



James Iven Richards

November 22, 1931 - February 18, 2021

James Iven Richards was born on November 22, 1931, the son of Iven and Lona Richards. He grew up with five sisters in Brown County and then Martinsville, Indiana, where his father was Chief of Police. He was fourteen, a basketball player at the time, when he contracted polio and could never walk again without using metal crutches. But he didn't let that stop him. He modified cars so he could drive just using his hands, refused to use handicap plates or park in handicapped spots, and refused to use a wheelchair for almost seventy years.

After surviving quarantine in the Riley hospital polio ward, he finished high school and then put himself through college, earning a degree in accounting at Indiana University, while working as a police dispatcher in Martinsville, all the while relying on crutches for his mobility.

Upon graduation, "Jimmy" became a certified public accountant and joined the accounting department of Cummins Engine Company in Columbus, Indiana where he rose to the level of Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer, retiring at age 55.

In 1954 Jim married Shirley Ellen Shields of Martinsville, and raised two children, Jef and Mark, in Columbus, Indiana. Jim and Shirley would have celebrated their 67th anniversary next month. In the 1970s they, along with business partners Barney and Marilu Carr, bought and operated the Columbus Village Apartments (now called Townhomes).

Jim and Shirley were long time members of First Christian Church in Columbus, where some of their strongest friendships were formed. They, along with the Carrs, created an endowment to support the Church's music program. Jim was also the Treasurer, a Deacon and an Elder at the Church.

Jim was a fan of the basketball and football programs at Indiana University, as well as of the Indianapolis Colts. He loved dogs, especially English Bulldogs. Above all else, he loved his family and was devoted to them.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, along with his sons, Jef and Mark , his sister, Janice Abel, his daughter-in-law Shawn Colquitt Richards, his grandchildren, Connor Richards, Jake Richards, Madeline Richards, and Kyle Richards, granddaughter-in-law Annie Sturges Richards, brothers-in-law Steven Abel and Robert Shields, sister-in-law Sharon Bolin, and extended family throughout Brown, Shelby and Monroe Counties. Jim was predeceased by his parents, and his sisters Bette Jane Petro, Doris Clark, Marion Kindred, and Emma Kathleen Critser-Randol.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the First Christian Church Music Fund, 531 5th Street, Columbus, IN 47201.

Services will be Saturday, February 27, at the First Christian Church in Columbus. Funeral will be held at 1:00, with viewing beginning at 11:00 am. Masks are required, and social distancing will be observed.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Jewell-Rittman Family Funeral Home, Columbus, IN

Cemetery

Garland Brook Cemetery

501 N Gladstone
Columbus, IN,

Events

FEB **Visitation** 11:00AM - 01:00PM

27

First Christian Church
531 5th St., Columbus, IN, US, 47201

FEB **Funeral** 01:00PM

27

First Christian Church
531 5th St., Columbus, IN, US, 47201

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Jewell-Rittman Funeral Home - February 24 at 12:13 PM



“ Hi Shirley, we were so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. We were blessed to have been your neighbors for 20 years. I always enjoyed chatting with Jim on his daily walks in the neighborhood. We had our many agreements on the Cardinals but had an occasional disagreement on Bobby Knight and IU. Most especially, I enjoyed hear Jim say that he liked to see women work. I have used that saying myself more than once. Our apologies because our son Matt is moving to Cincinnati on Saturday where he's now working for General Electric. We are sorry for your loss. Prayers for you, Mark and Jef.

Joe Fuehne & Gail Guynn

Joe Fuehne - February 27 at 08:39 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Iven Richards.



February 25 at 11:26 AM



“ I'll never forget how supportive he was when I became single again after 38 yrs. of marriage. He was so patient and generous w/ his time answering my dumb questions re finances as I was suddenly the one in charge of handling them. Divorce was never my game plan and he knew I was struggling. He was a huge blessing to First Christian church, too, in helping their leadership make wise financial decisions. His expertise was invaluable! He'll be missed by many.

Dot Yeaton

Dot Yeaton - February 23 at 11:50 AM