



James Raphael Maxwell

December 30, 1931 - April 23, 2021

James Raphael Maxwell, "Jim" to all that knew him, of Visalia, CA left this life for his heavenly reward on April 23, 2021 at the age of 89. While struggling with dementia and complicated health in his final years, he still greeted each day with a smile.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Barbara; children Jim, Tom, Jean Matsumura, Julie and John; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; his sister Bobbye Sweny; and many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews and extended family members. Throughout his life he was a loving father figure, coach, scout leader, teacher, and friend to all he knew.

Born December 30, 1931 in Floydada, TX to Irene Cardinal and John Maxwell, Jim and his brothers Henry, Lester and the Rev. John Maxwell were ultimately raised by his mother and older sisters Aileen (Weber) and Bobbye in Hawthorne, CA which instilled in him a fierce devotion to family, as well as his deep Catholic faith. Those that know Jim's love of food would be surprised to learn he was such a picky eater as a child, that when he ran away from home at the age of 5 - circumnavigating almost his entire block - when asked by the friendly police officer that saw him what his name was, he replied "James Ray Eat!"

Jim attended Leuzinger High in Lawndale where he excelled in playing

baseball and football, before attending El Camino Jr. College. Enlisting in the Navy in 1952 and serving as Pfc. Supply 3rd Class thru 1956, he was a proud Veteran of the Korean War. He took that experience to start a career at TRW Systems where he became a Sr. Project Coordinator. Jim was proud of being a part of the TRW team that was responsible for the development of the abort-guidance systems for the Apollo lunar-landing module and that safely brought the Apollo 13 astronauts home.

Always seeking to provide the best life for his family, in 1971 Jim relocated them all to Visalia, where he started a new career in real estate, his primary interest being in commercial and residential development properties. He served as the Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Church. For many years Jim and Barbara hosted the local American Cancer Society's Gala Fundraiser, where he loved to be a part of this great cause as much as he loved to swing dance to country and classic songs with the love of his life.

He will long be remembered for his generous spirit, his big heart, love of teaching his faith to young adults and children, caring for his heirloom orchids, and his epic gumbo feasts around the holidays that were open to all.

A Rosary will be held at 8:30am on May 5th at St. Mary's Catholic Church followed by Mass at 9am. Final ceremonies with Military honors will be at 11am at Visalia Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Central Valley Honor Flight which honors Veterans by sending them to Washington D.C.. <http://cvhonorflight.org/donate-now/>

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com <<http://www.salseranddillard.com/>>.

Cemetery Details

Visalia District Cemetery

1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY 5. 8:30 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Visalia, CA
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Memorial Mass

MAY 5. 9:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Visalia, CA
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Mary Ann Adams lit a candle in memory of James Raphael Maxwell*



Mary Ann Adams - May 05, 2021 at 01:51 PM

GV

“ *I know that Jim is at peace now with his Holy Father. I am thankful for our friendship over the years and will miss his ready smile and that mischievous twinkle in his eyes.*
Gail Vaughan

Gail Vaughan - May 01, 2021 at 11:17 AM

BT

“ *Jim was a good Friend and a partner in '1979 when we built Visalia Lanes Bowling Alley along with Frank Benson and Pete Manuele. Those were good days we were young and had a lot of ambition. My partners are all gone now. I moved from Visalia and now live in Gilbert, Arizona. I miss those days and my old friends, but I guess thats the way life is.*
Take Care to all my old friends in the "Great Town Of Visalia".

Bennie Trujillo - April 29, 2021 at 07:21 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Raphael Maxwell.*



April 28, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ *To my friend John thank you for such wonderful times at your home. Your dad was such a loving, fun, man. I will never forget stopping by the house and your dad making his famous gumbo and it is the best!!! To the family I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for all.*

Jackie Knight - April 28, 2021 at 12:00 PM



“ *The Ost girls and McNutt family are all so sorry for your loss and you all are in our prayers. Jim was a special man who was a friend to all who knew him. Always knew how to make you smile.*

Kathleen Ost - April 27, 2021 at 08:18 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Raphael Maxwell.*



April 27, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ *Jim’s, or Julie’s Dad’s, fun and loving personality will sure be missed!* ”

Jack & Jill Lopez - April 27, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Raphael Maxwell.* ”



April 27, 2021 at 06:29 PM