



James E. Girard

September 7, 1945 - September 21, 2020

James E. Girard, age 75, of Estero, Florida passed away Monday, September 21, 2020 at his home in Bourbonnais. He was born September 7, 1945 in Kankakee, the son of Maurice & Rose Marie (Knittel) Girard. James married Barbara Silverstein on July 27, 1968 at Saint Rose Church.

James founded many local businesses, including Builders' Electric, Kankakee Ace Hardware, BB&J Apartments and All-Star Management. He also developed local neighborhoods including River Bluff, Limestone Meadows, Northfield Meadows, River Crossing, and Indian Meadows.

While in the Boy Scouts of America he earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. James was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the highly specialized Davy Crockett Brigade at Fort Carson, CO. He served as President of the Herscher School Board.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Girard of Estero, FL; three sons, Brian Girard (Charlotte Boulay) of Philadelphia, PA, William Girard (Blake Doherty) of Florence, MA, and Jamison (Aelita) Girard of Washington, DC; five grandchildren, Simon, Teodors, Zile, Elodie, and Naia (who all knew him as "Guh"); one sister, Janet Giroux of Bourbonnais; and three brothers, Francis (Sandy) Girard of Limestone, Joe (Nancy) Girard of Bourbonnais, Rich (Anita) Girard of Bourbonnais, and brother-in-law Marc (Sandy) Silverstein. James is

preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Gerald Girard and Leo Girard; father-in-law, William Silverstein; mother-in-law, Jacqueline Jaffe Smith .

Private family services were held.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to Uplifted Care Hospice, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, or the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

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

Tribute Wall

 Marla
Good

“ Jim was such a great man and friend. He always believed in Scott and I and would share his wisdom with us and offered friendship. He was kind. We loved him and will miss him.

Marla Good - December 08, 2020 at 09:46 AM

ES

“ Dear Girard Family:

I was greatly saddened to learn of Jim's passing. The Girard family has always been so kind to the Sacks family. Jim meant a great deal to Lenny and it was always wonderful for me to run into Jim around Kankakee and Bourbonnais. It happened so often that I came to look forward to seeing Jim whenever I found myself back home. Blue's Cafe, Starbucks, the bank, here and there. Always so nice to share a handshake, a memory, and a smile with him. I will miss him dearly as I know you all will, everyday.

Please accept my deepest condolences.

With love from the Sacks family,

Eric

Eric Andrew Sacks - October 17, 2020 at 06:03 PM

BV

“ Always enjoyed talking to Jim. He fought a difficult cancer and I'm sure his fight will inspire many. Being friends with all the Girard's holds a special place in my heart. Love to the whole family and Rest In Peace Jim.

Bill Veronda - October 14, 2020 at 11:07 PM

RW

“ My deepest sympathy to Barbara, Brian, Billy and Jamie. Jim was a friend as well as advisor for many years.

Rest in Peace Jim after your brave battle.

Royce Winans

Royce Winans - October 02, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Girards. Jim was a great man. He was an important friend and partner to my dad. I grew up with big respect for Jim who was warm, kind, hard working. He remained an important family friend through the years. I'm grateful I had the chance to sit with Jim, Jaimie, and my young daughter at Blues Cafe last spring. I will miss Jim but he has left a great legacy.

Will Winans

Will Winans - September 30, 2020 at 07:50 PM

PZ

“ Jim was a great guy who would help anyone needing it. My sincere condolences to all of Jim's family.

Paul Ziemer - September 29, 2020 at 11:58 PM

DS

“ Daniel J Sperry lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard



Daniel J Sperry - September 29, 2020 at 07:59 PM

DH

“ *Barb and family,
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. You will certainly be
in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.
Jim was a true gentlemen and we remember him with fondness the
years he served the Herscher school district on the board.*

Dale and Judy Huizenga

Dale Huizenga - September 28, 2020 at 01:39 PM

KJ

“ *Barb and Family,
I am very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Karen Jackson-Riml*

Karen Jackson-Riml - September 27, 2020 at 08:53 PM

MT

“ *Hugs and prayers for the family. What a great
guy he was and he will be sorely missed. May
God's peace and comfort fill the empty space
in your hearts.
Mary n John Thomson*



Mary Thomson - September 27, 2020 at 04:36 PM

DD

“ *Darcy Drummer lit a candle in memory of
James E. Girard*



Darcy Drummer - September 27, 2020 at 10:21 AM

JW

“ Thinking of you at this very difficult time. My deepest sympathy to you Barb and family. Jane Westerhoff

Jane E Westerhoff - September 27, 2020 at 09:20 AM

SD

“ Deepest condolences to the Girard family. Rick and Sue (Rolf) Dufrein



Sue Dufrein - September 25, 2020 at 05:49 PM

MS

“ Jim was and absolute prince. He truly exhibited courage and grace.

Alan F. Smietanski

MR ALAN F SMIETANSKI - September 24, 2020 at 12:49 PM

TM

“ Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard



Tom Mallaney - September 24, 2020 at 11:17 AM

JB

“ Got to know Jim in high school and although contact was infrequent in the following years I always considered him a friend. He was a good guy who always treated me well.

jerry bjick - September 24, 2020 at 09:50 AM

ES

“ We were so sorry to learn of the death of our good friend, Jim, and we extend our very deepest sympathies to Barb, and the boys and their wives, Brian and Charlotte, Bill and Blake, Jamie and Aleta, and, of course, the grandchildren. Jim will be remembered not only as a proud veteran, versatile businessman, local developer, and devoted family man, but always a gentleman.

*With deepest sympathy and kindest wishes,
Ed & Jean Smith and family*

Ed and Jean Smith - September 23, 2020 at 04:43 PM

SM

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. My condolences to the family.

Sarah Judd McGuiness - September 23, 2020 at 02:52 PM

DJ

“ Jim was great guy and one I call a friend for many years.I'll miss him as I do all my friends that have passed. RIP JIM.

Darwin Jaenicke - September 23, 2020 at 01:57 PM

DT

“ Condolences to Barb and the entire family.
Jim was a great man.



Dave and Gigi Tyson - September 23, 2020 at 12:43 PM

LE

“ *Linda Entwistle lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



linda entwistle - September 23, 2020 at 06:58 AM

MS

“ *Mary Ann Senesac lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



Mary Ann Senesac - September 22, 2020 at 08:50 PM

DS

“ *David Sacks lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



david sacks - September 22, 2020 at 07:25 PM

LS

“ *A great guy and will be missed. Our sympathy to the Gerard families.
Leroy and Anita Sarowatz.*



Leroy & Anita Sarowatz - September 22, 2020 at 07:23 PM

JS

“ *Janice Shenk lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



Janice Shenk - September 22, 2020 at 05:31 PM

JS

Truly a wonderful and down to earth person. RIP Jim! Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Janice Shenk - September 22, 2020 at 05:33 PM

CR

“ *Candy Pecchenino Ray lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



Candy pecchenino ray - September 22, 2020 at 04:17 PM

CR

On behalf of myself and ex husband gary, our condolences to the girard family. Jim was best man at our wedding and and jim were roommates for quite a while. Living behind blues cafe. Fond memories. RIP jim

Candy pecchenino ray - September 22, 2020 at 04:20 PM

TD

“ *Condolences to Barbara and both families. Jim fought the good fight with cancer and will be missed.*

Tom & Eileen Dandelles - September 22, 2020 at 03:54 PM

DP

“ I worked with Jim on several business matters during my 30+ years as a paralegal in Kankakee County. He was always pleasant, kind, and easy to work with. He will be greatly missed.

Donna Pangle - September 22, 2020 at 12:14 PM

JR

“ JIM BELONGS TO THE RETIREMENT CLUB HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND
A GREAT BUSINESS MAN LOVE TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY JIM
AND KATHY REGNIER

James L Regnier - September 22, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ Our deepest sympathies to Barb and family on the loss of Jim. He was a wonderful man and will be truly missed by all he knew. Rick & Gina Collins



Gina Weir Collins - September 22, 2020 at 11:06 AM

LS

“ Our hearts go out to Barbara and the entire family on the passing of Jim. May he Rest In Peace after a valiant series of trials.
Don and Lana Shear

Lana Shear - September 22, 2020 at 08:30 AM

ES

“ *Elaine Schwass lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



Elaine schwass - September 21, 2020 at 09:50 PM

RP

I will miss this man who taught me the electrical trade and was my very close friend. Rest In Peace. Rodney

Rodney Papineau - September 22, 2020 at 06:50 PM

DR

Condolences to the Girard family. Jim was a good friend of mine for the last ten years and a man that I admired greatly. I always valued time spent with Jim. I will miss you. Dana Razzano

Dana Louis Razzano - September 23, 2020 at 02:04 PM

TE

“ *Tim And Connie Eaker lit a candle in memory of James E. Girard*



Tim and Connie Eaker - September 21, 2020 at 04:59 PM

TE

Mr. Girard was kind. We'd share our health conversation, usually post office. My sincere sympathy to family. Peace be with family during your grief. Kindly, your neighbor Connie

Tim and Connie Eaker - September 21, 2020 at 05:04 PM