



James Arthur O'Brien

August 4, 1941 - August 30, 2022

James Arthur O'Brien, of Fort Myers, FL, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on August 30th. Jim was born on August 4, 1941 in Toledo, Ohio to Arthur and Helen O'Brien. At an early age, Jim developed a love for the water and spent many summers at the lake. There he learned to waterski and was a founding member of the Devil's Lake Ski Club. He took great pride in teaching others how to ski for the first time. After graduating from Addison High School, Jim attended Ferris State University. Shortly after, he married Patricia Townsend and together they raised two children. He was the owner of O'Brien's Air Conditioning & Refrigeration in Toledo for 25 years, which his son Scott now operates. Jim moved to Florida 20 years ago to escape the cold Toledo winters. In Florida, he was a dealer for Skeet'r Beat'r garage door screens.

Jim leaves behind a legacy of a strong work ethic and a knack for having fun. Throughout his life, when not working or doing home improvement projects, he enjoyed boating on Lake Erie, swimming, cooking his famous O'Brien BBQ ribs and entertaining family and friends.

Jim is survived by his loving spouse of 32 years, Carolyn Ballard; his children, Scott O'Brien (Angie) and Tracy Bennett; stepdaughter, Kimberly McKinley (Harley); grandchildren, Nick Richmond, Madison O'Brien, Kyle Bennett, Archie and Jane McKinley. He was preceded in death by his sister, Marilyn

Arbaugh.

There will be no services. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hope Hospice, 27200 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL, 34135.

To sign Jim's guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated since 1978.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Arthur O'Brien*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Carolyn, We were so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We have so many wonderful memories of our Bay Point days. Crazy, fun times. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Corky and Barb Puhl*

corky and Barb Puhl - September 21, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ *Jimmy will be missed by so many. Lee and Jim did a lot of Skeet'r Beat,'r installations together driving in Jim's old van which they named "Nellie".
Jim was always positive no matter what health issues he had, never complained. We will dearly miss our dear friend. Our sincere condolences to Carolyn and family.*

Lee and Geri Turk - September 18, 2022 at 04:32 PM



“ *Many fun memories. What a guy!
Condolences*

Barb & Damian Pflgebraar - September 15, 2022 at 10:21 AM

AP

“ We are so very sad to hear of Jim’s passing. Jim was an all around great guy - the most kindhearted and hard working person we’ve ever met and ALWAYS wore a smile. No doubt he will be missed by anyone who ever had the pleasure to know him! The friendship and laughter (LOTS and LOTS of laughter!) we’ve shared over the years will forever be cherished. So many fun times and memories! Rest In Peace Jim “OB”. Our sincerest sympathies to Carolyn and to the families. Love, Aimee & Ron Pittman



Aimee & Ron Pittman - September 04, 2022 at 09:21 PM

SM

“ So happy and honored to have know Jimmy, to have danced with him, and to have enjoyed his joie de vivre! Sending much love and peace to Carolyn and family.

Sarah McKinley - September 04, 2022 at 06:10 PM

TJ

“ Carolyn and family..may your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories and joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.. Jim can now sit back and enjoy the view and look over his loved ones. Tom & Karin Jones

tom Jones - September 04, 2022 at 03:05 PM

TD

“ Skeetr Beetr ,The best baby back ribs, Long Island Ice Teas and always an upbeat personality. You will be dearly missed. Condolences to Carolyn and Jim’s family Terry and Pam

terry and Pam Dwyer - September 04, 2022 at 12:13 PM

SW

“ Jim was always smiling and so very helpful. No matter what your question, he would find an answer.
I knew him for over 40 years as our sons played soccer together. He and Carolyn are the reason we came to Florida and Gateway. They both loved their area and convinced us to move here. He will truly be missed by his family and the many people who knew him.

Sue Steele Woolford

Sue Woolford - September 03, 2022 at 06:58 PM

AS

“ Jim was a great friend that would do anything to help you. We had many wonderful times with Jim and Carolyn and will always miss his beautiful smile! He was certainly an inspiration to all of us! Rest In Peace Jim!! Love you Carolyn and here for you always❤️❤️❤️

Anne and Ted Soter - September 01, 2022 at 08:17 PM

ME

I can't express the sadness hearing of Jimmy's passing. My sympathy and prayers for all his family. Erv and I spent many hours boating and fun times at BP Yacht Club at Marblehead, Ohio with Jimmy and Carolyn. We got together in Florida where we both purchased homes. There were so many wonderful hours we enjoyed with them. Thoughts of Jimmy will always bring smiles. Heaven welcomes a great guy but his memories will always live on.

Mary Ellen Evard - September 04, 2022 at 09:21 AM

JG

“ So very sorry to learn of Jim's passing. Always wearing a smile. And a great neighbor. Our condolences. Sandy & John Gardner

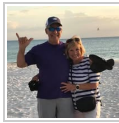
John Gardner - September 01, 2022 at 03:13 PM

JH

“ They don't make many like Jim. He was always ready to help in any way he could and his personality and smile left a wonderful impression. His dance moves were always there, even through some difficult times. You left many with good memories. Thanks, Jim.

Jane and Warner Houth

Jsne and Warner Houth - September 01, 2022 at 02:55 PM



What we remember most about Jim was his sense of humor. He was always ready to help everyone if he could no matter how busy or tired he was. Jim was definitely one of the "good guys". Andy and Tish Mayer

Tish Mayer - September 01, 2022 at 10:35 PM

CS

The real "nice" guy, as mentioned always a smile and giving a helping hand, he will be missed

Christian & Marion Schrank - September 04, 2022 at 10:20 AM

GF

“ Jim was one of a kind. I never saw him without that huge smile and always a kind word. I was proud to call him friend. He will be missed.

greg ford - September 01, 2022 at 01:22 PM