

James E. McKeown

April 8, 1932 - March 4, 2017

James E McKeown III entered peacefully into rest on March 4, 2017 surrounded by the love of his family, after a courageous 2 year battle. Loving husband of the late Nancy D McKeown, they shared over sixty years of loving devotion to each other. He was the son of the late James E McKeown II, of Armagh Ireland and Bridget Killeen McKeown of County Clare Ireland. He was loved and adored by his children, James E. (Anne) McKeown IV of Milford, CT, Maura Erin McKeown of Hamden, CT, John D McKeown of Tampa, FL and Nadeen E McKeown of West Haven, CT, His beautiful granddaughters who he was so proud of and brought immeasurable joy to his life; Brennan E and Tiernan E McKeown of Milford, CT, loving sister Mary Savoie of Cromwell, CT, great friend and sister in-law Joan Connor of West Haven and many loving and caring nieces and nephews.

Jim grew up in Fairhaven and later East Rock sections of New Haven. He and Nancy moved their family to Northford, residing there 42 years, where they raised their children and were blessed with a many true friends. Jim and Nancy later moved to the West Walk beach community where they opened an ice cream shop, The Creamery. They were active members of St John Vianney Church and the West Haven Irish Club, adding more friends into their fold. Laughter and a good game of dominoes was a summertime favorite.

He was a proud member of the first graduating class 1950 of Notre Dame

High School in West Haven. He would often tell stories reflecting on those great times in his life. He graduated from Southern CT State Teachers College, Fairfield University and later studied at Columbia University.

His career led him through a path of coaching track and football at Notre Dame, Branford and North Branford as well as teaching in Notre Dame and North Branford. While in North Branford he was a Teacher, Principal, and Superintendent of Schools before retiring in 1985. Jim was active in community service and spent many years volunteering in St Monica's Church, Knights of Columbus, Totoket Historical Society, Notre Dame Alumni and Board of Directors, Notre Dame mentoring program, Walter Camp Football Foundation, and St John Vianney Church. After retiring he enjoyed teaching again at St Mary school in Milford, CT

He and his family were very proud of his many accomplishments and awards, most notably his Knight's of Honor induction in 1998, and over 30 years of volunteer service to the Walter Camp Foundation.

Many thanks to our family, friends, and the Notre Dame and West Walk community for the love, visits and support. Jim's family would also like to thank the many caregivers over the past 2 years who have been so kind and made a difference.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, March 10th, 2017 at 1:00pm in St John Vianney Church, West Haven. Burial will be private. Calling hours will be Thursday, March 9th from 4 - 8 pm at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Ave., Hamden

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions can be made to the McKeown Scholarship Fund at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT or Be Like Brit orphanage in Haiti, belikebrit.org

To leave a condolence or share a memory or story with the McKeown family

please go to www.siskbrothers.com

Previous Events

Calling hours

MAR 9. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

MAR 10. 1:00 AM (ET)

St. John Vianney
West Haven, CT

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I had the pleasure of teaching with Jim at St. Mary's School in Milford. We shared many laughs together and would always reminisce about Irish culture and heritage. He had a beautiful spirit and will always be remembered with fondness. My deepest sympathy goes out to the McKeown family - Maureen Birge

Maureen Birge - March 15, 2017 at 08:32 AM

MP

“ Wishing Maura, Nadeen, and family my deepest sympathies in this time of sorrow.
Marty Platt



Martin Platt - March 09, 2017 at 02:17 PM

BH

Bernadette, Sean ,SeanPaul,Seana,David, Richard, Philip,Fiona and Julie .Our love, prayers and thoughts are with you at this very sad time. You have been blessed by having such an amazing ,warm ,caring and jovial , father and grandfather,brother, uncle and cousin. Now he has been called to be with Nancy,the love of his life,Mum and Dad, Bridie and Jimmy , Uncle Dan and Larry.What a St Patrick's Day they will have!! We have such happy memories of their last visit to Coleraine and deep regret that I never got to see him in recent years. I would love to be there in person today but sadly cannot .I am with you in spirit and am hoping to perhaps follow his funeral mass on wehcam. My love and thoughts have been with you all especially today. God bless and take good care of each other from a very sad Bernadette XX

Bernadette Henry - March 11, 2017 at 06:17 AM



“ 115 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - March 09, 2017 at 10:05 AM



“ We will always remember all the great laughs we shared, the wonderful time together in Newport, our workouts at the gym and your great job as a barker at the SJV carnival! We love you and will miss you so much! You'll always have a special place in our hearts. ❤️ Our love to your beautiful family and our deepest sympathy. Angie and Emilio 😘❤️

Angie and Emilio Mattei - March 08, 2017 at 10:04 PM



“ To the family of James McKeown:

We are so saddened to learn of your dad's passing. We will always remember the fine gentleman that he was and all the many good times we had with him and your mom. We are friends of your Aunt Joan and spent many times together having fun playing domino's and just getting together for a fun afternoon. He is now resting in peace and not suffering. With our deepest sympathy.

Anthony and Phyllis Terrasi

Anthony & Phyllis Terrasi - March 08, 2017 at 03:54 PM

TO

*Thoughts and prayers for all...
"Sorrow is not forever...
...Love is." MD Hughes*

Tom - March 08, 2017 at 09:03 PM



Your Dad was a wonderful man and he had a great personality. His smile was so natural and can understand how he chose the education field. I met your Dad on the day of the Easter Uprising on the Green. I went to The Play Rite and I had the honor of sitting with your Mom and Dad. They welcomed me and I became a member of the family. I think it is the greatest thing in the world to have parents who love you and care for you so much. My prayers are with you Mr. McKeon and your lovely family. Kathleen Causgrove-Flanagan

Kathleen Flanagan - May 01, 2017 at 05:13 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James E. McKeown.*



March 08, 2017 at 02:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James E. McKeown.*



March 08, 2017 at 01:33 PM

JM

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Jim McKeown - March 08, 2017 at 12:48 PM

BH

My thoughts and prayers are with you all especially today, what an inspirational man!! Cousin Bernadette

Bernadette Henry - March 11, 2017 at 09:08 AM

FF

“ *We remember the kind, smiling man who was principal and superintendent of schools in Northford, CT. He always had a friendly word whenever we saw him. Our deepest sympathy to the McKeown family. We pray that your happy memories of Jim will help you in your moments of loss. May he RIP.*

The Fred Meisenkothen Family

F. Meisenkothen Family - March 08, 2017 at 12:16 PM

SM

“ Perhaps I speak for all of my fellow classmates in feeling a little anxious about leaving Cedar Lake School and attending fifth grade at Jerome Harrison. However, I recall seeing "Principal McKeown" at the entrance, smiling and welcoming us on the first day, making the transition a little easier. I also recall his stopping into class and sitting in the back, which, at the time, was a little unnerving, but I came to realize that he did so because he was a dedicated educator and truly cared about the students. In addition, it was wonderful to see him again at the 2012 NBHS reunion. My deepest sympathy to the family. Suzanne Apicella Marelo

Suzanne Apicella Marelo - March 08, 2017 at 08:27 AM

WB

“ Jim will be missed by all, most recently his help in promoting the Notre Dame High school reunion for the class of 1950, A great friend and classmate, Thanks Bill Bassett '50

William Bassett - March 08, 2017 at 07:56 AM

FD

“ Dear McKeiwn Family....I am at a loss for words to try to comfort you. I am so saddened, and, yet have that happy feeling that he is where he wants to be. The years I worked for your Dad were some of the happiest years of my life. He and your Mom were "family". Loved both of them, and he will be missed. My love to you all, and I pray God will help you get through this sad time. Keep the Faith! Affectionaly, Frances C. DeBow

Frances C. DeBow - March 07, 2017 at 10:42 PM

JM

Fran, If dad read this you know he would tell you how special a person you were to him and mom too. So kind of you to share your feelings with us. Thoughts like yours help us to celebrate what Dad means to his friends.. I got a smile and a tear listening to my daughter read this tonight. Thank you!

Jim McKeown - March 08, 2017 at 09:18 PM



To the family of Jim McKeon, Bless you and my prayers are with Jim and the family

Kathleen Flanagan - May 01, 2017 at 05:16 AM

JA

“ Will miss Uncle Jim. When I got adopted into the Connor family many years ago, Jim was one who seek me out at the great family gatherings to have fun talks of all kinds of things. Always enjoyed his great intellect and sense of humor. Wonderful man. My prayers are with the family.



Jack - March 07, 2017 at 09:42 PM

JK

“ Was always treated fairly. Great teacher. Will never forget the smiley faces all over NIS....I know those smiley faces are looking down on all of us. Rest in Peace!

Jeff Kolb - March 07, 2017 at 08:53 PM

RM

“ Jim/Anne, Maura, John, Nadeen, and Family,

Berny and I offer our prayers and condolences on the passing of your Dad. Mr. McKeown and Mrs. McKeown were very kind to me in so many ways during our “growing up” years in Northford. We have a treasure of wonderful memories at Alling Court West. I just felt very “Irish” when I was there with all you! - All the warmth and good will. It is comforting to know that your Dad is now reunited with your Mom in heaven. I shall never forget them.

Love and God Bless, Rick & Berny Mazzoli

Rick & Berny Mazzoli - March 07, 2017 at 08:19 PM

JM

Rick Thanks for your kind words and your friendship. You were always welcome in our home. Northford was a special place to be raised because of the many caring parents who put their children before themselves.

Jim McKeown - March 08, 2017 at 06:39 PM

BO

“ *I first met Jim when I entered Notre Dame HS in 1954. At ND Jim taught biology and was an assistant football coach. I followed his career after I graduated and was proud to hear of his achievements and success. Later in life Jim joined the Walter Camp Football Foundation and we renewed our friendship and were active in the foundations activities for the next 37 years. He was a solid member that always did a great job with anything he was involved in. Myself and two members of our Class of '58, John Torello and John Ciochine, visited him on February 13. He was in great spirits and we had a memorable time together talking about the good old days. So sorry to lean of his passing. RIP coach. Bill O'Brien, Branford.*

Bill O'Brien - March 07, 2017 at 07:39 PM

DT

“ *I'm so saddened to hear of Jim's lost. I will always remember him. He was such a wonderful man. Thinking of his family in this difficult time.*

Danielle Tremblay - March 07, 2017 at 06:47 PM

MG

“ *Jim McKeown III is the reason I teach. His enthusiasm and excitement for education led me to over 40 years in education teaching and training in private company's. Jim will be remembered for a long time by all who had the pleasure of working with him and under his leadership.*

My prayers and thoughts are with his family.

Mike Graham Pawley's Island S.C.

Michael Graham - March 07, 2017 at 05:45 PM

-J

“ *-Rick Jefferson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James E. McKeown.*



-Rick Jefferson - March 07, 2017 at 05:33 PM

KP

“ To the entire McKeown Family:

I remember Mr. McKeown fondly from NBHS. Gentle man with always a kind word. I remember a sparkle in his eyes and always wondered what impish things were going on in that Irish head of his. He impacted so many young lives and will be remembered and missed by many. May he rest in peace. May all your loving memories help carry you through the sadness of his passing. God Bless.

*Kathi Humphrey Prefontaine
NBHS*

Kathleen Prefontaine - March 07, 2017 at 05:18 PM

KM

“ Oh my, the tears are streaming.....so very many stories...The first that comes to mind the many, many trips together with The Minutemen.....your Dad is the one to nickname my Mom "Lead foot Audrey" following her and our brood along with yours to sooo many parades. Kids all fighting in the cars, traffic trying to get the boys to their starting points, the time my Mom was so frazzled at The Gaspee Day parade that she locked her keys in the trunk and your Dad got them out. Oh and a cookout at your house in Northford and all the parents having a cold one while all of us in the pool created a whirl wave that nearly took the pool down and half the water spilling all over up to your house..And wait....one more, The Cottages.....when tye Mom's thought they were having chocolate milk drinks that were actually white russians...lol I could go on and on. I was just one of the little ones but these, and so many more are treasured memories in my heart. And so very thankful I have them. Love you all so much. God Bless.

Kathleen Gallogly Moran - March 07, 2017 at 04:16 PM

TT

“ *The CBS This Morning Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James E. McKeown.*



The CBS This Morning Team - March 07, 2017 at 04:09 PM

MD

“ *I remember both sides of Jim, the iron fisted principle and the kind gentle man! My two fondest memories were one time I got in trouble in school and he said" lad your getting to big for your britches so if you don't shape up I'll chop you down to size" Then the next day he was presenting me with an award and he kept going on and on to the newspaper about how incredible of an athlete I was and to make sure they printed it all.*

Michael Doman - March 07, 2017 at 03:48 PM

FB

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the entire family on Jim's passing. He was the gentlemans gentkeman, an unbelievable teacher, friend and father. May all the fond memories you all have get you through this difficult time. Thinking of you all*
Fred Bennetto

fred bennetto - March 07, 2017 at 02:40 PM

KC

“ Maura and Nadeen and your brothers were blessed to have Jim to enjoy all these years.
I met Jim at the Playwrite a breakfast that I had after the Uprising on the green. I had such a wonderful time with Jim and your Mom. Having parents like you all had is a blessing. My prayers are with your Dad and the entire family. God Bless. Kathleen Causgrove-Flanagan

Kathleen Causgrove-Flanagan - March 07, 2017 at 02:40 PM

KC

“ Maura and Nadeen and family you were blessed with a very handsome and wonderful Father. I remember sitting at the table with your Dad and Mom at the Playwrite, I had a great time. You had a wonderful relationship with both your parents, and now your Dad will join your Mom in heaven. My prayers are with your Dad and the family. You were blessed for many years to have a wonderful Dad and handsome too. Love to all of you. Kathleen Causgrove-Flanagan from the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Comm.

Kathleen Causgrove-Flanagan - March 07, 2017 at 02:25 PM

KS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

Kevin J. Smith - March 07, 2017 at 01:32 PM

AT

“ *The Notre Dame High School Class of '59 (wce) remembers with great fondness our teacher, mentor, coach and friend, "Jungle" Jim McKeown.*

We were thrilled that he joined us for our regular luncheons, attended our reunions and was so close to all.

It's not usual, but Jim remembered the names of virtually all classmates.

We'll keep him in our thoughts and prayers, and lift a glass to his memory. Our sympathies to his dear and loyal family who supported and cared for him during his struggles.

Always with us.

Alex Torello - March 07, 2017 at 12:04 PM

BL

So sorry to hear of the passing of Jim. Will keep Jim and his family in my prayers. We spent a lot of time at the Walter Camp Football Foundation and will never forget Jim.

Bill LaVelle - March 07, 2017 at 07:50 PM

PD

*Maura and Nadeen,
We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your wonderful father. We have so many great memories of both your parents when living next door to them Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. we will not be able to attend the services since we are in Florida*

Pat and Bert Doerr - March 08, 2017 at 07:19 AM

GM

To The McKeown Family:

So many wonderful Northford memories of a man whose smile lit up a room. He always genuinely cared and had a kind word. My last fond memory was of him coming to our high school reunion and he made a point to come give me a hug and talk to me. I was blessed to have him in my life and I know that he has touched so many others. Rest in Peace Mr. McKeown, your legacy lives on in the hearts of those that had the pleasure of knowing you. Xo <3 oX

*Love and Peace to All of You,
Grace Zichichi Marriott*

Grace Marriott - March 08, 2017 at 08:46 AM

MK

Maura and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad, he was a great man who touched the lives of many people. Both he and Nancy were my friends. Many people here at Saint Monica's will remember his good deeds.my fondest memory is when we worked together at the Northford team center.Our God will welcome him with open arms and a list of jobs for him to do.Jims smile and charming manner will always be remembered.Love Marion Kuruc

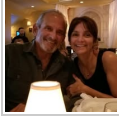
marion kurucmm - March 08, 2017 at 10:40 AM

TD

A true Irishman and a better Gentleman! He will be missed by many for all his volunteer work, creativity and genuine care for people. I was fortunate to be introduced to Jim through my father, whom Jim coached at Notre Dame in the early 50's. Being involved with Jim in the Walter Camp Football Foundation and ND Golf Committee, I witnessed the passion he had in the work he did. Always great to be around and share stories with, Jim would always get a smile from you. Your a great man Jim and give a big ND hello to the crew up there with you.

The Doyle Family

Tom Doyle - March 08, 2017 at 12:45 PM



Today is a sad day for all of us whos lives have been touched by Jimmy. I have had the privilege of calling him a friend for nearly 40 years, having first served with him on the Board of Directors of Notre Dame HS in the early 80's and maintaining an ongoing friendship since then.

I have always been in awe of his optimistic view of life even while dealing with his most recent ordeal. My most recent visit to him a couple of weeks ago found him in good spirits and contemplating yet another radical surgery that he faced the following week. Never had the chance to call him and check back on his progress.

If each of us had just a little bit of Jim in us the world would be a better place.

Laurie and I send our heartfelt sympathy to all in the McKeown family.

Jim DeFrancesco ND '67

WE ARE ND!

Jim DeFrancesco - March 08, 2017 at 01:18 PM

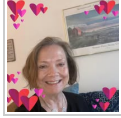
JW

I am saddened by the news of Jim's passing and thinking of the different ways that he touched my life both as a student of his so long ago, and then as one of the kids who returned after years away from Northford. I returned as a fellow educator and counselor and was so delighted to reconnect with Jim and his enthusiasm for his work.....and his excitement at seeing me once again and learning of my professional achievements. There is something priceless about such continuity in life and the knowledge of our impact on the lives of others. May you fly into the Light lifted up on angels' wings Jim McKeown, knowing that you are surrounded by the love and appreciation of many whose lives you touched.

To Jim's family, I offer my deepest condolences.

*Your former student, colleague and fellow Columbia alum,
Dr. Judith Wilcox*

Judith Wilcox - March 10, 2017 at 12:21 AM



So sorry for the loss of your Dad. He was a great man and Educator. I remember always seeing him everywhere in town, schools, sports events and church. He has certainly passed on his spark and enthusiasm for humanity to his children. May you be comforted by all of your great memories with him. Sincerely, Mary Parady

Mary Parady - March 10, 2017 at 06:24 PM