



James M. "Jim" Sawmiller

April 6, 1940 - February 10, 2018

James M. "Jim" Sawmiller, 77, of Wapakoneta, died 12:01 a.m., Sat. Feb. 10, 2018, at Mercy Health – St. Rita's, Lima, with his family at his side. He was born April 6, 1940, in Buckland, OH, the son of Warren & Lucille (Briggs) Sawmiller, who preceded him in death. On Aug. 5, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Jane L. Kentner, and she preceded him in death on Jan. 17, 2007.

Survivors include,

4 sons, Jeffrey (Elaine) Sawmiller,

Jerry (Nikki) Sawmiller, both of Wapakoneta;

Jay (Bridget) Sawmiller, Bloomfield Hills, MI;

& Jon (Jodi) Sawmiller, Maria Stein, OH;

10 grandchildren, Tyler, Ashley, Jessica, Sarah, Kristine, Audrey, Conor, Nicolas, EJay, & Hank;

8 great grandchildren;

2 sisters, Beverly Bockey, Spencerville, & Mae Ambos, Botkins;

sisters-in-law, Betty Jo Sawmiller, Wapakoneta; Deborah Sawmiller, FL;

Joann (Larry) Jauert, CA; Ruth Doering, Wapakoneta;

Barb (Max) Place, Wapakoneta; Yvonne Ruese, VA;

brother-in-law, Dean (Donna) Kentner, Wapakoneta,

numerous nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by brothers, William Sawmiller & Gary Sawmiller; and sister-in-law & brothers-in-law, Joyce & Mike Schlenker, Pete Bockey,

Darrell Ambos, Ned Doering, & Mike Ruese.

Jim worked for Dana Corporation in Lima for 30 years before retiring in 2002. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Moulton, and a member of the former Wapakoneta Elks. A 1958 graduate of Buckland High School, he was a retired member of the Buckland Volunteer Fire Dept.

Jim was an avid sports fan. He rooted for the Reds, tolerated the Bengals and cheered loudly for the Buckeyes. But above all, he loved the Wapakoneta Redskins. You could find him in the stands of games for both boys and girls. He was a walking almanac of Redskin sports history of past players, games and even scores. Jim was a founding member of the Marathon Coffee & Opinion Club and President of the Wapakoneta Scratch-off Lottery Association.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Wed. Feb. 14, 2018, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Moulton, with Pastor Melodi Hagen officiating. Burial is to follow in the Resthaven Memory Gardens, near Moulton. The family will receive friends 2-8 p.m., Tues. at the Bayliff & Eley Funeral Home, 1102 Lincoln Ave., (St. Rt. 501) Wapakoneta, and 1 hr. prior to the service, Wed. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Wapakoneta Athletic Boosters Club or the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

Cemetery Details

Resthaven Memory Gardens

C.R. 33A
St. Marys, OH 45885

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **13.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Hwy
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-7676
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

Visitation

FEB **14.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
14127 Moulton New Knoxville Rd.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Service

FEB **14**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
14127 Moulton New Knoxville Rd.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Love, Paul, Laura, Max & Jake Drouillard purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.



Love, Paul, Laura, Max & Jake Drouillard - February 13, 2018
at 03:04 PM

JT

“ Jalenne Timmis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.



Jalenne Timmis - February 13, 2018 at 02:00 PM

CS

“ Charley, Cari, Alaina and Lauren Sanders purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.



Charley, Cari, Alaina and Lauren Sanders - February 13, 2018
at 11:38 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.*



February 13, 2018 at 11:25 AM



“ *Jay,
Sorry for the loss. Prayers for the family and sympathy to all.
Jay Scott*

Jay Scott - February 13, 2018 at 08:15 AM



“ *My sympathy to the family on the loss of Jim. My dad, Sparky Brinkman from Ottoville, worked with Jim at Dana. Many many summers ago, your family took myself, my brother Bob and my sister Kelly camping at the KOA by Middle Point, which is now Huggy Bear. We slept in tents and your dad had a portable cupboard type thing for storage. I can still see your Mom grabbing food and pans from that cupboard to make our meals. I also recall a visit to your house when I thought I could master the skill of riding a moped of yours and had a small collision on it. The memories are from very long and not as vivid as I wish they could be but I always remember your parents with smiles on their faces.
Jeff, Jerry, Jay and Jon and families my sympathy to all of you.
Mary Kay (Brinkman) Schroeder - Ottoville*

Mary Kay Schroeder - February 12, 2018 at 08:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.*



February 12, 2018 at 04:28 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.*



February 12, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ *Jim was an outstanding member of UAW local 1765. He was loved by his fellow workers on will be missed dearly. He was well respected and always had a story to share. Condolences from all of us, RIP "Jim".*
Local 1765 President, Bryan McClurg

Bryan McClurg - February 12, 2018 at 12:51 PM



“ *Pfaff / Best families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.*



Pfaff / Best families - February 12, 2018 at 10:20 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.*



February 12, 2018 at 09:43 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.*



February 12, 2018 at 08:59 AM



Charles Denkowski

“ *From Berlin in Germany I like to send those mourning the loss my deep condolences. Regarding this sad loss someone wrote "We lost the Captain of our ship." Knowing Elaine through my brothers Pete F. Denkowski and Randall B. Weber, I learned how the Sawmillers and the related families in Wapak and around all the time have supported each other, sticking together in hard times. Having lost my beloved father in 1996 and having one son aged 3 who has been fighting cancer since the last 9,5 months, I can imagine that this is a very hard time for all relatives of the deceased. Thus, I hope that all the families mourning the loss will have the chance to cheer up at least a little bit by coming together, eating together and sharing joyful memories regarding their deceased loved one. All my best wishes and prayers are with you, especially during this current hard week. Very sorry, Charles A. Denkowski, brother of Peter F. Denkowski and Randall B. Weber*

Charles Denkowski - February 12, 2018 at 07:12 AM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet* was purchased for the family of James M. "Jim" Sawmiller.



February 11, 2018 at 01:51 PM