



## James A Ryan

January 18, 1949 - October 8, 2015

James Ambrose "Jim" Ryan, 66, of Kankakee passed away at his home on October 8, 2015. He was born on January 18, 1949 in Chicago to William (Bill) Aloysius and Jane Mary McNichols Ryan. Jim attended St. Joseph High School in Westchester, Illinois graduating in 1967. He was named to the Illinois All State Soccer team that year. He enlisted in the United States Army in March of 1969. Upon graduation from the Infantry Officer Candidate Course on May 15, 1970 he immediately completed both the Airborne and Ranger courses. The most gratifying assignment of his career was in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division. He spoke often of the "First men of war", a title that gave him an endless amount of pride. Jim concluded his service in 1986 at the rank of Major and assigned to the 85th Training Division, US Army Reserve. Jim spent the next 26 years in the construction field as a cost estimator, scheduling and project manager. He also spent 10 years as an adjunct professor in construction services at Kankakee Community College. The time he spent at KCC was perhaps his most treasured time. Jim married Teresa Kathleen (Kathy) Smith on December 31, 1985 in Waukegan, IL. The family moved to Kankakee in 1991 and coached 10 years with Eastside football and 6 years with the Kankakee Jaycees Little League. His desire to honor Brian Stone led to the development of the Brian Stone Memorial Tournament. "Keep them playing baseball".

He was Adjutant of Kankakee American Legion Post #85 and Kankakee County American Legion Commander, he spear headed and implemented the

support of, while deployed, and homecoming of "Kankakee's Own" C Company, ILARNG, and the 317th Engineers, USAR, as well as the development of Fort Kankakee, He led in the involvement of the various Veterans service organizations in the participation of 4th of July ceremonies at KCC, Pause for Patriotism and the dedication of Veterans Memorial at Small Park. Jim was a board member of Kankakee Community Development Corp. and Crime Stoppers. He was an ardent supporter of "Make a difference day and the Kankakee Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Jim is survived by his wife Teresa "Kathy" Ryan of Kankakee, and children Mary Kathleen (Katie) Ryan of Twin Lakes, WI, James Ambrose Ryan II of Kenosha, WI, Daniel Ryan of Chicago, and Andrew (Candice) Ryan of Belleville, IL and grandchildren Ava Kathleen, Cassie Lee, and Andrew James. He is also survived by siblings William (Linda) Ryan of Orlando, FL, Michael Dillon Ryan of Savannah, IL, Mary Kathleen (Lawrence) McCahill of Oak Park, IL, Mary Eileen (Robert) Altier of Westchester, IL, Jane (Glenn) Zilligen of Keller, TX, and Mary Margaret (Anthony) Daily of Forest Park, IL and a sister in law Terry Ryan of LaGrange, IL. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard Kennedy.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 15th, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel. Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee. Cremation Rites will be accorded following the mass. Inurnment will be held at a later date at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL. Memorials may be made to his grandchildrens education. Please sign his guesbook at [www.schrefflerfuneralhome.com](http://www.schrefflerfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **15**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel  
1900 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-2421  
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Mass

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
428 S. Indiana Ave.  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Tribute Wall



“ *James A Ryan*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate was purchased for the family of James A Ryan.*



October 16, 2015 at 01:46 PM

 Darla Neises

“ *I loved to talk politics with Jim...May God speed him to the Gates of Heaven*



**Darla Neises** - October 15, 2015 at 03:25 PM



“ *Jim, thank you for being you. It was not only what you yourself brought to table , but, what you brought out in others gathered around the table, no matter what the topic, that made you unique. Instead of just accepting things, you asked how we could make things better or easier. I appreciate your friendship and am grateful I did get to know you better. Thank you for being you.*

*Roger E. Bean*

**Roger E. Bean** - October 14, 2015 at 11:19 AM

RE

“ Robert J. Eberhart purchased the With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of James A Ryan.



Robert J. Eberhart - October 14, 2015 at 08:09 AM

DS

“ He lead my children to do "great things" with baseball! He will forever be missed!

Dena Stevenson - October 13, 2015 at 08:25 AM

RE

“ Garden Accent Stone - "Our Family Chain Is Broken" was purchased for the family of James A Ryan.



October 11, 2015 at 10:45 PM

RH

“ Met Jim @KCC and he was the best instructor on the entire campus! He was there there to talk to many times afterwards and remained Jim always: clear, straightforward and deeply interested in what I had to say. If it was construction, military or politics, he was so informed and helpful. I have the utmost respect, admiration and appreciation for him. I pray for "the Mrs" as he referred to Ms. Ryan and for the children and grandchildren. May GOD Bless you all.

Roderic Hodge

Roderic Hodge - October 10, 2015 at 01:00 PM

DS

“ Donna And Monte Schweizer lit a candle in memory of James A Ryan



Donna and Monte schweizer - October 10, 2015 at 08:14 AM

DS

Cathy and family, sorry for your loss, We only met Jim once but what a great time we had with him, he will be greatly missed

Donna and Monte schweizer - October 10, 2015 at 08:20 AM

JK

We are sorry to hear about your loss. I am so glad we got to see Jim at the Pause for Patriotism event. He epitomizes a true Patriot with his service to our County and Community.  
BG(R) and Mrs Jack Kotter

Jack Kotter - October 10, 2015 at 08:46 AM

JW

Jim was such a great guy to be around, whether you were at a funeral rites ceremony, or a regular Legion meeting he always had a great stories to tell or some regulatory point that was new or should be introduced. Just a wealth of knowledge and a first class man with great integrity. I will miss him and his friendship tremendously.

jim weber - October 12, 2015 at 11:04 AM

JG

Kathy, please accept our sincere sympathy in the passing of Jim. He was a very special person who will deeply be missed. May he rest in peace with God. Jack Graveline and Brenda Gorski

Jack and Brenda Graveline - October 12, 2015 at 01:23 PM

BH

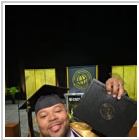
*To the Ryan Family, He was an incredible person who supported education and generated a sense of passion and duty to our wonderful country. Our prayers go out to all of you at this time. Chuck and Barb Hensley*

**Barb Hensley** - October 15, 2015 at 09:34 AM

MW

*“ I didnt know Mr Ryan very well, but the few times I talked with him he was very nice. He will be missed by a lot of people. Our condolences.....sincerely, Mark and Michele Wegner (formerly of Clifton, IL)*

**Mark Wegner** - October 09, 2015 at 08:59 PM



*“ Mr Ryan was the guy who sent time with me fine tuning my special teams abilities whether it was long snapping hunting or getting my steps right for kicking off great man he will truly be missed*



**Larry Davis** - October 09, 2015 at 08:09 PM

JC

*“ Jon And Kristen Cunningham lit a candle in memory of James A Ryan*



**Jon and Kristen Cunningham** - October 09, 2015 at 06:25 PM

MS

“ *Plases accept my condolences on Jim's passing. I know he was held in high regard and dearly loved by his sisters and brothers.*  
*Maryanne Altier Stone*



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**Maryanne Altier Stone** - October 09, 2015 at 05:30 PM

JS

“ *John & Debi Schultz lit a candle in memory of James A Ryan*



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**John & Debi Schultz** - October 09, 2015 at 04:26 PM