



James Elvis Foster

July 14, 1944 - August 9, 2019

JAMES E. FOSTER
NEW HARMONY, INDIANA

Watch his Video Tribute at:

<http://www.werryfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/9018009/LTVideo>

On August 9, 2019, James E. Foster, loving husband, stepfather, uncle and stepgrandfather, passed away at the age of 75. A renowned attorney, Jim's litigation skills remain legendary.

Jim was born in Henderson, Kentucky on July 14, 1944 to Ben and Mary (Johnson) Foster. He received his law degree from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1972 and began his law practice in Hammond, Indiana that same year. He was active in the Lake County and Indiana Bar Associations; his practice focusing on criminal defense. He practiced law until August of 2018 when he began his retirement, moving back to New Harmony, Indiana with his wife, Sara, of 29 years. Jim always said that the law was his hobby; even in retirement he continued to practice law on a limited basis. He was always quick to laugh and rarely suffered fools.

Surviving are his wife: Sara (Parker) Foster; sister: Bennie Lewis (Jim); stepchildren: Gina Redwine (James) and Michael Pagano (Heide); nieces and nephews: Tammy Lewis (Jay Bolinger), David Lewis, Joshua and Nate

Bolinger; grandchildren: Dan Stanko (Mandira) Lynne Stanko, Nick and Elyse Redwine and a great-grandchild: Samara.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and stepfather: Ralph Hidbrader.

A Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 11 a.m., with visitation from 10-11 a.m. at the Werry Funeral Home, 615 S. Brewery Street, New Harmony, Indiana. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to: Linda E. White Hospice House, 611 Harriet Street, Evansville, Indiana 47710.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Werry Funeral Homes, Inc. (New Harmony)
615 S Brewery
New Harmony, IN 47631
(812) 682-4261
werryfuneralhome@gmail.com

Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall



“ *Werry Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of James Elvis Foster*



Werry Funeral Homes, Inc. - August 15, 2019 at 01:20 PM

MT

A beautiful tribute. Thank you for sharing. Martin and Shirley Travelstead

Martin and Shirley Travelstead - August 21, 2019 at 10:53 PM

NI

Jim was one of the most nicest and funniest lawyer I ever knew. I could always depend on a laugh and a great conversation when we spoke over the 40 years I worked for Edward Genson. He was my Indiana connection who I knew would get the job done, or find someone who could. He will be missed. God bless the family.

Nikki - Edward Genson's office.

Nikki - August 30, 2019 at 08:44 AM

ME

Great tribute to a great man. My friend for 30 years. We never lost a case together. I'm heart broken by his passing. May he Rest In Peace. Michael Ettinger

Michael Ettinger - August 30, 2019 at 03:21 PM



“ *James Elvis Foster*

October 06, 2023 at 09:05 AM

EG

“ Jim was one of the finest men and one of the finest lawyers I have ever met. Over 40 years of friendship, I learned so much from him and enjoyed his company even more. I am going to miss him, and our talks.

Edward M. Genson

Edward M. Genson - August 30, 2019 at 09:56 AM

RP

“ On behalf of the Pagano Family of Michigan, please accept our sincere condolences for the passing of Mr. James Foster.

Robert Pagano - August 24, 2019 at 01:49 PM



“ I'll always remember with a kind smile & nice word. I got to hear my dad & him talk about old times.

Jodi Moore - August 22, 2019 at 07:39 PM

EK

“ Sara and Bennie,
So sorry to hear about Jim. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Elizabeth Owen Koester

Elizabeth Owen Koester - August 18, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ 35 files added to the album LifeTributes



Werry Funeral Homes, Inc. - August 15, 2019 at 01:14 PM

“ Jim was my “best buddy” in college. We met at Indiana University in 1963, residing in the same dorm. We stayed friends (and occasional roommates) until we graduated from law school. We worked part time in the same bar (the infamous Nick’s English Hut) and ran with the same crowd when not working or studying. I think it could be said of us we cut a pretty wide swath through the Bloomington/Indiana University community. I could expend pages telling Jim Foster stories during our time at IU—but best I do not! There are a few, however, that are fit for print and all involving aviation.

During my third year at IU a friend of mine, who had just earned his pilot instructor’s license, wanted the immediate challenge of getting a student licensed as a private pilot. He chose me as his Guinea pig. Much later, on May 3rd, 1968, with my freshly minted license in hand, I sought out Jim (sleeping as I recall) and drug him to the airfield to bestow upon him the “honor” of being my first passenger. Jim was less than enthused to be riding with a novice--but I strapped him in anyway and took him on a half-hour spin around Monroe County. I can’t be sure (he may have just stumbled when he exited the aircraft) but I got the distinct impression he may have kissed the tarmac upon flight termination. I had him sign my pilot’s log once his nerves had steadied and a copy is attached.

About a year later I wanted to fly up to Wabash to visit my grandmother and Jim tagged along. On the return flight, as we approached Indianapolis, the weather “crumped”, the ceiling dropped, and it began to rain. Jim had always flown with me in fair weather so he asked “Jay, will this thing fly in the rain?” Kidding, I said “Gee, I don’t know—I’ve never tried it”. His eyes got big as saucers and he started chain smoking. Then, to make matters worse, the visibility declined, I was lost, and I knew we were in the vicinity of some tall radio towers. Asking Jim to be on the lookout for them did little to bolster his confidence in my piloting skills! Fortunately, the control tower at Weir Cook found us among the radar clutter and vectored us to a final approach at Indianapolis.

Once we shut down Jim wanted to go buy the guys in the tower a round of drinks. I persuaded him that might be unwise since we still had to push on to Bloomington (and might need their sober counsel again).

Time passed. Jim went into private practice and I took a commission with the Air Force. Thus, our paths rarely passed thereafter--but one instance is burned into my memory. Sometime during the summer of 1973, I was traveling from Montgomery Alabama back to my duty station in Tucson, Arizona. The flight entailed a few hours layover in Chicago. Knowing Jim's office was in the vicinity, I called and suggested we meet at the O'Hare Airport bar for a quick reunion before I had to press on to Arizona. When I showed up at the bar, it became apparent Jim had beat me there by at least two rounds. After a few more refreshments it occurred to Jim he had never seen Arizona and, well, there was no time like the present! Yes, he marched up to the ticket counter, plopped down the fare, climbed on board my flight to join me in the "wild west" as we frequented a few cantinas in the Old Pueblo. The next morning, I found Jim sprawled by the apartment's pool burned to a crisp. Apparently, there was some sort of family gathering set for that day back in New Harmony which, of course, Jim was bound to miss. He called his mother to try to explain and her retort was something to the effect "Are you with that Jay Davis again"? Busted!

Jim and I delighted in putting each other in some sort of embarrassing situation then hollering out "on your toes"! Now, my friend has moved on to greener pastures. Still, I surmise he's out there somewhere lying in wait for me. Guess I better be on my toes?!? Going to miss you, old friend. Save me a spot at the table.

Jay Davis



Jay Davis - August 15, 2019 at 12:20 PM

TL

You don't know me...but I know you! Uncle Jim told us so many stories about your adventures together. I am glad you shared your stories. I'm sure UJ will be waiting at the bar for you.

-Tami

Tamara Lewis - August 15, 2019 at 07:49 PM

JD

Tami, I'm sure you are right. I'm equally sure he will have assured management not to worry about the large tab (he has run up) since his friend will be along shortly to cover the bill. That would be a classic Jim Foster "on your toes!" Jay

Jay Davis - August 16, 2019 at 09:51 AM

FH

I was with Jim and Jay as undergrads at IU, and in touch with one or both of them whenever I was on leave between Army assignments (and got a few free drinks at Nick's every time) for the next four years. Jim was every bit the guy Jay describes, and a major and indelible part of my memories of those times. I was only in touch with Jim a few times after that. I went to law school at IU after I got out of the Army, and ran into Jim occasionally thereafter at CLE seminars and once on a visit to an old dorm mate of ours who was (or was soon to become) an IU School of Medicine professor in Indianapolis. I met Sara on that occasion.

I have my own story about Jim: Jim stayed in touch with Ruth "Ruthie" Collier, who was a long-time waitress at Nick's where Jim tended bar. She was and remains a legend among IU students--a sour puss with a heart of gold (unless you gave her trouble or tried to walk the check). Jim contacted me sometime--I think it was after I retired--with news that Ruthie was impoverished and needed help. It seems her lawyer had allowed her divorce to become final something like a month before she otherwise would have qualified to share her ex's Social Security benefits. Jim was starting a fund to assist with her expenses. I recall something about paying for repairs to her trailer, but there were other things as well. Jim helped with all of it. I have a photo of Jim and Ruthie outside of Nick's, taken shortly before her death, which I treasure. I will have it with me at Jim's memorial service. I think his friends and family would like to see it. My world is sadder, and a little smaller, now that Jim isn't in it.

Frank Hahn - August 16, 2019 at 05:20 PM

TL

Uncle Jim would take me to Nick's while I was at IU. He told me the many stories of Ruthie. I look forward to seeing your photo of the two of them.

Tami Lewis - August 21, 2019 at 09:43 PM

CJ

“ My Dad Larwnce E.Johnson was Jims Uncle and my Dad was close ,like a Father figure.Everytime's Jim would come down to see his Mom [My Aunt.Mary] she would call Dad and He would go down to her house to see him.Dad was so Proud of Jim when he became a Lawer .Those was my Memnories to of My Dad and Jim..Going to be missed.Connie Jonson,Smith

Connie Johnson,Smith - August 13, 2019 at 04:58 PM

PR

“ Jim Foster was a member of my family. He was a stepgrandfather to my grandchildren Nick and Elyse Redwine. Jim was always cheerful and we enjoyed the interesting conversations. He will be missed.

Patricia Redwine - August 13, 2019 at 04:31 PM

DD

Sara, We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He (and you) were such wonderful neighbors when you lived back in Hammond. Our prayers are with you everyday. Love, Don & Donna Demkovich

Donna Demkovich - August 15, 2019 at 02:19 PM

RS

Jim Foster is legendary in New Harmony, especially among his classmates and friends of the 50's and 60's. It won't be the same without his friendly caring nature and funny stories. We were all happy to have him and his sweet Sara back in town for their retirement. Wish it could have been longer. He was a excellent support person, classmate and friend to my brother Edmond and also to Fred and me. Sara, Gina, Michael, Bennie, cherish all your warm memories. I will keep you and your families in my heart and on my mind as you adjust to life without Jim. He was a terrific person! RIP, Jim. You have earned your rest.

Rebecca Smyth - August 18, 2019 at 10:36 PM