



James Joseph O'Neill

December 5, 1928 - June 20, 2021

James J. O'Neill,

92, passed away June 20, 2021. He was born December 5, 1928 in Muncie, IN to the late Jerry H. and Christine (Wiesse) O'Neill.

James is survived by his loving spouse, Janice C. (Gerhards) O'Neill; sons, Patrick (Teri), Michael (Brenda) and Casey (Tammi) Fitzgerald; daughter, Molly (William) Fulton; brother, Jack O'Neill; and 8 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Marilyn McPhaul.

He was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest of the diocese of Lafayette in Indiana in 1955. Jim served as a priest in parishes in Fowler, Marion, Montpelier and Wheatfield/DeMotte, Indiana from 1955 to 1970. From 1970-1972, he was the Chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo, IN. Jim left the priesthood in 1972. He directed the first alternative school for the Kokomo Public School System from 1972-1974. He was the coordinator of addiction services at the Regional Mental Health Center of the Howard Community Hospital from 1974-1975. From 1975-1977, Jim was the executive director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center, which was the federally funded job training and placement program for Howard and Grant counties. In 1977, Jim and his family started construction of a solar home in northern Delaware County at the Center for Peace and Life Studies. From 1977-1992, Jim was a teacher and counselor at Delaware County Schools, Indiana.

Throughout his adult life, Jim has been actively involved in issues of diversity, peace and justice. In 1965, Jim marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the

Selma to Montgomery march. Here are some organizations he was involved with: Urban League in Marion, Indiana; Delaware County Human Relations Council; Howard County Drug Abuse Council; Inter-Religious Council of Delaware County; Family Advisory Board of the Indianapolis Chapter of the Child Abuse Prevention Council; American Lung Association; Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center; mediators for the Victim/Offender Program at the Juvenile Center for the Marion County Superior Court; and Peace Learning Center at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis. Jim loved theater, music, traveling, golfing, fishing, camping, skiing, drinking beer and he was a master of puns.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to the Indiana Child Abuse Prevention and/or Indianapolis Peace Learning Center. Final care and arrangements have been entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel. To learn more about Jim's Celebration of Life service, please go to Facebook page "Jim O'Neill's Memorial".

Tribute Wall



“ I loved watching Jim ride his bike and get the mail. I was so happy to be able to help him when he needed it. What a very kind and loving man he was. I am so sorry for your loss, but you were so blessed to have him in your life.

Jo Notary

Jo Notary - July 02, 2021 at 02:37 PM

“ Remembering James from his time at St Pauls in Marion. He touched many people in his life. See you in Heaven

Anthony Petrucce Jr - June 30, 2021 at 01:58 PM

“ Mollie and Casey .. I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad and your family meant so much to you. May God bless you and yours...peace my friends.

Patricia Ervin - June 29, 2021 at 08:12 PM

Although our paths have not crossed in recent years, Jim was one of the finest individuals I have ever known. The wonderful memories of times shared in the past with this family will always be with us.

Phil St.John - June 30, 2021 at 10:54 AM

Being an O'Neill neighbor is a gift. I, too, loved watching Jim's bike rides to the mailbox and back. The sound of the rubbing chain alerted me so I could hurry to the window or door to say, "Hi, Cutie"---it was our little joke. What a special man he was. I know he will be missed by all who were fortunate to know him. Sorry to the family.

Lana Stevens - July 02, 2021 at 03:41 PM