



## James R. Bowsher

November 3, 1948 - June 12, 2024

James R. “Jim” Bowsher, 75, of Wapakoneta, died 6:00 p.m., Wed. June 12, 2024, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born Nov. 3, 1948, in Lima, OH, the son of Walter R., Jr. and Laura (Youngs) Bowsher, who preceded him in death. Jim was married to Kazuko (Yokota) Bowsher, and she survives. He is also survived by his brother Walter R. III (Aida-dec) Bowsher, Wapakoneta.

Jim was a writer and a public speaker.

In keeping with Jim’s wishes, there will be no public services. Arrangements are under the direction of the Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, Wapakoneta, where condolences may be expressed at [www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com](http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com).

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ *man I miss you Jim*

Debbie - June 02, 2025 at 03:36 PM

JB

“ *We heard him speak several times and he made the time pass too quickly. We have visited his temple of tolerance and have missed hearing him speak. We have many enjoyable memories of his story telling. Our sympathies and condolences to his family.*

Jim and Vera Bridges - June 24, 2024 at 04:26 PM

RP

*Visited his amazing place many times,,he always stopped to answer any questions I had even when he was busy,,I gave him a petrified rock many yrs. Ago he knew exactly where it was tho it was 2006 when I gave it to him..may u rip and thx for u gift to everyone*

Richard pine - July 19, 2024 at 04:58 PM

TC

“ *I'm currently sitting atop the Temple of Tolerance. I was lucky enough to get to speak with Jim on a few of my visits here. You can feel his presence everywhere you look here. He was an amazing man who left a sacred legacy. He is missed greatly.*



The Druid of Celina - June 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

RS

*Jim was a nice fellow We would see him and talk when we would visit Tower of Tolerance with friends and family May the City of Wapakoneta keep it going in memory of Jim*

R&L Strayer - June 26, 2024 at 09:40 PM

HF

*“ This is Spanky Faller. I roomed in a dorm at Kent State when Jim and I were Freshmen/Sophomores there. Jim had a great heart, stuck to his convictions and rarely spoke ill of anyone. Also had that great infectious laugh. By his actions he taught me humility and sincerity. My condolences on your loss of Jim. Henry*

Henry Faller - June 20, 2024 at 12:32 PM

BK

*Spanky, that year at Kent was the. most important of my life. Bow was instrumental to opening our eyes to so many things: art, music, spirituality. weed. Jim, your spirit lives in all who were blessed to know you.*

Barry Kessel - March 09, 2025 at 01:53 PM

MS

*“ On behalf of the Shanes Crossing Historical Society I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Jim Bowsher. Jim was an annual speaker at our October meetings and truly an outstanding story teller and historian. He held all those in attendance captive to the subject he was discussing with a remarkable ability to relate to anyone of any age. Every time Jim came to speak at our meetings, we would have overflow crowds with those who thoroughly enjoyed his presentations. His presence will certainly be missed. May God grant peace and comfort to the family in the days, weeks and months to come.*

*Mike Schumm, President SCHS*

Mike Schumm - June 18, 2024 at 04:43 PM

“ I was introduced to Jim by James Daily as a resource for my search for more information on my family genealogy. Charlie Makley in particular. Charlie was a member of the Dillinger gang and Jim helped me with finding out more on his mother and Charlie’s history with the Makley family. When I first met Jim and told him of my research into Charlie Makley, he invited me into his home and showed me letters, blacksmithing tools and a torch the he said was used by Charlie’s mother in her Circus act. I think I spent a couple of hours with him as we discussed the Makleys and then he showed me other artifacts he had collected over the years and the stories behind them. We walked out into his garden and we talked about the Barrel and its back story and other creations of his and their stories.

We then walked up to the red cell door in the garden and he explained how he had removed it from the old Lima jail before they tore it down. Then he explained the significance of the cell door. It being the cell door that at one time back in the thirties, it held captive my cousin Charlie and his partner Harry Peirpont after their arrest for killing Sheriff Sarber.

We became friends with similar interests in local history.

He also had some blacksmithing tools that he had been given by a great aunt of mine and showed them to me. Also a large piece of chain with two links that he said had been a symbol of friendship between Charlie and Jim Tully when they were “heater boys” at the chain factory in St Marys.

Later Jim called me up and said he wanted me to have a Blacksmith hammer that had belonged to the St Marys Makley Blacksmiths. He presented it to me at the cell door in his garden.

I am glad I met Jim and experienced his friendship and knowledge of history. His stories will stay with me and I will continue to visit his wonderful garden. Rest in peace Jim

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**Robert Makley** - June 17, 2024 at 01:25 AM

HA

“ *He will be missed, I loved hearing him speak and his stories. He came to my college class 2001 and made such an impression on me that I carried his card for almost ten 10 years to remind me to check out his place (yes it took me that long) but ... wow many visits since and I have shared that wonderous place with many others and even a few of his stories.*

*Harold Kuhbander*

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**Harold** - June 17, 2024 at 12:33 AM

TA

“ One day Jim Bowsher planned on spending a few days with my Husband and myself and daughter, Stephanie, while Tony and he moved a large limestone step which once upon a time was a step that went into a door across Mechanic St. into the Williamson School. He and Tony moved this by using only logs. It was quite the experience seeing this without machinery. We had the best time with Jim. We enjoyed glazed doughnuts and coffee every morning prior to the job before them....and enjoying Jim's story telling. Jim also had shown a bit of concern and advised me how he thought it best that I didn't paint my artwork in a particular room of this very ancient home. I took his advice. So many stories and memories. You will be missed by so many. Thankyou for making such a positive impression on the hearts of so many children and adults. And I'm happy that Tony and my limestone step ended up in your Tolerance of Temple yard . . .  
R.I.Heaven Jim Bowsher

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**Teresa Allen** - June 16, 2024 at 01:37 PM

JB

“ Jim was a unique man, a font of history and memorable stories, hard-working with a big heart for people, especially youth. On our trips back to Wapak, we enjoyed visiting with Jim and geocaching at his amazing Temple of Tolerance.

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**John Becker** - June 15, 2024 at 03:09 PM

JB

“ 3 files added to the album Temple of Tolerance



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**John Becker** - June 15, 2024 at 03:04 PM

MW

“ Jim and I have been friends since we were little kids. Once he, my sister Jane and myself decided to give the neighbors kittens a bath in her birdbath. She was not a nice lady to us. We all got in trouble and had to apologize to her after. The kittens were clean and ok!!! He was such a great person and I will hold his friendship in my heart. Thanks Jim for being a part of my life. You did great things while you were here!

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**Marjeanne Walters** - June 15, 2024 at 01:17 PM

JK

“ Jim gave and we received. How one man could maintain so many facts and stories is amazing. If you were lucky enough to know Jim, you were lucky enough. Rest now in peace. Jackie Miller Knapke

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**jackie knapke** - June 14, 2024 at 11:40 AM

MC

“ i visited Temple of Tolerance numerous times over the past years. Jim would be outside during many of the times I visited. He made such a unbelievable place for people to visit. He will be missed by many. I pray that Jim experiences the unbelievable beauty of heaven and the love of God. Jim made "Temple of Tolerance" Heaven on Earth for many of us. You were special! Maria Cuney



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**Maria Cuney** - June 13, 2024 at 08:22 PM