



## James "Jim" Cheffer

September 21, 1950 - May 12, 2024

James "Jim" Cheffer, age 73, of Bourbonnais passed away Sunday, May 12, 2024 at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Springfield. He was born September 21, 1950 in Kankakee, the son of Paul & Colette (Fritz) Cheffer.

A (mostly) life-long resident of Kankakee County, Jim graduated from Bishop McNamara High School in 1968. He and his wife, Monica Konrath, were prom king and queen and married in June of 1971. Together they raised two girls, Stacey and Tina. He enjoyed coaching their softball teams, taking them on family trips, and celebrating their accomplishments. Later in life he relished being a grandfather, protecting, guiding and celebrating his grandchildren as he did his children.

Jim was an Information Technology Professional for 48 years until his retirement. He served in the Illinois National Guard for 6 years, from 1970-1976, and was a member of the American Legion.

It was hard to go anywhere in town without Jim knowing someone—a cousin, a former classmate or coworker, a bowling or a golf buddy. And with that, there was inevitably a story about their connection to him or to the family. Most of his leisure time was spent on the links, at the 19th hole, or shouting at/for the Bears and the Cubs. He loved cruising the Caribbean with Monica and their close friends Linda and Jerry Funk, most memorably through the Panama Canal.

Surviving are his two daughters, Stacey (James) Larson of Springfield and Christina (Troy) Payne of Vandalia; his brother, Marc (Vicki) Cheffer of Streator; two brothers-in-law, Jeffrey Konrath of TX and Jack Konrath of CA; four grandchildren, Eva, Autumn, Eli, and Aric; several nieces and a nephew. In addition to his wife, Monica, Jim is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Ronald.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ I remember my cousin Jim as shrewd and analytical. At the age of 12 he would have watched every Cubs game and done a thorough analysis of every player on the team. He would discuss the effect that each would have on the upcoming game. He would discuss this with adult men, and he would impress them with his knowledge and insights. I moved out West and lost contact mostly. It looks like my cousin Jim continued to cultivate his gifts of insight into his adult life. I know that he will be greatly missed by the Cheffer family and many others. A great guy. Rest in peace, my cousin Jim.

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**Greg Beauchamp** - May 20, 2024 at 06:04 PM

LG

“ As young boys starting HighSchool together almost 60 years ago we remained friends and could always have a laugh together..you made it so easy for anyone that knew you to love you and call you a friend. Your infectious laugh always made me happy to be around you . I am sorry it could not have been more often than it was.. You will be missed dearly my friend.  
May you rest in peace with the love of your life Monica...  
Larry Gress '68' always great...!

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**Larry Gress** - May 20, 2024 at 10:58 AM

CC

“ To the Cheffer Family - I'm so sorry to learn of this heartbreak for you. I'll always remember Jim as having the kindest eyes and friendly smile. Keeping you all in my prayers.  
Love, Cathy ( Beauchamp) Clark

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**Cathy Clark** - May 17, 2024 at 04:20 PM

RR

“ I am in total shock to hear about your dad. I send my deepest condolences to you girls and your families. There were many times that your dad and Richard would visit in the backyard and have a beer or two together. We always enjoyed and treasured every moment we had with your mom and dad. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Rae Ringer - May 17, 2024 at 01:42 PM

JT

“ I am so sorry to hear this. Jim was a great friend of mine at Panduit for over thirty years. We shared so many laughs, along with stories about our kids and grandkids. He was a great guy.

Joanne Tyree - May 15, 2024 at 09:09 PM

MN

“ I always enjoyed working with you Jim. Such a kind, thoughtful, and caring person who was always willing to lend a hand and help out. Rest in Peace my friend.

Marc Naese - May 15, 2024 at 06:33 PM

MA

“ I'll think of you every time I slice one off the tee or the Cubs & Bears blow another one. From growing up in Sunnyside, playing baseball for hours as kids, our years of sitting through Bear games at Soldier Field, or our road trip to Cooperstown its been a helluva ride. I'll miss you big brother, and I'm glad your finally at peace. Thanks for always being there.

Marc - May 15, 2024 at 05:12 PM

JO

“ I am saddened to hear about the passing of your dad. He hired me in late 1985 to work for him at Panduit. He was a great mentor and a very compassionate man. Tears are in my eyes as I'm writing this as I was so truly fond of your dad. My prayers and condolences to you and your family at this time of great loss. I think his heart was broken since your mom passed away and now they are together in Heaven to watch down on all of you. Certainly gone too soon.

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**Judy Ogalla** - May 15, 2024 at 12:37 PM