



James R. Sarver

May 11, 1943 - May 6, 2025

James (Jim) Robert Sarver, 81, of Dixon IL passed away peacefully May 6, 2025

surrounded by his family.

Jim was born May 11, 1943 to Robert (Bob) and Martha (Podwell) Sarver in Beloit, WI.

Jim spent his life building community through his work at the Top O' Town tavern, Singer

Mental Health Center, Sinnissippi Center, and as a member of various nonprofit boards.

Jim was warmly regarded by those who knew him personally and professionally. While

Jim was honored for his civic work many times, he would tell you that his biggest

accomplishment -- and the one he was most proud of -- was his family.

Jim found his North star, his beloved wife, Inger Synnøve, while in the Air Force and

stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany. Inger came to Germany from Fredrikstad, Norway,

as an au pair. It was a serendipitous encounter that led a boy from Wisconsin and girl

from Norway to meet and fall in love. Jim and Inger were married on September 2, 1965

and soon thereafter welcomed their beautiful children, Cynthia (Cindy) and Patrick to start their family in Beloit, WI.

Jim will be remembered as “one of the good guys.” He never met someone he couldn’t call a friend, and he especially enjoyed those who had a love for fishing the Canadian waters and cheering on his beloved Green Bay Packers. Jim touched the lives of so many people in ways he will never know, especially through his enduring contributions as a leader of Sinnissippi Center in Dixon, IL and the many other community health organizations he helped to lead and build. It was a good life and he will be missed by so many.

Jim is preceded in death by his mother and father, Martha and Robert. He is survived by his devoted wife, his son Patrick (Cindy Barriga), his daughter Cynthia (Kip Hedges), and grandchildren Martina, Harrison, and Leonardo Sarver, and Julian Escher. Jim is also survived by many beloved family members across the ocean in Norway. As Jim wished, his family will gather for a private ceremony in his remembrance. The family requests that those who wish to express sympathy consider making a donation in his name to Sinnissippi Center or Heritage Square in lieu of flowers.

Tribute Wall



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

May 13, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ Dear Inger & family, I am a friend from the local frameshop in town where I saw Inger a lot and spent many Mondays with Jim at Rotary and saw them around town as a couple! Theirs was a true love story like I ve never seen and many people would wish to have! My sincere condolences are with all of you! Diane Schnake

Diane Schnake - May 12, 2025 at 06:42 PM



“ In the memory of our beloved uncle Jim ❤️ Despite the distance between the US and Norway, we were lucky to spend quite a lot of time together. Both in the US and in Norway, and some of us even at your favorite fishing camp in Canada ❤️ You were such a caring uncle and brother-in-law and we all experienced your sincere interest in our lives. Our aunt Inger Synnøve truly meet one of the very best in Germany all those years ago, and connected our lives and continents ❤️ We will miss you so much and forever cherish the good memories 🙏❤️ Lots of love to tante Synnøve and the families of Cindy and Pat from your family in Norway 🙏❤️



Elisabeth Sjørdahl - May 10, 2025 at 04:58 AM

LN

“ *Lars Carlheim, Fredrikstad, Norway lit a candle in memory of James Sarver*



Lars Carlheim, Fredrikstad, Norway - May 10, 2025 at 02:37 AM

RD

“ *My sincere condolences to you Inger and to your entire family on both sides of the Atlantic. Jim was one of the true leaders of our BCHS class of 61 and went on to use those leadership skills in admirable ways. He will be missed.*
Dick DuFour

Richard DuFour - May 09, 2025 at 08:58 PM

RL

“ *Dear Inger, I say we gather all the good thoughts and times and deposit them into the memory box of our all minds. Rest in peace my friend, Cheers, Rene*

Rene Lagler - May 09, 2025 at 08:28 PM

DB

“ *Inger, I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We talked on the 28th. One of the great memories of my life was getting re-acquainted with Jim and our lunches at Hudson. Please accept my sincere condolences. He was a good friend and I miss him already.*
Denny Burkart
Eau Claire

denny Burkart - May 09, 2025 at 02:28 PM

BC

“ Oh Inger I am so sorry to hear about Jim’s passing. The class of ‘61 has lost a great guy. I sure am glad we were able to get together last year, Take care, Barb Carter

Barb Carter - May 08, 2025 at 08:30 PM

Jamie
Cox

“ Jamie Cox lit a candle in memory of James Sarver



Jamie Cox - May 08, 2025 at 07:18 PM

PI

I met Jim at my own Dad's funeral and his comforting words stayed with me. I hope Jim and my Dad are having some incredible conversations right now. Much love to all who new and loved Jim.

Piper - May 11, 2025 at 08:43 AM