great grand baby + family.

If he was still here he’d tell me to “watch my back”. I wish he would have done that for himself too. Rest easy Grandpa.



Jackie Hubler - September 20, 2023 at 01:49 PM

JH

I’m happy to have called J.R “father in law” I will never forget him. Unfortunately the difficulty of his passing and the time leading up to it has been compounded by his so-called caregiver. I pray for peace to him and all his family, especially Jeff and Kandy💕!

Janet Hubler - September 20, 2023 at 09:01 PM

IS

Hi honey. What a beautiful message. Please give Jeff and Kandy my love. I don't have their phone numbers and I am unable to attend funeral but I did stop by the house. I would love to talk to them when they have time. This is Iva. I hope they will remember

IVA SCHMITT - September 21, 2023 at 12:57 PM

JH

Thank you, Iva! I will pass this along to my Dad and Aunt Kandy! Thank you for the years of service you provided to my Grandparents. We will miss seeing you today but you've been in our thoughts.

Jackie Hubler - September 22, 2023 at 09:36 AM

TI

*“ I was proud to call JR my friend for 44 years. We were always there for each other through the good and bad in life and business. I loved that man. He called me his son. Rest well buddy.
Tom Isaac*

Tom Isaac - September 20, 2023 at 11:48 AM

IS

“ I Met JR when I worked for an agency that he hired to take care of his wife JoAnn. He bought my contract outright so I could work one on one with her. I was with her for 7 years. We all became like family. Jr was very good to me always. After Joann passed we continued to stay in touch. I am very sad about his passing but he did live his life to the fullest. I will pray for his family at this very sad time. I will never forget him. He will now live on in my heart and my memories. RIP J R. We loved you always

IVA SCHMITT - September 19, 2023 at 08:30 PM

WD

Just one example of the caring man

william Demray - September 19, 2023 at 09:07 PM