



James R. Leeson

July 21, 1943 - March 11, 2010

James R. Leeson, 66, of Alliance, died on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at his home. Born on July 21, 1943, in Salem, he lived in Alliance most of his life and was a 1961 graduate of Alliance High School. He was a U. S. Navy veteran, serving during the Vietnam Conflict. Mr. Leeson attended St. Joseph Catholic Church. Jim retired from the Alliance Fire Department after 25 years of service. He had previously been employed as a U.S. mail carrier in Alliance. Mr. Leeson was a member of the B.P.O. Elks # 467, the V.F.W. Post 166, the Dante Alighieri Society, the William Penn Club, and the Christopher Columbus Society. Jim was a loving cheerful person who had many friends in the Alliance area and around the country. He always had a story to tell and loved having fun. To the children in the family he was known as “Mr. Magic”. He was proud of his service to this country and would not hesitate to call people’s attention to their tattered American flags. Jim was a good neighbor and served as the dog walker, the pool boy, the lawn caretaker, or other service provider to his friends. There have been many happy times shared with friends in his “Owl Grill” at home. Survivors include a brother, Joe (Gloria) Leeson of Canton; niece Judy (Brian) Polstra of Plantation FL, nephew Joe (Stefanie) Leeson and son Nathaniel of North Canton, niece Janet Leeson (Lorenzo) Bertola and children Giulia, Thomas, and Michael of Milan Italy, another loving niece; two aunts, Alice Snyder of Girard and Marge Tolp of Long Island, NY; and four cousins, Kristine (Gus) Scaglione, Joyce Yeaney, Ryan Snyder, and Joe (Tina) Barber. Jim was preceded in death by his

parents, Joseph R. and Betty L. (Tolp) Leeson. The family will receive friends at Walton-Schrader Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. with the Rev. Fr. Donald L. Feicht, as celebrant. Interment, with military honors provided by the Alliance American Legion Post 166 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1036, will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 427 E. Broadway, Alliance, OH 44601. Arrangements are by the Walton-Schrader Funeral Home, 1131 West State Street, Alliance, Ohio 44601. This obituary may be viewed and condolences may be sent to the family online at www.wsfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *James R. Leeson*

October 04, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ *He will always be remembered as you share the stories and the memories of how he lived his life and how very much he meant, may you find comfort...And, throughout this difficult time, may you also know the deep sympathy and concern that is felt for you and all your family. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5*

Magallon Family - April 20, 2010 at 03:03 PM



“ *My prayers go out to this family. I met Jim while working in a bar. He was a very kind man and never judged anyone for their circumstances. He always had a joke or something to try to make a person laugh. Heaven has a very special man as part of the great kingdom, but to those that knew him here on earth, will deeply miss him. God be with you all. This is such a terrible and awful thing this family had to endure now for no apparent reason. I will keep you all in my prayers. Love you Jim! XOXOXO*

Jamie Mansfield - March 17, 2010 at 07:52 PM

CA

“ *Jim was always such a sweetheart!! He always wore a smile and had a new joke everytime I saw him.
He will be sadly missed by all his friends in town and at the Wm.Penn.
God Bless You!!!*

Candy Arbaugh

Candy Arbaugh - March 17, 2010 at 03:41 PM

TL

“ *just wanted to express my sincere sadness in this tragic death, Jimmy could make anyone smile, no matter what kind of a day they were having. he will be sadly missed by all.
Tammy Leonard*

Tammy Leonard - March 17, 2010 at 12:47 PM

BC

“ *To Jim's Family:
Please accept our sincere condolences and sympathy on the death of Jim. Before retirement, I was Captain on Jim's shift at the Alliance Fire Department and we all had fond memories of our time their together. He was the cook on our shift and we all enjoyed those dinners! He will surely be missed by all who knew him.
In Christian love and friendship,
Bob & Lou Clayton*

Bob & Lou Clayton - March 17, 2010 at 11:06 AM

TF

“ I was a neighbor, just recently moved away from College Street. Every Morning on the way to the bus stop My Daughter would giggle at his Dalmation dog statue that he would put holiday hats on, or a bandanna. He took almost daily walks through the neighborhood, he would say, "Hello, how are the girls?" He loved driving that convertible around, I would see it everytime I turned around. How about that picture of the baby he carried around in his wallet? The one that had the middle finger up...it was the funniest picture ever, and he enjoyed showing people and laughing about it. He prescence will be greatly missed.

Theresa Fording - March 16, 2010 at 06:47 PM

JS

“ he will be saddliy missed by many.

jerry sedei - March 16, 2010 at 06:23 PM

SR

“ I just wanted to express my heartfelt sympathy to all of the members of Jim's family. I had moved onto this section of E. College Street 5 years ago, with my 3 children. Jim would always cut through the empty lot next to my yard to go over & clean my neighbor, Karen's pool. He always struck up a conversation, & was a very nice man, always inquiring about my children & myself, even after the older two had moved out & on. I will never forget him going to a Car Show down on Main St. a couple of years ago after seeing my Dad pick up my youngest son & one of his friends in his 33 Dodge, & Jim took several pictures of the boys in the rumble seat, then at the car show, too. Several days later, he saw me hanging clothes & came over carrying a large envelope, in which were the pictures he had taken. He had made copies so that we could all have one, including the boy who was with my son that day, & had them blown up into 8 x 10's. He had a wave for everyone & Always had a smile on his face. He will be sadly missed by this family of mine.

*Sincerely, & may God be with you during this time,
Shelley Rice*

Shelley Rice - March 16, 2010 at 02:49 PM

CC

“ *To Jim's Family,*

I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I lived across the street from Jim with my mom for alot of years (817). He was one of the kindest guys I knew. We had our "dogs" in common...he never went anywhere without his! After I moved out, my mom would tell me what a nice fellow he was, often stopping to talk when she was in the yard or offering to help her with things. She just raved about how kind he was to everyone. I recently saw Jimmy at my sister's calling hours & just remember such kind words he had to say, never, ever thinking that I'd be coming to HIS just a couple months later. He was a very quiet and wonderful man who loved people. I'm so glad I got to know him as my friend...so terribly sorry he was taken from us in such a brutal way.

May God be with you all. You are in my prayers.

*Sincerely,
Carol Cowen*

Carol Cowen - March 16, 2010 at 01:12 PM

DL

“ *OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF JIM. HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE AND FRIENDLY HELLO TO EVERYONE. HE WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED BY MANY, INCLUDING THOSE OF US FROM ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, WHERE HE ENJOYED LUNCH WITH FRIENDS AND STAFF. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU DURING THIS SORROWFUL TIME. DIANA & LONNIE LUCAS*

DIANA & LONNIE LUCAS - March 16, 2010 at 11:02 AM

JL

“ I send my heartfelt sympathy to your family. Jim you were a dear friend and you certainly didn't deserve this. As you know, our acquaintence began when I started dating Roger Zucchero. We had some really fun times together after Roger and I divorced. You were such a kind, loving person. If someone asked you a nickel, you would hand them five bucks and that is the Jim I will always love and remember. Rest in peace dear friend.

Judy Lenggenhager - March 16, 2010 at 10:03 AM

SB

“ Jim's Family,
I was so very sorry to hear of the loss of one of my favorite persons here in Alliance. I met Jim in the 70's before I moved out of state, and was so glad to see him again last summer after I returned. He came to our garage sale and it was so good to see him again. I always meant to call him later, but sorry to say I never did. He was a sweet guy and I know he is already missed by so many.

Sandy Bandy - March 15, 2010 at 10:34 PM

CM

“ We have lost a great man! Jim always had a joke for each & everyone of us. I will miss seeing Jim's smiling face while eating lunch with us @ ACH. Jim & my father Dennis Mason were great friends, my dad is always sharing a great story or a joke that Jim had told him. I don't think that I ever ran into Jim & he didn't have his "Billy Bob" teeth on him, that always made me laugh!! He was a great man & didn't deserve his tragic death. May peace & love reach you all, and know that he was LOVED greatly in Alliance.

Carrie Mason - March 15, 2010 at 10:22 PM

KC

“ Dear Joe and family,
Words cannot express the horror and the grief that came with the news about Jim. I am Dickie Common's wife and I know well the shock that comes with learning of a tragic death. Jim and I have spent many tear-filled times together in the last 4 years since losing Dick and my son; he had a very difficult time losing his old "best friend" as I will face a very hard time losing Jim. It will be so strange to look out my window and not see him holding the net as he faithfully cleaned my pool every morning. He was always so cheerful and would usually come with some trinket for the pool that he had picked up at some garage sale. And oh how I will miss his really corny jokes and those awful fake teeth he insisted on wearing almost every time he would visit. That was Jim. Kind, corny and loveable all at the same time. He will always be greatly missed. I am currently in Florida and regretfully will not be able to attend his services. Please know that my prayers and my thoughts are with you during these difficult times.
May God bless you all with His unending Grace and Peace.
Much love,
Karen Common

Karen Common - March 15, 2010 at 08:09 PM

KS

“ Dear Cousin Jim, When Joe called with the news it simply took my breath away. I wondered how someone so kind and loving could be taken from our family. You simply didn't deserve it. I won't forget your jokes, your smile, and that wonderful casserole you made when we last met. We will miss you so much. Tell the rest of the family we love them and we love you...rest in peace. Your cousin,
Kristine

Kristine Scaglione - March 15, 2010 at 07:33 PM

JS

“ Oh, Jim, Where do I start? All I can say is right now I am clinging to so many fond memories of you, and I can hear your voice as though you just called me yesterday. You were such a kind, sweet, and gentle man. So funny, too. We will all miss you so much. Hugs to where you are. We may be saying 'goodbye' to you from here this week, but you will be forever in our hearts. Love you so much. Your cousin, Joyce

Joyce Snyder - March 15, 2010 at 06:20 PM

JB

“ Jim, we miss you so much and are just so thankful for the time we had together during Christmas. Our return trips to Ohio will not be the same without you, your magic tricks and the silly teeth: so much laughter and so many very special memories. How was anyone to know that those would be our last moments together? Mr Magician, we miss you, we love you and we thank you for all you have shared with us.

Janet, Lorenzo, Giulia, Thomas and Michael Bertola

Janet Leeson Bertola - March 15, 2010 at 05:34 PM

DL

“ Big Jim, had a big heart for his friends, and he had many, I personally knew so because early on Jim knew he and I shared the same interests. Thank You for helping me to laugh with you and you being truly one of my best Friends. and we worked together. At the Fire Dept. then you found me again after retirement. Which you told me yourself. "this will be a blessing" Now you are missed as a close friend, Thank You to Jim and many prayers to his loving family members.

Dwight Lewis - March 15, 2010 at 04:13 PM