



Col James Henry "Jim" Wakeman

June 4, 1945 - March 18, 2017

Col. James Henry "Jim" Wakeman, 71 of Kansas City, Missouri passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2017. Jim was born June 4, 1945 to Frank and Blanche (Fourth) Wakeman in St. Louis, Missouri. A Bearcat through and through, he graduated with a Bachelors and a Masters in History and Geography from Northwest Missouri State College in Maryville, Missouri. Jim served his country proudly in the U.S. Army, retiring after 34 years and 1 month as the Chief of Staff of the Missouri Army National Guard. Jim was always performing; Music and Live Theatre were important to him. A bass, with versatility that any director would love, Jim could sing Tenor as well. He was a member and President of the Congregation at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church where he sang in the Choir. He sang with the Metro Men's Chorus of Kansas City several years and the Northland Community Choir. He also performed with TMI Musical and Theatre group and Singing with Cantorium in Jefferson City, where lasting friendships were made. He was a Lifetime Member of both the VFW and the American Legion. In retirement Jim was busy helping at his beloved church, he served as the Head of Emergency Management for the State of Missouri, which took on new meaning post Sept. 11, 2001, Mastering Golf with his Golf Groups, Keeping up with his beloved Bearcat Family at Northwest reunions and socials, and he looked forward to his 'Breakfast with Garys' where he would catch up on the week. Jim is survived by his son, Jeremy Wakeman, and daughter-in-law, Stephanie, adored grandkids; Samantha and Joshua along with his fiancé, Barbra

Gunderson. Jim was immediately loved by all he worked with, performed with and all he met. Visitation with family and friends will be Friday, March 24th from 6-9pm and at 2pm, one hour before service time at 3pm, Saturday, March 25th all at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church; 5409 NW 72nd Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64151. Jim will be buried with Full Military Honors at Leavenworth National Cemetery with his beloved wife, Suzie who left a great void May 13, 2013. A Celebration of Life Fellowship will be held at the Church following service time on Saturday where all are welcome to share their memories of their great friend. Donations suggested to Wounded Warrior Project (<http://WoundedWarriorProject.org>) or to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Cashatt Family Funeral Home 816-587-8200.

Fond memories and words of comfort may be shared at: www.CashattFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Leavenworth National Cemetery

150 Muncie Road
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **24.** 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Gloria Dei Lutheran
5409 NW 72nd Street
Kansas City, MO 64151

Visitation

MAR **25.** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Gloria Dei Lutheran
5409 NW 72nd Street
Kansas City, MO 64151

Service

MAR **25.** 3:00 PM (CT)

Gloria Dei Lutheran
5409 NW 72nd Street
Kansas City, MO 64151

Tribute Wall



“ *Col James Henry "Jim" Wakeman*

October 04, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ *I played golf with Jim in the Hodge Senior League on several occasions.. Always a gentleman on and off the course. He will be missed. Richard Johns*

Richard Johns - March 26, 2017 at 02:43 PM



“ *I met Jim many years ago on the golf course. We became very good friends and enjoyed many golf trips. I really enjoyed his singing and acting and made as many of his performances as possible.*
We were both able to cope with the loss of our wives to cancer after many beautiful years together. We would confide in each other and provide that message to make life worth living. I will truly miss these conversations.
God be with the Wakeman family and friends during this time.

Gary Lock

Gary Lock - March 25, 2017 at 11:46 AM



“ *Roger&Genie Schlegel lit a candle in memory of Col James Henry "Jim" Wakeman*



Roger&Genie schlegel - March 25, 2017 at 09:18 AM

RS

*Such wonderful times we have spent with you and Barb and cooper. we will miss your woundful laughter and bright smile. Rest in Peace.
Roger&genie*

Roger&Genie schlegel - March 25, 2017 at 09:21 AM

JT

*“ I worked with Jim both in the military and at the State Emergency Management Agency. Jim was a fine man and a good friend. I also visited with Jim as he performed with Jefferson City vocal groups. He loved to sing and had a tremendous voice. He was a kind and considerate man and we will miss him here on earth. --COL
(Retired) John Tandy*

John A. Tandy - March 24, 2017 at 02:11 PM

MP

*“ Jim was the kind of friend we all wish we were more. He is gone but will always be remembered in our hearts and minds. We will miss him dearly.
Tom Peak*

Melinda Peak - March 24, 2017 at 07:54 AM

GC

*“ It was a privilege and honor to work with COL Wakeman during my time in the Missouri Army National Guard. He never met anyone who he didn't like. Rest in Peace my friend. CW2 Gerald Chambers
(Retired)*

Gerald Chambers - March 24, 2017 at 07:02 AM

MW

“ I served with Jim at the state headquarters of the Missouri National Guard. He was always looking out for opportunities to help others. He called me one day and suggested that there was a active duty tour available teaching ROTC at Warrensburg and would I be interested in taking that job. That call started a military career path ending at the Pentagon, where I retired as a colonel in the Missouri National Guard. I had a successful 18 year second career as a lobbyist where I retirement as the Legislative Director for the National Guard Association of the US . If it wasn't for his thoughtful call, none of this would have happened. I probably would have stayed in Eldon raising turkeys. I will always remember that phone call which changed my life.

Mike Waite

Mike Waite - March 23, 2017 at 04:30 PM

KV

“ Jim was a man of intelligence, honor, leadership, caring and love. He will be greatly missed. We have great memories of golfing, singing, and performing. Our sincere sympathy to the family and loved ones.

All the way my Savior leads me

O the fullness of His love!

Perfect rest to me is promised

In my Father's house above.

When my spirit, clothed immortal,

Wings its flight to realms of day

This my song through endless ages:

Jesus led me all the way.

From,

Gary and Kristin Van De Velde

Kristin Van De Velde - March 22, 2017 at 05:23 PM

LS

“I might not be the best artilleryman, but I believe I know how to manage people.” No truer words have been said. I enjoyed serving under him as the Captain of B-129 FA in Chillicothe in 1971. Also, working with the Highway Patrol in Jeff City, I would run into him ever so often. I was always happy to see and talk to him. He was always glad to see me. We were not close but I will miss him too.

Lee Swearingen - March 22, 2017 at 10:57 AM

DM

“My deepest condolences to you and your loved ones on the passing of Coach Wakeman. With deep sympathy and fond memories I just read his obit.

Back in 1975, I was a green freshman in his American History class and also played basketball.

He was always kind, encouraging, fair, and inspirational as he brought the best out in us.

Prayers of peace and love for to you.

Dixie Eitel McGary

Dix McGary - March 22, 2017 at 10:27 AM

JJ

“Jim and I knew each other from CBC'63. Occasionally sharing rides since we were both East of Grand people. He grew up near my father's physician office. Always a nice person and those who loved him will be sharing a huge lose.

JOHN PAUL JONES CBC'63

JOHN PAUL JONES - March 22, 2017 at 09:27 AM

MB

“ Jeremy,

I am so sorry to learn of your father's passing and extend you my sincere sympathy. He was a true gentleman. God Bless.

Mike Backer

Mike Backer - March 22, 2017 at 09:12 AM

RW

“ *Very saddened to hear of the passing of COL Wakeman. We had the pleasure of meeting and knowing Jim and Suzie during my tenure in the National Guard. Our condolences go out to his family in this difficult time. He will be missed.*

Rich and Gayle Witherbee

Richard Witherbee - March 21, 2017 at 10:29 PM

RK

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 09:20 PM

RK

Jim with his fiance, Barbra Gunderson at the DII Championship Football Game - December 17, 2016

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 09:23 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 06:00 PM

RK

Jim with Fraternity Brothers on Alaska Cruise

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 06:01 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 05:44 PM

RK

Jim with Joe Caraway, Paula Boyer, & Charlie Boyer at Pike Place Market - Seattle

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 05:45 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 05:41 PM

RK

Jim on Alaska Cruise at Glacier (June 2016)

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 05:42 PM

GU

“ *I served under Col Wakeman while in the 129FA MOARNG and had Jeremy as a Masters student. My condolences and respect to the family. Jim was a great commander and an even better man. While I had many occasions to experience his bass and sometimes even his tenor voice I didn't realize that he could also put it to music until today.*

Gary Ury - March 21, 2017 at 03:53 PM

RK

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 02:03 PM

RK

Northwest Missouri Football - 1964

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 02:11 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 02:02 PM

RK

Jim (#72) High School Football Team

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 02:13 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 01:58 PM

RK

Jim on Alaskan Cruise (2016) with Fraternity Brother Joe Caraway

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 02:14 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 12:50 PM

RK

Jim on Alaskan Cruise (2016) with Fraternity Brothers

Rich Knauss - March 21, 2017 at 02:14 PM

WA

“ I knew Jim, mostly through his wife Suzie. He always seemed very reserved and formal with me--a little intimidating. Until one night when I had to drop off something for Suzie after dark. As I approached the house, I heard him open the breezeway door and softly call Suzie's pet cat. He was saying, "Here Patches, come here Baby," in the softest, most coaxing tone. I had to suppress a laugh, because I didn't want to ruin his tough guy persona!!! A stern guy with a very soft heart.

Wendy Alvarez - March 21, 2017 at 10:53 AM

RW

“ It was a great honor and pleasure to know COL. (R) Wakeman and his amazing wife Susie. He was very instrumental in guiding my career and supporting me along the way. He knew both my children from his/their involvement in music and theater here in the Jefferson City area. He was a great friend, boss, soldier and human being. From all of my family to his family our thoughts and prayers are with you. He will be missed and always remembered. RIP my friend.

Ray, Sandy, Nathan and Megan Wadley

Ray Wadley - March 21, 2017 at 10:41 AM

LK

He was always COL Wakeman to me until later in my career when he insisted I call him Jim. Business and Profession turned into Friendship as it sometimes does and I grew to love and admire him as a person. Tailwinds forever my Friend!

Larry D. Kay - March 23, 2017 at 05:22 PM

ER

“ Jim and Susie were good friends and we will always have them in our hearts. We have many photos of them at Guard, Capitol and events in Jefferson City. Skip and Jim had many conversations about serving in Vietnam. After Jim was promoted in the Guard , Skip told him to see who his friends were previously because many would want to be his friend now, Jim told him about a year later that Skip's word had certainly been true and laughed. Everyone liked Jim and Susie. We can't believe they are both gone from us now. A great loss to their friends and their family and our country.
Love from CSM WM. "Skip" Rich and Eva Rich

Eva Rich - March 21, 2017 at 10:03 AM

LG

“ Dennis and I knew Jim and Suzie when they lived in Jefferson City, MO. They were the most loving and caring people we knew. Both were giant Christians and had a deep sense peace about their faith and lives. I believe Suzie and Jim are now dancing together in heaven with big, big smiles on their faces. Our prayers go out to family and friends left here. May we all meet together in heaven in our time.
Laurel and Dennis Garber



Laurel Garber - March 21, 2017 at 09:56 AM

FG

“ I taught and coached at Lafayette HS in St Joseph and had the pleasure of meeting Jim on the track at the Maryville Relays. Then a few years later I visited him again in Jefferson City while he was the Chief-of-Staff for the Missouri National Guard. I always considered him a honorable and decent man. He will be missed. Frank Gross

Frank Gross - March 21, 2017 at 09:20 AM

CS

“ *Jim will truly be missed. He was a great friend and officer. My prayers are with Jim's family and Jeremy's family also.*



Cyndi Summers - March 20, 2017 at 11:24 PM