



James E. Quinnell

July 6, 1935 - October 19, 2024

James E. Quinnell, age 89, of Pickford, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 19, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of family, friends and remarkable achievements. He was born on July 6, 1935, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to John and Violet (Rudd) Quinnell, Jim was a proud graduate of Pickford High School, where he excelled in athletics, earning All-State honors in basketball and playing a key role in Pickford's first Track Team, which started a winning streak of 27 consecutive UP State Finals.

He continued his passion for sports at Lake Superior State University (then called Sault Tech), where he played basketball and ran track. His basketball team was inducted into the LSSU Hall of Fame for averaging 101 points per game, and as he often pointed out, this was without the benefit of a three-point line. While at LSSU, he received the Clifford Everett Award for athlete of the year. Jim then attended Northern Michigan University, where he ran track and received his Bachelor of Science degree. In all he earned 7 college letters in sports. He then attended Wayne State University to obtain his mortuary license in 1958.

On August 9, 1957, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Beth Wallis. Together, they shared 57 wonderful years of marriage until her passing in October 2014. He was the owner of the Quinnell Funeral Home for over 25 years. He later built and operated the Comfort Inn in Sault Ste. Marie until his

retirement in 1999.

Jim enjoyed spending time with family and friends at their cottage on the lake in Hessel and took many memorable trips to Florida. He was deeply involved in his community, making countless contributions to those around him. He served on the Board of the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation for over 33 years, and on the board of the Munoscong Golf Club for more than 40 years. He was a lifetime member of the Pickford Presbyterian Church and a member of the Pickford Lions Club. Jim loved snowmobiling, golfing, boating, and hunting. He looked forward to meeting with friends every morning for coffee where they would engage in lively discussions and attempt to solve the world's problems.

Jim is survived by his daughter, Pam (Mike) Zamora of Grand Junction, CO; son, Mike (Sandy) Quinnell of Freeland, MI; grandchildren, Nathan (Elizabeth) Pancheri, Adam (Corinna) Pancheri, Emily (Troy) Gomez, Quinn Zamora, Lauren (Max) Modrall, and Ryan Quinnell; great-grandchildren, Sawyer and Hudson Pancheri, Corbin, Piper, and Myles Pancheri, and Rylie Jo Gomez; sister-in-law, Ardith Bawks; and many close nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Beth; and daughter, Jacki Pancheri.

Jim will be deeply missed by his family and friends, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024, from 3:00 PM till 7:00 PM at Family Life Funeral Homes – Pickford, 24549 S. M-129, Pickford, MI 49774 and on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 10:00 AM till 11:00 AM at Pickford Presbyterian Church, 115 E John St, Pickford, MI 49774. Funeral Service will begin at 11:00 AM.

The burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens, in Bruce Township, Michigan.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Pickford Presbyterian Church, PO Box 266. Pickford, MI 49774 or to the Pickford Public Schools Sports Booster, 333 S. Pleasant St., Pickford, MI 49774.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
fifh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

OCT **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pickford Presbyterian Church
M-129 and John Street
Pickford, MI 49774

Funeral Service

OCT **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pickford Presbyterian Church
M-129 and John Street
Pickford, MI 49774

Tribute Wall

AR

“ *To: the family of Jim Quinnell; So sorry for the loss of Jim! He was such an icon of Pickford, and such a nice man to talk to. prayers to family and friends!*
Fred and Amy Raden

Amy Raden - October 25, 2024 at 04:53 PM

AA

“ *Abby, Eric, and Ann purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James E. Quinnell.*



Abby, Eric, and Ann - October 24, 2024 at 08:06 PM

MT

“ *Michelle Tobias lit a candle in memory of James E. Quinnell*



Michelle Tobias - October 24, 2024 at 04:22 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James E. Quinnell.*



October 23, 2024 at 02:55 PM

LS

“ *Sorry for your loss, Jim was a joy and will be missed.*

Lisa (Libby) Sims - October 23, 2024 at 02:42 PM

TF

“ *The Koedam Family purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of James E. Quinnell.*



The Koedam Family - October 23, 2024 at 07:37 AM

CR

“ *Cherie Rosing Rye lit a candle in memory of James E. Quinnell*



Cherie Rosing Rye - October 22, 2024 at 08:44 PM

DM

“ *To Jim's family,*

So sorry for your loss. Jim was a great guy who I always enjoyed talking to, mostly about sporting events.

RIP, Jim, you will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Dave Miller

Retired DeTour Girls BB coach

David F. Miller - October 22, 2024 at 04:42 PM

TL

“ Tracey, Courtney, Katie and Lisa purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of James E. Quinnell.



Tracey, Courtney, Katie and Lisa - October 22, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James E. Quinnell.



October 22, 2024 at 10:51 AM

AP

“ Anne Pancheri Papineau lit a candle in memory of James E. Quinnell



Anne Pancheri Papineau - October 22, 2024 at 09:36 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of James E. Quinnell.



October 22, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ *Your Family at Freeland Dentistry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James E. Quinnell.*

Your Family at Freeland Dentistry - October 22, 2024 at 08:32 AM