



## James C. Higgins

June 6, 1941 - July 14, 2023

James C. Higgins of Cadillac passed away Friday, July 14, 2023 at his home. He was 82. Jim was born on June 6, 1941 in Flint, Michigan to Evan W. & Helen R. (McIntyre) Higgins.

In 1959 he graduated from Flint Central High School and went on to Flint Junior College. On June 15, 1963 in Flint he married his one true love the former Joan R. Ryder. He later transferred to Michigan State University (lived in married housing) where he received his Bachelor's degree in Forestry. He then moved to Missoula, Montana and started his career with the United States Forest Service and went on to receive his Master's degree from the University of Montana. Throughout his over 30 year career with the U.S. Forest Service Jim lived in 7 cities and 5 states making Cadillac his home.

After his retirement he worked as the assistant treasurer for with Cherry Grove Township, helped on elections, and wrote the Township newsletter. As an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, Jim served on many committees there. He was also a member of the Cadillac Lions Club, Cadillac Elks Lodge, National Association Retired Forest Service, and an honorary member of the Cadillac Garden Club as the photographer.

Jim had many hobbies including: playing poker with his friends, family games, yard games, hunting, fishing, traveling, and watching birds, camping, golfing,

and going to breakfast & dinner with friends and family, photography. Many people have seen Jim's talent as a photographer in the Cadillac News over the years as well as with the Garden Club and at Zion Lutheran Church.

Survivors include his children: Jeffrey (Lori) Higgins of Smithville, Missouri, Jennifer (Tim) Suck of Cadillac, and Jill (Brandon) Hamilton of Kalamazoo, Michigan; 7 grandchildren: Korey Higgins, Heather Higgins, Andrew (Samantha) Wilhelm, Brock Wilhelm, Valyrie (Trent) Garrett, Audrey Hamilton and Kaitlyn Hamilton; one great grandson, Colt Wilhelm; 2 siblings: William Higgins of Norfolk, Virginia and Mary McLean of Sage Lake, Michigan.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years Joan who passed away on August 7, 2021.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, July 22, 2023 at Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac with Reverend Scott Torkko officiating. Friends may meet the family from 5-7 PM Friday at the church and prior to the services on Saturday. Memorial contributions may be made to Zion Lutheran Church or to Cherry Grove Fire & Rescue. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUL **21.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church  
350 Pearl St  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
(231) 775-9821

## Memorial Service

JUL **22.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church  
350 Pearl St  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
(231) 775-9821

# Tribute Wall

KN

“ My condolences to James Higgins family. He was a great asset to Zion Lutheran Church. He will be greatly missed.

Kathy Nelson - July 21, 2023 at 11:05 PM

SB

“ Oh what a shock - Jim and I had reconnected on Facebook recently. Jim had come to our resort in Ontario for years. After we sold we lost contact. Jim and I shared a love for birding. Lee and I send our prayers and sympathy for your family. Sue & Lee Burk

Sue Burk - July 21, 2023 at 10:08 PM

JK

“ James(Junhwan), Kim purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James C. Higgins.



James(Junhwan), Kim - July 21, 2023 at 01:18 PM

JK

“ James(Junhwan), Kim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James C. Higgins.

James(Junhwan), Kim - July 21, 2023 at 01:18 PM

JK

“ James(Junhwan), Kim sent a virtual gift in memory of James C. Higgins



James(Junhwan), Kim - July 21, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.



July 21, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James C. Higgins.

July 21, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.



July 21, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.*



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July 20, 2023 at 09:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James C. Higgins.

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July 19, 2023 at 07:18 PM



“ *Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.*



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July 19, 2023 at 07:18 PM



“ *Condolences to Jim's family! We only had a few times that we got to spend time with Jim. Thankfully it was for tailgating and attending Chiefs games! We very much enjoyed spending time with Jim, getting to know him, playing games, eating great food and watching football. We walked away from those moments knowing we had spent time with a warm, caring man who loved his family very much. Thoughts and prayers,*

*Scott Fravel and Gayle O'Hair*

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**Scott Fravel** - July 19, 2023 at 06:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.



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July 19, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James C. Higgins.

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July 19, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ My initial impression of Jim when we crossed paths nearly 40 years ago was of an honest and caring human being. All interactions that followed reinforced that initial impression and added to my respect for Jim. His character enriched people who benefited by his presence.

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Harry - July 19, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ Jim was a good and kind friend. If every community had volunteers like Jim, the world would be a better place. Jim was ahead of his time with computers and digital photography. Larry and I will always be grateful for the eagle photos he took. After working together several months, Jim admitted I was his first woman boss. Yet he was the computer whiz and it never felt like anything but coworkers striving for the same goals. He lived his Christian faith and it is a blessing that he and Joan are reunited.

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Margo Copley - July 18, 2023 at 06:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James C. Higgins.

July 18, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.



July 18, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.



July 18, 2023 at 12:35 PM

RS

“ I have known Jim for many years as we were long time associates in the USFS, and our paths crossed several times at different duty stations. Our last being on the Huron-Manistee NF's and then as members of the USFS National Retirees Association. We had many retiree breakfasts together where we swapped seasonal hunting stories and current happenings.

*Jim was a kind and caring person, and he will be missed. Prayers are sent as he and Joan now join each other in Heaven.*

*~~Ron Scott*

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**Ron Scott** - July 18, 2023 at 11:39 AM

BS

“ Jim was one of the nicest men I ever met and had the privilege of working for. He was kind, funny, knowledgeable, willing to listen, helpful, and always imparted a sense of optimism. A good leader! Outside of work, he shared his expertise about Michigan ("guided" me on my first Michigan turkey hunt, and shared deer hunting and PM salmon fishing adventures; the man was an expert woodsman!). I "donated" a lot of \$ change to Jim via the poker table, he was a math whiz with his skill at counting cards (but I willingly came back for more "dues paying" to enjoy his companionship). My condolences to the family, we have lost a good man.

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**Bob Stuber** - July 18, 2023 at 08:41 AM

DH

“ My sincere condolences to the family for the loss of Jim. What a shock!!! What a kind, sweet man he was. I enjoyed working with Jim at the Huron-Manistee National Forests for years. When I needed help unloading and setting up for the Red Cross Blood Drives, I could always count on Jim. He enjoyed life, traveling, golfing, taking pictures, playing cards, being with friends. I'm sure Joan and Jim are together again.

Darlene Hettel - July 18, 2023 at 12:22 AM

RB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was such a kind man. He and Joan are together again. God Bless. Rae Berwald

Rae Berwald - July 17, 2023 at 09:09 PM

EM

“ Jim was a great person and well liked by all. I always insisted to him that he had to be at church service to keep Jen in line. I know he will still be there in spirit. My deepest sympathy to all his family. What a time of rejoicing when Joan met him at those pearly gates. Peace to the family.

ELSIE L MOORE - July 17, 2023 at 07:09 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James C. Higgins.



July 17, 2023 at 06:19 PM