



James Allen Anderson

July 27, 1954 - June 4, 2025

James “Jim” Allen Anderson, 70, of Kankakee, IL passed away peacefully at home

surrounded by his loved ones on June 4, 2025.

He was born on July 27, 1954 in Kankakee, IL to Duane and Veronica Anderson. He graduated from Eastridge High School in 1972, where he was a member of the

Eastridge Chamber Choir honored with participating in a concert tour of Europe. After graduation, Jim started his own business, Anderson Mower and Small Engine Repair in Bradley. After closing up shop, he went on to spend over 34 years working at Birmingham Bolt/Nucor Steel, where he was fondly known as “Big A,” until retiring in 2022. Even in retirement, Jim stayed busy. He created his second business, Nuisance Wild Animal Control, where he enjoyed serving the community by trapping a variety of critters from bats to cats and everything in between.

He married his wife of almost 37 years, Andrea (Andi) McElroy on November 12, 1988 at St. Joseph’s Church in Bradley, IL. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, always keeping the freezer stocked with venison and frequently earning a spot on the “Big Board” for the Annual Kankakee River Fishing Derby. He served as a Boy Scout Leader for Troop 319 for many years, helping younger generations to love and respect the great outdoors as much as he did. Jim was famous for his secret Mai Tai recipe and for his Annual Anderson Fish Fry, where he fed his closest friends and family with white bass

he caught on his yearly fishing trip to Wisconsin. He was a man who rarely stopped moving, never stopped learning and was always willing to “take a look at” whatever might be giving you trouble. When he did take time to relax, he could be found out on the deck with a cup of coffee watching his hummingbirds or down in Mexico, playing water volleyball and euchre with friends. He was fiercely loved by those who knew him and returned that love tenfold.

He is survived by his loving wife, Andi; his son, Jeremiah Anderson; his daughter and son-in-law, Jamie and Luke Hoffman, all of Kankakee, IL; his sister, Sue (Mark) Colehower of Peotone, IL; his brother, Bob (Amy) Anderson of Kankakee, IL; five sisters-in-law: Colleen (John) Devine of Bourbonnais, IL, Marci DeRosier and Steve Taden of Bradley, IL, Gail (Leo) Troy of Brigantine, NJ, Sherry Anderson of Clifton, IL, and Kathy Anderson of Bradley, IL; one brother-in-law, Richard McElroy of Champaign, IL, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death and greeted in heaven by his parents, two brothers Steve and Tim, and his son, Dan. Services will be held on Friday, 6/13/25 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Visitation will be from 3:00pm to 6:00pm with a memorial ceremony at 6:00pm followed by a celebration of life at the Casey Club inside the Knights of Columbus in Kankakee.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN 13. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

JUN 13. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

LO

“ Prayers to the family and friends of Jim Anderson. He was a friend always an encourager and anchor in the time of need. Especially the day he took 4 Chipmunks out of my house. We will meet him in Heaven one day.

Leila Owen - July 02, 2025 at 09:40 AM

LO

“ Leila Owen lit a candle in memory of James Allen Anderson



Leila Owen - July 02, 2025 at 09:35 AM

AW

“ I am so saddened to hear of Jim’s passing. I am certain he is with Duane and Veronica catching up on the latest news and finally free of pain. Except maybe from the earache due the barking of Veronica’s poodle pack

Alan Wilson - June 13, 2025 at 04:17 AM

CM

“ Andi you have my deepest sympathy. Keeping you & your family in my prayers. May he rest in eternal peace.

Cathie (Sederstrand-Bergan) Miedema



Catherine Miedema - June 09, 2025 at 01:39 PM

LH

*Deepest Sympathy and Prayers to all of Jim's (Big A's) Family!
Larry and Brenda Hale*

larry Hale - June 10, 2025 at 10:35 AM

LE

I am so sorry to this. My deepest sympathy to the entire Anderson family.

Linda Eddleman - June 11, 2025 at 07:40 AM

MH

I always enjoyed Jim when I had a racoon problem in fact earlier this year had to call him to catch a big one that was on the roof looking thru the skylights.He had catch number of 100 percent condolences to his family I'm going to miss making that phone call..... Rest in peace my friend

Mike Hellmuth

Mike hellmuth - June 11, 2025 at 01:15 PM