



James "Jim" Brown

December 16, 1947 - April 5, 2018

James M. "Jim" Brown, age 70, of Bourbonnais, passed away April 5, 2018 in his home following a heroic battle with rare cancers.

Jim was born December 16, 1947 in Flora, the son of George & Georgia (Freese) Brown. Both his parents and brother, Donald, have preceded him in death.

On December 30, 1972, he married Lana Weiss in Kankakee at St. Mark United Methodist Church and they renewed their vows in January.

His wife and their children Heather, Justin (Saraa) and Blair survive.

Jim retired from his role as Operations Director for NICOR, Kankakee division after 35 years of service. Prior to his work for NICOR, he was a chemical specialist for the Synthetic Natural Gas Plant in Morris, where he blazed new and innovative trails in the science of energy. At that time, he also served in the Illinois National Guard.

His natural athletic abilities were notable at a young age in both elementary and high school in Flora. Jim set career and school records for in football, basketball, baseball, and cross country. An earlier conference retired his basketball number while the Chicago Tribune named him Illinois All-American

All Star in sports. He went on to a football scholarship at Doane University in Nebraska, but watching his own son succeed in high school and collegiate sports that brought him the greatest joy.

Jim coached his son and many others in Kankakee YMCA basketball program for many years. He was a longtime member of the Union League Club of Chicago, Kankakee Symphony Orchestra, Aspen Golf League, and St. Mark United Methodist Church.

He tackled life like the authentic All-American he was with unrelenting strength, drive, thoughtful grace played with a gentle kindness that will forever inspire his family, friends, and beloved weimaraner, Gatsby.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Visitation will also be held from 10:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Kankakee.

Entombment will follow at All Saints Cemetery Mausoleum in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark United Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark United Methodist Church
1200 W. Calista
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-8621

Funeral Service

APR **11**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark United Methodist Church
1200 W. Calista
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-8621

Tribute Wall

ED

“ Dear Lana,
I went to google to try to find contact information for you and found this. I am terribly sorry. What a loss for you and all your family. I hope this last year has brought you some time for healing. I would love to see or talk to you again. I am back in Chicago now serving as Chaplain at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. My number is (773) 251-7138 and the email is elizbdickey@aol.com or edickey@sralab.org. If you feel like a get-together, please contact me. In any case, know that I am thinking of you.
Blessings to all of you,
Elizabeth Dickey

elizabeth dickey - May 14, 2019 at 12:59 PM

MT

“ Lana and family,

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

-Megan Thole

Megan Thole - April 12, 2018 at 10:10 AM

MC

“ Lana, my thoughts and prayers are with you in your loss. Margo Criscuola

Margo Criscuola - April 11, 2018 at 10:20 AM

Lena
Louise

“ Lana, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband. The rest of the 16-17 Chicago Special Ed interns and I are thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. We know you're still sparkling! <3

Love,
Helena Jankowski

Lena Louise - April 10, 2018 at 09:04 PM

JJ

“ Lana and Family, We were so sorry to hear of the loss of your loved one. We pray that God will bless you and give you strength as you go through this difficult time in your life.
Sending you our love and hugs and continued prayers.

Judy and Dick Johnston

Judith Johnston - April 10, 2018 at 04:44 PM

JB

“ Lana, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Many tears in looking through your photos and memories of a life well spent. What a beautiful marriage you two shared. Thinking of you and your family in this difficulty time.

Julie Bird - April 10, 2018 at 03:40 PM

YT

“ *My Lana,
words cannot express our sympathy to you and your family. We
send our condolences on behalf of the Air Force Academy High
School. We will continue to pray for you that you will comforted and
find peace during this time. You are loved! Blessings and peace
from Air Force Academy.*

Yashika Tippett - April 10, 2018 at 11:54 AM

DB

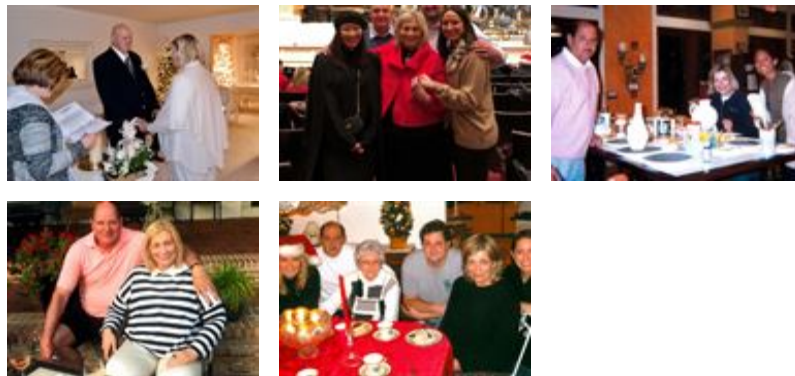
“ *Dear Lana and Family, We were so sorry to hear of Jim's passing.
The photos posted here were so wonderful showing his love of
sports, his devotion to his family and his special love of you, dear
Lana. You will be in our prayers in the coming days.*

Debi & Rick Barrone.

Debi & Rick Barrone - April 09, 2018 at 06:25 PM



“ *65 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - April 09, 2018 at 02:48 PM

GN

“ So sorry to hear the news. He was a wonderful man. Love, Dona and Jerry Nelson

Gerald Nelson - April 09, 2018 at 11:40 AM

LP

“ Dear Sweet Lana,
I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing, my heart is breaking for you as I know what an amazing husband, a cherished loving father, and a thoughtful, caring, devoted man Jim was as he always put others first in all that he did. Please know that I am keeping you close in my heart and I'm sending hugs and prayers your way during this difficult time. Always cherish the special memories that you shared together and they will give you peace and comfort in the days ahead. I am here for you, Love and Hugs, Lisa xo

Lisa Plascencia - April 09, 2018 at 11:01 AM

KG

“ Lana,
There are no words . . .
Just the Love to be remembered, to be embraced, to be held gently for eternity . . .
Kathy Gerhardstein

Kathleen Gerhardstein - April 09, 2018 at 10:57 AM

AK

“ Lana,
Thinking of you. I hope you have a peaceful celebration of Jim's life.
Andrea Kelly MSU

Andrea Kelly - April 09, 2018 at 09:22 AM

RS

“ Dear Lana,
Sending loves, hugs, and songs (Barbra Streisand) in this time, as
you are loved and cherished by so many. Randi Stanulis, MSU

Randi Stanulis - April 09, 2018 at 08:14 AM

TE

“ Dear Lana Brown and family,

*Please accept my utmost thoughts and prayers for peace. I am so
sorry for your loss. I send hugs and kisses to you Lana and hopes
for the strength you need to get you through this terrible loss.*

Love from,

*Terry Edwards
MSU*

terry edwards - April 09, 2018 at 07:26 AM

KH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Lana. Ken and Angie Heitz

Ken Heitz - April 08, 2018 at 11:44 PM

AH

“ Dearest Lana and family, I will always
remember Jim as a kind hearted sweet man
that loved his family more than anything else
in the world. He always had such a
welcoming smile and spirit about him. He will
be dearly missed



Angie Hasemeyer - April 08, 2018 at 02:37 PM

AU

“ James Brown was always such a wonderful person, he would always find a way to make a bad situation turn out good... I am really going to miss you Jim...

Lana you and your family have my deepest sympathy and always know if you need anything I am just a phone call away.

Austin R.

Austin - April 08, 2018 at 02:12 PM

MW

“ Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Brown



Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas - April 07, 2018 at 06:55 PM

MW

*Dear Lana, I'm so very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I know how very much you loved and cared for him.
Keeping you in my prayers, Marianne*

Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas - April 07, 2018 at 06:57 PM

KH

“ Dearest Lana, I have thought of you often these past few months, missing you but knowing you were where you needed to be. I'm so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. Sending you hugs from Michigan, now and always.

Kelly

Kelly Hodges - April 07, 2018 at 02:44 PM

DT

“ *My Sweet Dear Lana I am so sorry to hear about Your husband the two of you should have grown old together I send my love to you & the kids I know the sadness you all feel. So deeply sorry for your loss* 🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🙄

Deborah tofte - April 07, 2018 at 02:13 PM

GC

“ *Lana my dear friend, my heart aches for you and your family as i just heard of Jim's passing. heaven gained an angel and we lost one. god bless you and comfort you.*

Gina

gina collins - April 07, 2018 at 12:39 PM

DA

“ *Lana, Heather, Justin, Saraa, and Blair,*

We are trying to remember how long you have been our neighbors. About 40 years we think. Our children grew up playing together in our yards, especially Brad and Justin. You have given a hand to us many times, Jim often mowed our extra lot between our homes and sometimes helped out with his snowblower. It was always an enjoyable time when we shared some of our travel pictures with you. We wish you and Jim had been able to travel more as you had hoped.

We will miss Jim greatly. You have our love and deepest sympathy.

Dave and Ann Atkinson

Dave and Ann Atkinson - April 07, 2018 at 11:03 AM

MH

“ Lana, Heather, Justin, Saraa, and Blair,

There is one more angel in Heaven. Jim was the strong, gentle man who spoke softly, and was the wind beneath the wings of his family. He will live on in your hearts and in the hearts of the friends who knew him.

He fought this demon cancer with all his strength and might, surrounded in love by his family. It was just too overpowering. May God's love be present in your lives, and be your continuing strength.

*My deepest sympathy,
Marsha Hill*

Marsha Hill - April 06, 2018 at 10:54 PM

RD

“ Lana and family

I was saddened to hear of Jim's passing. I was a classmate of Jim's at Flora H.S and was blessed to have been a teammate of his in basketball, football and track. I was able to see Jim at our 45th class reunion and to have met you , Lana, his beautiful wife. God bless you and your children.

Rich Dulaney



Rich Dulaney - April 06, 2018 at 09:47 PM

Jeff
Skibinski

“ Lana, Heather, Justin, Blair and Gatsby,

Words cannot adequately express the sadness this brings us! If ever there was a man who embodied caring, kindness, grace, compassion, class, gentleman, friend, intellect, it was Jim. He was one of the really good ones. The world has lost a good soul.

We pray that your fond memories and the deserved kind words you will hear will bring you some solace during this most difficult time.

*Our prayers, thoughts and love to you all!
Jayne (Lass) and Jeff Skibinski*

Jeff Skibinski - April 06, 2018 at 08:52 PM

RF

“ Lana -- So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I'm thinking of you

-- Bob Floden

Robert Floden - April 06, 2018 at 07:10 PM

CD

“ Lana and family, I am so sorry for the loss of Jim. Although I met him only briefly, his warmth and humor were clear in our meeting and in Lana's many stories of him. My thoughts are with you all. I wish you peace as those stories become sustaining and loving memories.

Corey Drake - April 06, 2018 at 06:50 PM

JF

“ Lana and children, I am so sorry for the loss of your husband and father. Jim was a special classmate of mine in Flora. He was one guy I never got tired of cheering for through junior high and high school! He will be missed.

Jill (Snyder) Fehrenbacher - April 06, 2018 at 05:51 PM



Marianne Flanagan

*My dear Lana, you were on my mind today and later I learned of Jim's passing. I want to extend my deepest condolences to you and your family. May your fond memories of a loving life sustain you and keep you strong. You are in my prayers and thoughts at this difficult time.
Marianne Flanagan (aka Mimi)*

Marianne Flanagan - April 10, 2018 at 09:08 AM