



James Arthur Perkin

March 6, 1945 - January 17, 2026

James Arthur Perkin, age 80, of Rudyard, Michigan, died on January 17, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center – Sault, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was born on March 6, 1945, in Flint, Michigan, to John and Mary Annie (Jenkins) Perkin.

James grew up in Flint, where he spent his early years and graduated from Southwestern High School. In 1965, he proudly joined the United States Air Force, serving his country in England. During this time, he met the love of his life, Irene Wottrich. The two were married on July 13, 1968, in Luton, England, and shared fifty-seven devoted years together, building a life centered on family, hard work, and simple joys.

After starting their family, James and Irene returned to Flint, where James worked for General Motors before beginning a long career with ADT Security, where he was employed for over twenty years. In 1992 he moved to Durand, Michigan, and later, the family moved to the Upper Peninsula. While living in Kinross, James worked for G-Tech, servicing lottery machines throughout the entire Upper Peninsula. The couple later settled in Rudyard, Michigan. James retired in 2010 and truly embraced retirement, enjoying each day to the fullest.

James was a proud member of the Jaycees in Durand, spending time selling Christmas trees, something he took great pride in. He was also a faithful

member of the United Methodist Church in Flint.

James enjoyed life's everyday pleasures. He loved going out to eat, doing a little shopping, and relaxing at home watching Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune every night for the past forty years. He was a devoted Michigan State sports fan and he also enjoyed running track and field in high school. Above all, James cherished time spent with his family.

James is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Irene; daughters, "Annie" Perkin of Rudyard and Sharon Kepsel (Cedrick) Tenoil of Grand Rapids, Michigan; grandchildren, Megan Sylvester, Mileena Sylvester, and James Kepsel; brother, Thomas (Linda) Perkin of South Carolina; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

James was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Annie; grandparents, James and Ethel Perkin; and brother-in-law, Michael "Mick" Wolwich.

A private Graveside Service will be held at a later date.

James' final resting place will be at Crestwood Memorial Gardens in Flint, Michigan.

Memorial contributions in James' honor may be made to the Salvation Army, 220 Osborn Blvd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Cemetery Details

Crestwood Memorial Gardens

Flint, MI

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Irene, I am so sorry to hear of Jim’s passing. It’s been many years since we last saw you and Jim or even communicated for that matter. However, I often think back to the years we were all in England, and of course your being Margaret’s bridesmaid at our wedding. I am sorry to say that I lost Margaret just over three years ago, so I certainly know the emptiness you are feeling. My sympathies to you, Ann, Sharon and family. Rick

RICHARD GRISWOLD - January 30 at 08:00 PM



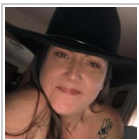
We tried finding you on Facebook. No luck. We would really love to hear from you. Please give us a call. 906 442 1035 Irene.

Annie Perkin - February 03 at 09:04 PM

SJ

“ I remember how handsome you looked in the church at Luton, I was your bridesmaid, and I looked at you thinking how lucky Irene was to have a brand new life in the USA with you.
Go swiftly and gently to the rest of the family, they are waiting x

Susan Hartnett nee Jackson - January 30 at 04:47 AM



“ I’m blessed to have met you and your family.
You are all in my thoughts and prayers, rest easy my friend ~ Susan



Susan Pins - January 28 at 06:42 PM

RW

“ *Happy memories when you stayed with me in Barton, I remember how Jim loved his steak. Just before you went to America if I remember correctly. Take care of yourself Irene much love and condolences from cousin Rita xxxxx*

rita watters - January 27 at 06:02 PM