



Jim Elsner

November 2, 2022

James (Jim) Elsner, 103, beloved husband of Dorothy (Ferris) passed away peacefully on November 2, 2022. He was born on April 11, 1919, in his family home on Prospect Avenue, in Hartford, CT to the late Judge Solomon and Carolyn (Segalla) Elsner. Jim graduated from Roxbury (Cheshire) Academy in 1937 and attended Hobart College.

Jim met, and married, Dorothy while working as the Credit Manager at G. Fox Department Store in Hartford, CT, under the management of the historic Beatrice Fox Auerbach (a family friend). Jim continued his credit expertise with Society for Savings until he retired when he was 72 years old. Jim's greatest passion and accomplishment was serving his country. Lt. Colonel James E. Elsner was a pilot in the United States Air Force, with full-time service in WWII, continuing as a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard until retiring in October of 1971.

Besides his wife of 72 years, Jim leaves behind his son Charles A. Elsner (wife Susan Biren), daughter Mary Moss (husband Michael); grandchildren Michael Moss Jr. (wife Laura Moss), Kimberly Moss, Robert Moss (fiancé Jamie Alexander), Emily Elsner (husband Joseph Reiner), Kathryn Moss, and Theodore Elsner; great-grandchildren Michael III, Gabriel, and Daniel Moss; many nieces and nephews; along with a plethora of cherished friends. He is preceded in death by his son James E. Elsner Jr., his daughter-in-law Mary

Anne (Monroe) Elsner, three brothers Morton A., Allan S., and Robert Elsner.

Jim was a devoted husband to his wife Dorothy, driving to visit and bring her treats every day at the Hebrew Health Center. Up until the day he died, Jim was always thinking about taking care of Dorothy. Jim also read several papers every day and was active in following the stock market. Another passion for Jim was his swimming. He swam six days a week until he was 97 years old. Jim was extremely generous and dedicated to his immediate family and extended family of friends, helping to pay for college tuition with a yearly gift, taking people out to breakfast, dinner, or inviting them to the Guard social events to share his joy of serving his country. Included in those friends were Jim's caregivers. The Elsner & Moss families would like to extend their appreciation for the wonderful care Jim was given over the past years.

Please join the family in honoring Jim during calling hours on Wednesday, November 9th from 4 pm – 7 pm or during a brief service on Thursday, November 10th starting at 11:00 am both at the Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. W. Hartford, followed by a graveside interment with full military honors at Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the West Hartford Food Pantry or Boxes for Boots.org. For online expressions of sympathy please visit www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

NOV **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Celebration of Life

NOV **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jim Elsner* ”



Molloy Funeral Home - November 08, 2022 at 02:03 PM

JH

“ *Dear Dorothy, Mary, Charles and the Elsner Family*

I am so Sorry to hear about James Elsner's Passing. I enjoyed his visits to the store and hearing his stories about his Family, his time in the Military and his Age. He brought in Pictures and News Articles for us to see. He was so Proud. He had his Favorite Cashiers where he would wait in line to visit. They would spend time and talk to him and the Customers were amazed of his Age. I enjoyed when he would come in the store and buy treats for Dorothy on their Date Night. He also bought treats for the Nurses too.

Thank you for your Service!!! Mr Elsner

We will Miss you!!!

We were Fortunate to know you and hear your Stories.

With Love

Your Friends at Big Y (West Hartford) and Jon.



Jonathan Hong - November 16, 2022 at 11:17 AM

JL

“ We would like to share an updated poem originally written by Martha for Uncle Jim’s 100th Birthday.

For you, Uncle Jim

*Golden Days of Sunlit
Memories*

*Laughter, Tears, and Joys
And Fears
Watershed times of
Yesteryear*

*So Many Good Things
And Some so Sad...
Beautiful Moments and
Precious Love ❤️
Always and Forever,*

*Held in Your Heart
So Strong and True.*

*We’re sending all our Love to You
Dearest Uncle Jim,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
Jim and Martha*

- *And now Goodbye*
- *On your final journey—Heavens flight!*
- *Love and light be with you always!*

God bless you Uncle Jim.

*With love,
Jim and Martha Lyons*

JAMES LYONS - November 10, 2022 at 09:39 PM

WD

“ *Jim was a wonderful man and neighbor. Always such a gentleman. I am sorry that, due to illness, I am unable to attend the services and honor him in person. Please know that Jim is in our thoughts and prayers.*

Walter Dwyer - November 10, 2022 at 10:38 AM

NS

“ *I met Jim in 1998 after moving to Connecticut. We became swim buddies at the YWCA and the Taking Care Center. When a job change led me to a different gym, we would meet at Effie's for an occasional lunch and were soon joined by Dorothy and my husband, George. When Dorothy moved to Hebrew Home, I became a frequent visitor, with George joining us as his work allowed. Jim's love of Dorothy was a great source of inspiration to us.*

Jim was the epitome of a gentleman of the highest integrity, chivalrous, humble, intelligent, considerate, and kind. We shared many stories over the years. All the chapters of his extraordinary life story enriched ours, as did the example of his love of and commitment to each member of his wonderful family.

We extend our condolences and prayers to all in this time of grieving, yet know that Jim is ever with us.

With love, Nancy and George Stimac

Nancy Stimac - November 10, 2022 at 09:56 AM

SF

“ We have so many wonderful memories of Uncle Jim, our very favorite uncle since I first met him back in the very early 1950s when he and our Aunt Dorothy were planning to be married (At their wedding I was the ring bearer and my sister Carolyn was the flower girl.)

More recently, Joanne and I have a cherished memory from the early 1980s. Joanne and I were dating and planning to marry. My parents plus all my dad's sisters and their spouses were assembled in Mountain Lakes, NJ at the home of our beloved "Grandmary" - their mother and the grandmother of 13 Grandchildren / first cousins (of which I was the first) - who had passed away recently.

None of my family had yet met Joanne, and I wanted to rectify that.

Joanne and I were out for a Saturday drive and, without telling her why, I drove through Mountain Lakes and unexpectedly (to Joanne!) turned up the long driveway to my Grandmother's home. "What's this??" Joanne asked in puzzled tones. When I revealed why, she was at first a bit miffed "I'm in jeans, my hair's a mess, etc." No matter, we went in and everyone quickly put her at ease: they loved her right from the start.

Everyone insisted that we stay overnight. One of the guest bedrooms was readied for Joanne, and a nightgown was found. I was consigned to sleeping in the basement, where all the cousins always hung out when there were family gatherings.

On Sunday morning it happened that Joanne came down and, on entering the kitchen she found our Aunt Jean (my dad's oldest sister) there. Jean was deeply into 'healthy foods,' and offered Joanne some tofu (or was it some kind of 'sprouts'). Joanne tried to decline politely, and at some point Jean left the kitchen to get something. As soon as Jean departed, a loud whisper came from around the corner: "Psst - Over here!" And who should it be but Uncle Jim with a box full of a dozen Dunkin Donuts he had just

brought in!

From that point on, Jim was Joanne's favorite uncle, as well, and we often would make the trip up to West Hartford for an overnight to visit. Every time we remember that day, and so many others, we smile and laugh.

So many treasured memories!

*Duncan and Joanne Ferris
Naples, FL*

Stephen D Ferris - November 09, 2022 at 01:31 PM

DF

“ *Duncan and Joanne Ferris purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jim Elsner.*



Duncan and Joanne Ferris - November 09, 2022 at 01:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jim Elsner.*



November 09, 2022 at 12:13 PM

TH

“ *The Hamzavis purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Jim Elsner.*



The Hamzavis - November 08, 2022 at 04:17 PM

DQ

“ *Chuck and family, So sorry for your loss, sending prayers your way.*

A quote on a light green background with a faint image of a person. The text reads: "When you lose someone you love, you gain an angel you know."

"When you lose
someone you love,
you gain an angel
you know."

Dan & Tamara Quartin - November 08, 2022 at 03:11 AM

MI

“ I am so fortunate to have known Jim Elsner. We met at the YMCA in downtown Hartford. I had a morning exercise routine before heading off to work at Travelers; Jim had his "6 swims a week" habit!

As it turns out, I attended Conard High with Jim's son James.

We kept in touch after I retired from Travelers in 2016. We developed an occasional lunch routine where I would pick up Jim's favorite Broccoli Cheddar Soup (and must have French Bread) at Panera, then head over to his home on Rustic Lane for lunch and a chat. I learned a lot about Jim's time in the service, his love of flying, and his deep love for his family.

For several of our lunches, I invited my 90 year old father-in-law Bob Serrine (see photo). Bob loved aircraft, but never became a pilot. The two of them formed an easy rapport.

My bicycle commute to Hartford used to take me past the campus of the Hartford College for Women. One day, I noticed a banner advertising a retrospective exhibit on the life of Beatrice Fox Auerbach. I asked Jim whether he was planning to attend. His answer was "I worked with the real thing for many years, why would I want to go to a retrospective?"

It's easy for me to see why Jim and his contemporaries are often referred to as "The Greatest Generation".

Gratefully,

Michael Ignatowicz



Michael Ignatowicz - November 07, 2022 at 07:43 PM

SS

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



STEVE SOCOLOSKY - November 07, 2022 at 06:35 PM

SS

Blue Skies, Jimmy!

STEVE SOCOLOSKY - November 07, 2022 at 11:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Elsner.*



November 07, 2022 at 05:37 PM