



James "Jim" A. Goodwater

December 15, 1943 - March 1, 2025

Memorial service for James "Jim" A. Goodwater, 81 of Battle Creek, will be held 11:00 AM, Thursday, March 6, 2025 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Battle Creek. Officiating the service will be Father Steve Major. In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to the Lied Battle Creek Public Library, Northeast Nebraska Animal Shelter, and the Battle Creek Volunteer Fire Department. Inurnment will take place at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Battle Creek. Visitation will be held from 4 – 7 PM Wednesday, with Rosary starting at 7 PM at Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Jim died on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Faith Regional Hospital, Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Jim was born on December 15, 1943 in Norfolk, NE to Arthur and Helen (McGill) Goodwater. He attended grade school at St. Leonard's Catholic school in Madison before moving to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska where Jim graduated high school in 1962. Jim married Vicki Bohnert on June 13, 1964 in Mankato, MN. After marriage Jim and Vicki lived in Mankato Minnesota where Jim worked for Kato Engineering. In 1968 Jim and Vicki with Lisa and Mike in tow moved to Madison Nebraska to manage the family bowling alley in Madison. Jim began his career with Chicago and Northwestern Railroad (CNW) in 1969. As a Mechanic in Charge, he led the team to ensure the derailed train cars were carefully put back on the track to continue their journey. The family moved

from Madison to O'Neill, to Norfolk then to Hinton, IA all with the railroad. The CNW was acquired by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1995, and Jim retired in 2005 after 36 years of service.

Jim and Vicki moved to Battle Creek, NE in 2007 to enjoy both of their well-earned retirements. Jim was a volunteer fireman in O'Neill, a Fourth Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus in Norfolk and an active member of the Lion's Club in Battle Creek. He loved the old school western tv shows, movies and books. He was an avid NASCAR fan and loved fishing, whether it was on a warm summer day or in an ice fishing shanty. Jim loved hunting weekends with his family and friends and looked forward to the comradery, laughter and fun each opening weekend provided.

His greatest love was his beloved wife, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and family. He was the happiest when all his children were home for long weekends and holidays. He beamed with immense pride as he traveled to attend his grandchildren's football, hockey, cheer and acting activities. His warm demeanor, genuine smile and giving heart made him an instant friend with everyone who crossed his path.

Jim is survived by his wife Vicki Goodwater of Battle Creek, children Lisa Ephraim of Phoenix, Mike (Sandy) Goodwater of Battle Creek, David (Christy) Goodwater of Council Bluffs, Chris (Ann) Goodwater of Norfolk, brothers Tom (Patty) Goodwater of Lincoln, Joe (Tabby) Goodwater of Lincoln, Dick (Marla) Goodwater of Gretna, sisters Mary Abboud of Omaha, Margie (Bill) Swerczek of Albion, brother-in-law Bill Tichota of Norfolk, sister-in-law Mary Goodwater of Lincoln, 10 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Jim was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Blake Ephraim, his parents Art and Helen, brother Bob Goodwater, sister Jean Tichota, in-laws Tony and Helen Bohnert, David Bohnert, Bill Bohnert, Mike Bohnert, George Abboud, niece Jayne Marshall, nephews Steve Goodwater, and Bruce Swerczek.

Condolences can be expressed to the family online at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Battle Creek

located 1/4 mile east of Highway 121 on E.
Mc Allister St.
Battle Creek, NE 68715

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk
1200 N.13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7676
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Rosary

MAR 5. 7:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk
1200 N.13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7676
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Memorial Service

MAR 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
109 N. 3rd St.
Battle Creek, NE 68715

Tribute Wall

GK

“ My condolences to Jim's family on your loss. I met Jim in the 70's, probably cleaning up after a train wreck. Also bowled with him for a time before he left O'Neill. May all the happy memories bring you comfort.

Gene Kelly - March 06, 2025 at 12:26 AM

LC

“ Love you, my AZ bestie, Christina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.



Love you, my AZ bestie, Christina - March 05, 2025 at 11:19 PM

MF

“ Michael and Susan O'Brien Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.



Michael and Susan O'Brien Family - March 05, 2025 at 08:21 AM

MF

“ Michael and Susan O'Brien Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.

Michael and Susan O'Brien Family - March 05, 2025 at 08:21 AM

LW

“ *Lomax's, Peatrowsky's, Workman's purchased the Love's Journey for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.*



Lomax's, Peatrowsky's, Workman's - March 04, 2025 at 09:59 PM

AV

“ *Hello to all the family of Mr. Goodwater. I have not had the pleasure to meet you in person, but feel that I know you vicariously through your daughter Lisa, a good friend of mine. Lisa is such a kind and caring person, I am sure that is how you and Mrs. Vicky raised her. I will do my best to take care of her here when she is sad and needs a friend. She is a great Aquafit instructor and we have so much fun creating this pool workout together, she's a great instructor, you won't be surprised that she puts her heart & soul into it. I hope you rest in peace. We will take the best care of Lisa here until you meet again.*



Amy Vrabel - March 04, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.*



March 04, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.

March 04, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ Connie Kathol purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.



Connie Kathol - March 04, 2025 at 07:45 AM



“ Keisha purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.



Keisha - March 03, 2025 at 11:52 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" A. Goodwater.



March 03, 2025 at 10:29 PM

KG

“ Jimmy was the kindest, most loving man. Always had a smile that he shared with everyone. His family were his riches and they were so blessed with his humor and caring nature which I'm sure they will carry on in his memory. I'll always cherish the last hug I received from him last December, as well as the memory of our last meal together. To say he will be missed is quite an under statement. My heartfelt sympathies to his family.

Kathy Goodwater - March 03, 2025 at 01:10 PM

GL

“ I had the profound privilege of getting to know Jim, Vicky and their entire family in 1976 when the CNW RR transferred me to Norfolk from Chicago. I was a farm kid so I was not entirely out of my element. The Goodwater's basically made me part of their family. Life was good! Too soon, the RR drug me back to Chicago (I left claw marks in the highway going out of town). I returned for many years for hunting and family events. With Jim, it never mattered how long the time was between visits because we took off from where we were before. So many great memories hunting with Jim, Vicki and Larry. Later we left a mark on the Wisconsin Dells, fun fun fun! Rest in peace my brother, you touched and guided so many and did it so well! Your pal Greg Larson

Greg Larson - March 03, 2025 at 01:01 PM