



James Merlin Beals

October 18, 1919 - December 22, 2018

James Merlin Beals was born on October 18, 1919 in Sioux City, Iowa. He was raised on the family farm in Unity, Wisconsin by his uncle and aunt, Walter and Lillian Wieland. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and met his future bride at church youth group activities. Upon graduation from Unity High School, he spent a year in what is now Wisconsin-Stevens Point University where he played on the football team.

After serving a year and a half in the United States Navy at the close of World War II, he and his growing family moved to Chicago and settled down in Franklin Park. Jim worked for almost 20 years with Lee Electric, a company that installed and repaired electric motors. He then bought a third share of Industrial Hard Chrome in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. A businessman at heart, the company grew rapidly under his leadership. He eventually attained full ownership of the business until he retired and sold the business in 1985.

In addition to working, Jim fulfilled his civic duty by becoming a commissioner in the Franklin Park, IL Park District. He served in that capacity for about 20 years. Franklin Park now has a James M. Beals award for outstanding service to the Park District. To his associates, he was known as "Mr. Park District."

He remained an active businessman in Southwest Florida after selling Industrial Hard Chrome. He owned and managed the Beals Bonita Building.

As a hobby, he raced radio controlled boats and has dozens of trophies attesting to his proficiency in this activity.

As mentioned above, the love of his life was Pearl Julia Meyer. They were married on July 25, 1940 and celebrated their 78th wedding anniversary. This union produced 3 children, each of whom survive Jim.

Jim died 99 years 2 months and 4 days after his earthly birth on December 22, 2018.

He was predeceased by his parents and 3 sisters.

He is survived by: His wife, Pearl Beals of Bonita Springs, FL; His son, Alan Beals of Berwyn, IL; His son and daughter-in-law Dennis and Carmen Beals of Phoenix, AZ; His daughter and son-in-law, Tom and Peggy Ramsey of Bonita Springs, FL; 9 grandchildren [Laura, Valerie, Vicky, Matt, Jennifer, Jodie, Jeana, Jeff and Brian] 10 great-grandchildren [Richard, Madison, Morgan, Julia, Benjamin, Timothy, Samuel, Christian, Tommy, Audrey] and Many other relatives and friends.

There will be a memorial service celebrating Jim's life at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at Shikany's Bonita Springs Funeral Home at 28300 Tamiami Trail South.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Colby Memorial Cemetery

Colby, WI

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ *James Merlin Beals*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Beal family. I remember about 5 years ago I got the pleasure of meeting Mr. Beal. He was a guest of mine at Skilletts. From that moment on, he was my buddy. No matter how bad my day was, he always put a huge smile on my face. You will be greatly missed.*

crystal cooley - January 18, 2019 at 03:04 PM



“ *I remember Mr. Beals' garage with all the electric motors he was rebuilding. The driveway had a basketball court that allowed Denny and Al to letter in basketball at Leyden. Peggy got a "letter" from the cheerleaders at Leyden for her devotion when she was not even in high school.*

Good memories of a supportive dad to his kids, their friends and the community.

John Kness

John Kness - January 02, 2019 at 01:11 PM



“ *Dear Denny and Carmen, I am sad to hear of the passing of Denny's father. It sounds as though he led a happy, productive life, and will be missed by many. I will say prayers for all of you and rejoice in your happy memories. My thoughts are with you. Sending God's blessings. Love, Leatrice*

Leatrice Beckwith Marynowski - December 30, 2018 at 08:13 PM



“ To you Denny & Carmen and entire Beals family please accept our deepest sympathy in this time of great loss for all of you. This was a long life and certainly not wasted. He seemed t be very productive in so many endeavors throughout his life. May God welcome him home with open arms and a pat on the back for being a good and faithful servant. Our thoughts are with you.
Joe Anne & Ben Gurecki

Joe Anne Turco Gurecki - December 30, 2018 at 04:48 PM

KP

“ Dear Denny and Carmen: I am so sorry to hear of your lose. Your dad Denny seemed like a wonderful loving and giving person. You and your family are in my prayers that loving memories will help with the lose in your lives.
Karen Krause Planz



Karen Planz - December 30, 2018 at 01:31 PM

YM

“ YOU ALL WAY BE MISS purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Merlin Beals.



YOU ALL WAY BE MISS - December 29, 2018 at 09:01 AM

JA

“ Pearl,
Bob and I are so glad you had the cookie party days before his passing. Our last memories was him smiling and joking with us. What a neat and wonderful man and will be missed. Our prayers are with you and your family.

Jo and Bob Armbruster

Jo Armbruster - December 28, 2018 at 10:04 AM

JA

“ I will always remember Jim with a camera around his neck taking pictures of all the neighbors at our gatherings. I will also remember his dry sense of humor and his warmth towards anyone he met. He leaves a void in the neighborhood but he leaves many good memories.

Jan B.

Jan - December 27, 2018 at 10:29 PM

MM

“ *Pearl, Alan, Dennis & Peg,*

We have so many good memories of our friendship with Jim. He was an honorable man that could make you laugh, while at the same time, frustrate you to no end ;-)

Always the business man, he had quite a knack for "accidentally" finding his next business venture and he so enjoyed keeping his finger on the pulse of those everyday operations.

We are sincerely happy that our paths crossed with Jim and Pearl 30-some years ago and that Jim's need for a "jack-of-all-trades guy" for the new Crystal Lake house, blossomed into a long friendship.

Although we believe that he's in a better place now, we miss him, and will hold fond memories dear.

Farewell old friend....until we see you again,

Rick & Michelle

Michelle Milach - December 27, 2018 at 02:51 PM



“ *I have so many fond memories of Mr. Jim Beals! He was a sweet and very funny man who loved the competition of racing R/C boats. He will be truly missed!*

Lu Woodley - December 27, 2018 at 08:42 AM