



James Edward Walsh

June 25, 1947 - April 30, 2023

James Edward Walsh, 75, of Indianapolis, died peacefully on April 30, 2023. He was born June 25, 1947 in Indianapolis, Indiana to the late James and Rosalyn (Gerlach) Walsh. He is preceded in death by his sister Joanne Gelfand, brother Phillip Walsh, and grand-daughter Cecelia Walsh. Jim was a graduate of Scecina High School and received his bachelor's degree from Butler University in Radio and Television.

After college, Jim traveled and worked around the globe. Wherever he went, he made friends, often life long ones. In London, he worked at a Mr. Submarine sandwich shop and his family still uses the secret sauce on sandwiches to this day. In Ottawa, Canada, Jim worked at CTV network. In the 80s, he traveled in a VW bus across Europe with his first wife and 1-year-old son.

When he decided to settle down, he returned to Indianapolis, and purchased the house near Broad Ripple Park that would be his home until the end of his life. He continued his career in radio and television. He produced television for Channel 8 and radio for WIAN. He was the voice of WFYI radio and TV and also produced and hosted weekly radio shows titled "Jazz, Blues, and Reggae" and "Friday Night Radio" that gave listeners a range of musical styles impossible in the pre-internet, Top 40 era of commercial radio in the 1980s and 1990s. Jim also started his own video production company, Walsh Video, that specialized in legal videography.

Jim loved traveling. He took his children with him on many memorable vacations, a weeklong train ride from Indianapolis to San Diego, a luxurious weekend in Ottawa's Chateau Laurier, countless camping excursions to midwestern forests and parks. He loved festivals as well and every year would travel to Lafayette for the Feast of the Hunters' Moon and Bloomington for the Lotus Music Festival.

Jim joined the Muggleywumps, a group who found recreation in bocce, and relayed the game to his family where its practice became usual to summer holiday gatherings in Broad Ripple Park. As it was in his backyard, the park was a natural center for casual recreation for Jim and his family. Many fond memories arose from there: illicit model rocketry, impromptu frisbee tossing, and legendary Saturday morning baseball games. To preserve the character of this public land and the surrounding neighborhood, Jim served as President of Broad Ripple Village Association in the late 80s and was fond of his addition to the park's play area he named the "Do Duck Inn."

In 1958, when Jim was 10 years old, on a lazy summer day, the image of the radio call sign "WITT" popped into his mind. From that day on Jim had found his purpose (or at least a good start toward one): he would build his own radio station. Reality took a while. But by the 90s, Jim had started a not-for-profit corporation named Kids First that was hoped would one day be the vehicle for the purchase or creation of a radio station. Later in the 90s, with a low-watt radio station streaming throughout Broad Ripple from his home, Jim continued to build the support, resources, and equipment needed to license and run a full-time, full-wattage FM radio station. In June 2009, his dream was fulfilled and 91.9 FM (with the call sign WITT) was launched - a truly unpredictable listening experience for people locally and worldwide on its streaming platform. He received the Mayor Community Service Award from the mayor in 2010 for this achievement.

Throughout his life, he was close with his family, his loving mother Rose, his children, grand-children, radio friends and listeners, and his wife. He married Susan "Susie" (Guyer) Walsh on September 17, 2011. They enjoyed 12 years

of happy marriage, doing crosswords, bird-watching, al fresco dinners, and time together. Jim was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and later a follower of Franciscan traditions.

Visitation will be Friday, May 5, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and the service will be Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

James is survived by his loving wife, Susan "Susie" Walsh; son, Joe Walsh; daughter, Angela (Brandon) Sorrell; step-daughters, Sophia McCormick, Brianna (John) Edwards; step-son, Warren McCormick; granddaughters, Ella Sorrell and Fiona Sorrell; step-granddaughter, Baylee; and brother, Joe (Diane) Walsh.

Cemetery Details

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery

9001 Haverstick Road
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Tribute Wall

LC

“ I am so sorry to hear this. Jim had been popping in my head the last couple of days -- I hadn't talked to him in a while -- and this is what I found out. I used him as a videographer for decades and found him to be fascinating. I repeat his comments about Bill Clinton's videographer to this day! My condolences to his family and loved ones.

Linda Callahan

Linda Callahan - July 31, 2023 at 02:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - May 10, 2023 at 08:23 AM

DM

“ Dorothy Mack lit a candle in memory of James Edward Walsh



Dorothy Mack - May 07, 2023 at 05:11 PM

HD

“ *Helen D. Deck lit a candle in memory of James Edward Walsh*



Helen D. Deck - May 05, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Edward Walsh.*



May 04, 2023 at 08:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Edward Walsh.*



May 04, 2023 at 04:33 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Edward Walsh.*



May 04, 2023 at 06:52 AM

FB

“ *Flo Bruno Laura Steph Chantal Bernard purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James Edward Walsh.*



Flo Bruno Laura Steph Chantal Bernard - May 03, 2023 at 04:52 AM

AM

“ *I drove by Broad Ripple Park just the other day and was reminded that he took me, my brother Brian, his son Joe and some of his friends to play baseball. It was there that I learned the joke: I really like hanging out with my friend, he's a mushroom.. he's just a .. fun-guy .. (fungi) .. I also remember that he let us join him on air and pick music for the kids radio station he did for awhile, My First Radio. I remember he let us sift through all the records to find stuff to play. Thanks Jim, for the happy, silly, fun memories!! <3*



Adriane (Below) Millholland - May 02, 2023 at 02:05 PM