



Edward James "Jim" Barilow

June 29, 1937 - November 5, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Edward James Barilow, lovingly known as Jim. He was a devoted husband, loving father, and cherished grandfather. He peacefully departed this world on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at the age of 88. He was surrounded by loved ones, listening to the songs he sang with the Witnesses Gospel Group as he went home to be with his Heavenly Father.

Edward James "Jim" Barilow was born June 29, 1937 at St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights, IL. Jim was a remarkable Christian man who led a very fulfilling life. He resided at Heritage Woods in Manteno, IL with his wife, Loretta Jean Barilow of 68 years.

He was a loving father to son, Doug (Bonnie) Barilow, daughter, Judith (Joe) Gray; son, Greg (Dawn) Barilow; a devoted grandfather, "Pops", to Lance, Carrie, Kelley, Jolene, Joey, Jack, Dylan, and Joshua; a cherished great-grandfather to Piper, Autumn, Isabelle, Darren, Alexis, Mikayla, Brody, Wyatt, Bonnie, Lincoln, Braxson, and Dino. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Edward H. Barilow and Estelleta (Connor) Barilow and his sister, Brenda Schmidt.

Jim was a hard worker and took pride in what he did. He had a generous heart and was always willing to give you the shirt off his back. He was never hesitant to bless others in big or small ways. He worked at the Brickyard in Summit, IL and then as an auto mechanic until the age of 72. He started his mechanic years at McCormick's Auto in Chicago Heights, then worked for

Chesters Amoco in Chicago Heights, then went to Abbots in Park Forest, and finished his mechanic years at Cooper's Service in Orland Park.

Jim loved sitting around with the family telling jokes and laughing. He found immense joy in every moment with family. He was a die-hard Chicago Cubs fan and enjoyed golfing.

Jim's life was a testimony to the goodness of God and his steadfast faith.

Those who knew Jim loved him. His legacy will continue through his family and the countless lives that he touched.

Visitation will be held from 12-4 p.m. with a funeral service at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Manteno. Per his request, cremation rites will be accorded following the service. Private inurnment will be held at a later date at Sugar Creek Cemetery in Stockland, IL.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 12. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
291 N. Main St.
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

NOV 12. 4:30 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
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Tribute Wall

RH

“ I met Jim when I started going to Deer Creek Church in the late 80’s, that’s when I heard the “Witnesses “ for the first time and was excited by their music. Some point shortly after Jim invited me to play drums at a rehearsal and I traveled and played with them for over four terrific years. I got to know Jim very well during those times and since. Jim had a warm carmel voice that to this day I can always hear his voice clearly anytime I think of him. I can say I’m a better man for knowing him he was a wonderful Christian example to me and a loyal friend. I will miss visiting him as he’d be watching the Cubs game with a smile. I am grateful for the memories and the smiles I will carry with me.
God bless his family at this time
Rob

Robert Hensley - November 08, 2025 at 02:56 PM

BO

“ My beloved Cub fan nemesis! We’ve had many a fun times lovingly teasing about our baseball allegiances! But we were always true to our Bears! Nobody can ever replace the hole Jim leaves in my heart! Your best rounds of golf are now yours! Until I see you again, hit ‘em straight!

Bliss Olsen - November 07, 2025 at 09:00 PM

GS

“ I would love to write about the Jim I was privileged to sing with in The Witnesses. Traveling together for ten years was mad easier partly because of Jim’s sense of humor. His dedication to singing the gospel was only exceeded by his love of selling our CDs, cassettes, and even 8tracks after each concert. He never met a stranger and I will always remember our time together. I loved his as a brother and will miss our days together. To Loretta, Judy, and all of the family I just say, “thanks for sharing him with Sandi and me.

Greg Stout - November 07, 2025 at 06:13 PM

HE

“ My deepest sympathy Judy! I know how much you loved pops. May the Lord comfort and Bless you....and your family. I hope you can take comfort in Knowing you did it all for pops.... You gave your heart. May the joy he filled your heart with be of comfort to you , Helen, Granny’s Gone Wild Team member. ❤️



Helen - November 07, 2025 at 04:22 PM

DM

Our deepest sympathies Doug Bonnie and all the family. ❤️

Dan and Beth Markel - November 07, 2025 at 06:14 PM

JB

We have known Jim, Loretta, and family since about 1965 when we met at church. Jim and Jim served on the church council together. We enjoyed many family activities together while we lived in the Chicago Heights area. Such good memories! After we moved to Texas, and would come back for visits they always opened their home to us to stay with them. On one visit the Witnesses were giving a concert and Jim said that they were dedicating a selection featuring a solo by Jim to us for being there that evening. The two Jim's were avid Cubs and Bears fans, enjoyed golfing together, and sharing their faith. He was a dedicated Christian, a real brother in Christ. He was always a man of honesty and integrity treating his clients with the most respect and care. We were also in agreement in political views. Our prayers are with Loretta and the entire family knowing that we will meet again at the feet of Jesus. God bless you all.

James Burghard - November 11, 2025 at 12:34 PM

JK

My wife Vera and I were great friends with Jim and Loretta for many years. Jim and I grew up in Glenwood, IL, and played ball and golf and other teen-age things. We were always great Cubs and Bears fans. Our love and prayers are with Lorrie, Doug, Judy, Greg and the entire family.

John and Vera Keil

John and Vera Keil - November 12, 2025 at 12:01 PM