

# JAMES E. HUFFMAN

1937 - 2015 | Obituary | [Condolences](#)



James E. Huffman, 77, of Granger, IN, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 17, at 7:30pm at Memorial Hospital in South Bend. Jim was surrounded by his family, who took great comfort knowing that he was met in Heaven by God and his daughter, Cynthia, after a life very well lived. Jim was born on March 20, 1937, in Fort Wayne, to Clarence and Ruth Huffman. He joined the Marine Corps Reserves at the age of 17. He graduated from South Side High School, Fort Wayne, in 1955. Jim went to IU and Ball State before doing what he really dreamed of, becoming a United States Marine. He was honorably discharged in December, 1959. Jim married Jean Ellen Kammerer on December 20, 1959 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kendallville, IN. They were blessed with four children: Deborah Ellen, Laura Elizabeth, Cynthia Elaine and Matthew Edward. Jim had a 42 year career with International Harvester/Navistar. Jim was initially hired as a clerk typist in 1960. Over many years, with great integrity and hard work, Jim became a highly respected executive, leading teams in financial analysis and manufacturing accounting. Jim traveled throughout the world for International Harvester/Navistar; his favorite travels were to Johannesburg, South Africa. Job transfers and promotions took Jim and Jean from Fort Wayne to Chicago to Springfield, OH; back to Chicago and finally to Monterrey, Mexico. Jim retired in 2002. Jim and Jean returned to their home state of Indiana, where they bought a home in Granger. They also spent a lot of time with their family at their lake cottage on Eagle Island on Waldron Lake. Jim worked hard throughout his career, and he and Jean were an incredible team. Jim taught each of his children to embrace their educations and careers and, equally important, to always have fun at work. Jim and Jean were gracious and generous hosts who loved to entertain guests in their homes. Jim was also a fantastic storyteller; his stories will remain with us always. Since moving to Granger, Jim and Jean have been very active with their congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Niles MI. He served as the President of the congregation for the past 10 years. Jim believed very much in giving back, and being kinder than necessary. He truly

enjoyed serving God and others while being a leader within his congregation. Jim had recent health challenges, and his family is grateful to Jim's doctors and the many kind nurses and health care professionals at Memorial Hospital, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, and Michiana Health and Rehabilitation Center. We are also very appreciative of pastoral support from Jim's dear friend and pastor, Reverend Carl Bassett. Jim leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Jean, and their children Deborah Deutsch (Dennis Barnum), Laura Windahl (John), and Matthew Huffman (Kari). He was a wonderful Grampy to Luke and Kendall Deutsch, Adam Voss and Justin Voss, Lily and Conor James Huffman. Jim was preceded in death by his daughter, Cynthia, on July 11, 2013, his parents, his mother- and father-in-law, two brothers-in-law, and a sister-in-law. Visitation will be at McGann Hay Funerals | Cremations | Gatherings, Granger Chapel, 13260 SR 23, enter off Cherry Rd., on Tuesday at 5-8pm. Funeral services will be at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Niles, MI on Wednesday, January 21 at 11:00am, with family receiving visitors an hour prior to the service. A dinner will follow in the church Family Center. Burial will be at Zion Lutheran Church, Corunna, IN on Thursday at with Pastor Carl Bassett presiding. Memorials may be directed to St Paul's Lutheran Church. To send condolences to the family or for directions log on to [www.McGannHay.com](http://www.McGannHay.com).