



James John Braida

November 18, 1933 - September 9, 2018

James J. "Jim" Braida, 84, of Amboy, died Sunday, September 9, 2018, at Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation Center surrounded by his loving family. He was born November 18, 1933, in Spring Valley, the son of James J. and Esther (Koenen) Braida. He married Marilyn Kulpa August 9, 1958, at St. Valentine Catholic Church in Peru and they recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. Jim graduated from Hall Township High School, Class of 1951, then entered the Army where he was stationed at the Panama Canal Zone as a radioman and trained in jungle warfare. Afterwards, he began his undergraduate studies at LPO Junior College (IVCC) and completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. In a chance campus encounter, he met Bob Reinboth, Amboy principal, who asked him if he would consider teaching at Amboy. He came to District 272 in 1960 and taught at Walton School for three years. He then taught business classes at Amboy High School for 5 years, coached football and track teams, and served as the first president of the Amboy Teacher's Association. He became principal of Amboy High School in Fall 1967, a year before the new high school was built, and remained as principal until his retirement in May 1993. In a newspaper interview, he was quoted as saying "I have never met a bad kid". In March 2018, the James Braida Auditorium at Amboy High School was dedicated in his honor. After retiring, he was the principal and a teacher at St. Mary's School in Dixon from 1994-2000. He was a member of Illinois Principal's Association, Illinois Education Association, and the National

Education Association. Jim & Marilyn also established the James Braida Teacher Scholarship to encourage students to become teachers.

Jim was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy, and recited the Rosary daily. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Amboy Lions Club where he received the Melvin Jones Award, and was a past Commander and current finance officer of Amboy American Legion Post #453. He traveled to Washington DC on the Honor Flight in 2015. He was also a member of Shady Oaks Country Club and the Depot Museum. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals and Green Bay Packers fan, and enjoyed golfing, fishing, sports card collecting, flea markets, and spending time with his family. He also enjoyed traveling in the US and Europe, especially Italy, which he and Marilyn visited on several occasions.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one son James C. "Jay" Braida. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; three children, Perry Braida of Amboy, Timothy Braida of Normal, and Bonnie Braida of Henderson, NV; daughter-in-law Donna Braida of Princeton; 4 grandchildren, Shannon and Michael Braida, and Schuyler and Hanna Bielema; three step-grandchildren Amanda (Matt) Pearson, Dustin (Kendra) Wolford, and Jodi (Royce) Fundell; and seven step-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, September 13, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy with the Rosary recited at 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Friday, September 14, 2018, beginning with a 10:00 AM prayer service at funeral home followed by a 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy, with the Rev. Timothy Draper, Pastor, officiating. Burial will follow with Military Honors by the Amboy American Legion in St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy. A memorial has been established to the Amboy American Legion and St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy

816 Rockyford Rd
Amboy, IL 61310

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **13**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy
303 East Main Street
Amboy, IL 61310
(815) 857-2611
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Service

SEP **14**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy
32 N. Jones
Amboy, IL 61310
mail@stpatrickamboy.org
<http://www.stpatrickamboy.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *James John Braid* ”

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *James John Braid* ”

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Jeannine Otto lit a candle in memory of James John Braid* ”



Jeannine Otto - September 14, 2018 at 02:31 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James John Braid.* ”



September 12, 2018 at 10:50 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James John Braid.*



September 12, 2018 at 10:43 AM



“ *Susan Cook lit a candle in memory of James John Braid*



Susan Cook - September 12, 2018 at 10:41 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Mr. Braid's passing. May God comfort you in your loss. Mr. Braid was the best teacher I ever had. I took Business Law from him for two years, my favorite class, and I still retain much of what he taught me. I saw him for the last time at our 50th class reunion, Oct, 2015, and we had a great conversation and shared memories. He was a great teacher and left a wonderful legacy.*

Greg Hackbarth, class of 1965, Amboy High School

Greg Hackbarth - September 12, 2018 at 09:42 AM



Don and I both had Mr. Braid in high school. He was my accounting teacher senior year and I have always credited him with my long career as district bookkeeper for C.U. S. D. #271. He was the best teacher I ever had. He was also one of the nicest men Don and I have ever known. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Don and Sheri Fore.

Sheri Fore - September 13, 2018 at 01:34 PM

MB

“ *Marilyn Braida lit a candle in memory of James John Braida*



marilyn braida - September 12, 2018 at 08:24 AM

DB

“ *I worked with James' parents a long time ago in Spring Valley. They were wonderful people. My heartfelt sympathy to family and friends.*

Dario Benvenuti - September 11, 2018 at 11:43 AM

GS

“ *Jim inspired, and touched so many lives in our community, he will be greatly missed.
Our prayers are with all of you.*

Gary Sylvia Schultz - September 10, 2018 at 06:07 PM

JF

“ *Mr. Braida was one of the good guys! So sorry for your lose.*

Janice Harrison Fenwick

jan fenwick - September 10, 2018 at 12:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James John Braida.*



September 10, 2018 at 08:17 AM

MB

“ *Mr. Braida was truly one of the kindest and caring principals there was, he always treated every single person the same. Sheila (Mead) Hicks and I certainly tried his patience many times and he still was so kind and always tried to teach us how to thrive in all we did. A true hero and angel on earth. Thank you Mr. Braida for your constant kindness. Margie Becker*

Margie Becker - September 09, 2018 at 10:08 PM

HP

Mr. Braids was the best teacher, put I spin on teaching, helping hand when you asked. Great all around man. Thoughts and prayers to the family. Helen (Bulfer) Pettit

Helen (Bulfer) Pettit - September 10, 2018 at 05:34 PM

JM

Mr. Braida was a very kind and funny teacher during my years at AHS. He coached on my track and football teams and was a voice of reason when some of the coaches only cared about winning. He had the knack of making you outperform with just a funny remark when some of the coaches were content to just yell.

Jim McCoy Class of 66

James McCoy - September 11, 2018 at 11:10 AM

CB

Mr. Braida was one of my favorite AHS teachers and inspired me to become a teacher. It was wonderful to see him at our 50th class reunion in 2015. My thoughts and prayers are being sent to his entire family.

Colleen (Benson) Black, AHS class of 1965

Colleen (Benson) Black - September 11, 2018 at 05:57 PM