



James R. "Jim" Kaag

December 4, 1922 - August 26, 2014

James Russell "Jim" Kaag, 91, of Hoopeston, IL, died of heart complications at Carle Hospital on Tuesday, August 26, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife, Brownie, and their two daughters, Cindy Prillaman and her husband Gregg of Annandale, VA and Jane Schaefer and her husband Gary of Madison, WI. Grandsons are Ben (Torie) Prillaman and their children Jacob, Cameron, Ethan and one-on-the-way of Clifton, VA, Zach (Juliet) Prillaman and their daughter Mae of Fairfax, VA, Jeff Schaefer of Milwaukee, WI, and P.J. (Laura) Schaefer of Chicago, IL. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jim was born December 4, 1922, the only child of Russell and Freda Kaag. He grew up on a farm south of Hoopeston putting in long hours milking cows and farming. He wasn't enamored with milking but fondly remembered riding his pony to the one-room Red Top School on Rte. 1 where he went for grades 1-8. One of his classmates was his cousin Bob Johnson who has remained a life-long friend. He graduated from John Greer High School in 1940 and then worked in San Diego and Chicago during 1940 and 1941 assembling bombers and cargo planes the US was selling to England and Russia. He enlisted in the Army in early 1942 after the US joined WWII and served in Nebraska, Florida, and Arizona. It was during a leave from the Army in 1944 that Jim met his future wife, Brownie Virginia Lane, of Hoopeston. Jim and Brownie were married on November 30, 1946 and recently celebrated 67 years of marriage.

Jim was proud to be a farmer and worked hard to build a good life for his family. But as anyone who knew him will testify, his true passions were his family, fishing, and golf. Some of his happiest moments were fishing and playing golf with his four grandsons. His grandsons loved spending time with him fishing, on the golf course, and on the farm racing lawn tractors and creating mischief of all descriptions. He gave up fishing a few years ago but was still playing golf this Spring at the age of 91!

He was a long-term member of the Masonic Lodge #709, the First Christian Church in Hoopeston, the American Legion Post 384 and Hubbard Trail Country Club. He and Brownie also loved to travel, visiting all 50 states in the US and several countries in Europe. They also spent several weeks in Florida most winters where they could fish and play golf while their friends in Hoopeston were scooping snow.

Jim was a genuinely good man and his passing is a great loss for his family and his many

friends in the Hoopeton community.

The family asks that memorials be made to the Hoopeton American Legion 502 E. Penn St, Hoopeton, IL 60942 or the First Christian Church 502 E. Main, Hoopeton, IL 60942.

Cemetery

Floral Hill Cemetery

Hoopeston
IL, 60942

Events

AUG **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

30

Anderson Funeral Home
427 E Main Street, Hoopeston, IL, US, 60942

AUG **Funeral Service** 03:00PM

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Anderson Funeral Home
427 E. Main St., Hoopeston, IL, US, 60942

AUG **Burial**

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Anderson Funeral Home
427 E Main Street, Hoopeston, IL, US, 60942

Comments



“ Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James R. "Jim" Kaag.



August 29, 2014 at 05:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James R. "Jim" Kaag.



August 29, 2014 at 03:37 PM



“ My sincere sympathy to you, Brownie, and your daughters, for the loss of Jim. Fond memories of your family.
Jill Brockway Mitchell

Jill Brockway Mitchell - August 28, 2014 at 11:15 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James R. "Jim" Kaag.



August 28, 2014 at 10:18 AM



“ My sincere condolences, Brownie. So many wonderful memories at McDonald's, with Jim and then on Sunday night "Cowboy" Church. Loved those early mornings in your driveway, getting ready to fish. My fondest memory, there, is watching Jim hook into a 10# channel cat, and as he worked at getting it in, his little zebco reel started to fall apart. Piece after piece continued to fall off it, but Jim still landed that cat. Such a wonderful man and friend. Heaven already is a better place! Bud McMasters

Bud McMasters - August 28, 2014 at 05:19 AM



“ Brownie and family, Was sorry to hear about Jim. He always had a smile on his face and was one of the good guys and will be missed. Keeping you and family in my thoughts and prayers... Sandy Kaag.

Sandy Kaag - August 28, 2014 at 10:30 AM