



## James L. Knapp

February 6, 1938 - July 18, 2017

James (Jim) L. Knapp, 79, a resident of Fergus Falls, passed away peacefully on Tuesday July 18, 2017 at Pioneer Care surrounded by his family.

Born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota on February 6, 1938 to James H. & Marjorie (Lindquist) Knapp, Jim enjoyed living in the Fergus Falls community for the majority of his life.

In his younger years, Jim was active in helping his parents raise quarter horses, along with driving cab for the family taxi service. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1956, Jim began his career with Ottertail Power Company, where he retired as Chief Dispatcher/System Operations in 1998. He was a life member of American Power Dispatchers Association, where he served as National Secretary and a National Outstanding Service Award.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying a lifelong passion for hunting, fishing, and sporting clays. One of his greatest enjoyments was duck hunting with his son, Jeff. An important part of his life was spent at deer hunting camp near Blackduck, MN, beginning in the early 1970's. Jim made sure that family values and hunting traditions, which he learned from his grandfather and father, be passed to future generations.

Jim and Janet purchased their cabin at Fish Lake in 1980 and enjoyed their summers at the peacefully beautiful paradise they created together, where they always welcomed friends and family with warm hospitality.

While Jim enjoyed escorting his wife, Janet, on their many quilting safaris, he also led Janet & their children on many adventurous excursions, explorations and travels (too numerous to fully mention) – from backpacking on Ram Lake, to portaging through the Boundary Waters, and (as a couple) traversing throughout the US, Europe, the Caribbean, and Mexico. Their favorite trip was in 1979, when they drove 8,060 miles throughout Alaska.

As a proud citizen of the United States and an active member of the community he was involved in many organizations, associations and clubs - from Boy Scouts and Fergus Falls Saddle Club to the Elks, Eagles, NRA, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Amateur Trapshooting Association, Lakes Curling, Fergus Falls Hockey Association, and served as a director and officer for Fergus Falls Fish & Game, Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club Foundation and Lakes Area Shooting.

Jim was an active man of faith and a member of Federated Church in Fergus Falls since 1947. He served on the Board of Managers and was ordained as an Elder in 2013. You could find him serving everything from coffee to communion, and from washing dishes to sweeping floors. He thoroughly enjoyed supporting Janet's love for organizing the annual spring salad luncheons for nearly a decade.

He was an easy conversationalist with warm welcoming hugs often enjoying his many breakfasts with friends at the Viking Cafe, shooting the breeze while playing snooker at The Corner, or just bumping into someone at Fleet Farm.

Jim was extremely proud of his son, Jeff Knapp and his wife, Dawn Johnson (Underwood, MN); daughter, Jacki Knapp-Raaen and her husband, Jack Raaen (Fargo, ND); and his four grandchildren and four great grandchildren: Krystle Smith, her husband, Rick, and their children, Genevieve & Caroline (Otsego, MN); Shayla Baumgarten (Fargo, ND); Alison Davis, her husband, Bryant, and their children Collyns and Cohen (San Antonio, TX); and Karl Baumgarten & his beautiful fiancée, Stephanie Wolf (Fargo, ND).

But no one filled Jim's heart and life like his treasured wife and high school sweetheart, Janet (Hensch) Knapp, whom he joyfully married on December 28, 1957. His devotion and adoration for her was an inspiration to the many family members and friends who had the great blessing of witnessing their loving interaction over the 60 years they danced their way through marriage together.

The only other ladies who ever turned Jim's head were his golden labs (Jill, Abby, Sally, Heidi and Greta) who joined him in his many outdoor adventures.

Jim is survived by his only sibling and brother Chuck (Cheryl) Knapp, Yellville, AK; his cousin, Joe "Brother Forbes" (Joan, Bemidji); his sister-in-law Mary Hensch Little, Bloomington, MN; and his brother-in-law Richard (Susan) Hensch, Altamonte Springs, FL. as well as many loving cousins, nieces, nephews, and other cherished friends.

Jim was a man of patience who will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives he

so profoundly touched and so easily gave love to. He was a passionate, patient man who enjoyed easy laughter and lovingly shared advice with anyone who asked. He was a man of great charm and kindness, who brandished a playful grin and a knowing chuckle.

Family and friends will be welcomed on Monday, July 24 from 5:00 until 7:00pm at Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls, with a public prayer service at 6:30 PM, and will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. A celebration in honor of his life will be held at Federated Church in Fergus Falls on Tuesday July 25 at 11:00am, with the Reverends Doug Dent and Ed Morgan co-celebrating. Family will greet guests at lunch, after the service. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of floral arrangements, please consider a memorial donation to Federated Church, Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club Foundation or Lakes Area Shooting.

Arrangements provided by Olson Funeral Home, Fergus Falls, MN.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.olsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.olsonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery

**Oak Grove Cemetery**  
1509 East Mount Faith  
Fergus Falls, MN,

# Events

**JUL 24**   **Visitation**   05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Olson Funeral Home  
711 Pebble Lake Road, Fergus Falls, MN, US, 56537

**JUL 24**   **Prayer Service**   06:30PM

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Olson Funeral Home  
711 Pebble Lake Road, Fergus Falls, MN, US, 56537

**JUL 25**   **Service**   11:00AM

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Federated Church  
224 North Union, Fergus Falls, MN, US

# Comments

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“ Jeff and Family,

So sorry to hear of your loss...thinking of you.

Connie Nygaard and Mike Diekman

Connie Nygaard - July 25, 2017 at 02:58 PM

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“ My heart has been so heavy upon learning of Jim's passing. He was one of THE BEST at OTP and always a pleasure running into him after his retirement. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and many friends today as you lay this sweet, gentle soul to rest. Blessed be his memory. All my sympathy....

Sue (Ecker) Pardy

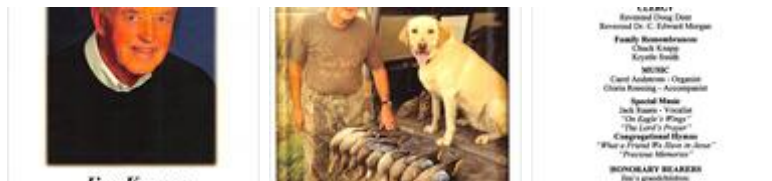


Sue Pardy - July 25, 2017 at 09:10 AM

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“ 4 files added to the album Service Folder



Olson Funeral Home - July 25, 2017 at 08:04 AM

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“ Paul Rolandson lit a candle in memory of James L. Knapp



Paul Rolandson - July 24, 2017 at 10:31 PM

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“ Janet, Jackie, & Jeff, So sorry to hear the news of Jim's passing.

God Bless Brian Graff



Brian Graff - July 24, 2017 at 03:31 PM

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“ We are so sorry for your loss Janet. Mary Ann and I have wonderful memories of Jim and you hanging out with the Kenealy's. Prayers for you and your family. Mary Ann and Kevin Searight



Kevin Searight - July 24, 2017 at 01:22 PM

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“ Janet and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. Jim and you deserve many thanks for all the work you did for the class reunion. Milt and Nellie Hysjulien

Milt and Nellie Hysjulien - July 24, 2017 at 12:09 PM

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“ Craig Soliah lit a candle in memory of James L. Knapp



Craig Soliah - July 24, 2017 at 09:43 AM

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“ Jeff & Karen Jyrkas lit a candle in memory of James L. Knapp



Jeff & Karen Jyrkas - July 24, 2017 at 08:29 AM

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“ Steve Harles lit a candle in memory of James L. Knapp



Steve Harles - July 23, 2017 at 09:56 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim & June Kenealy - July 23, 2017 at 02:17 PM



“ Remembering the great days in Cabo. You will be missed.

Tim - July 23, 2017 at 02:18 PM

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“ Grace and peace to you all.

Tom Schlotterback - July 22, 2017 at 05:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**chuck knapp** - July 22, 2017 at 09:05 AM

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“ Love and strength from our family to yours.



**Cathy & Gail Cranston** - July 21, 2017 at 10:24 PM

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“ Marian And Mary Jo Igelstad lit a candle in memory of James L. Knapp



**Marian and Mary Jo Igelstad** - July 21, 2017 at 08:31 PM



“ Janet: we send you our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers. Marian and Mary Jo.

**Marian and Mary Jo Igelstad** - July 21, 2017 at 08:32 PM

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“ So sad to hear of Jim's passing he gave a young man a shot in System Operations 20 years ago. I could've asked for a better guy to learn from, just a nice man.

Randy Larson





“ I was saddened to read of the passing of another old friend. In years gone by I worked very closely with the system operators of Ottertail Power in my position as a system operator for Montana Dakota Utilities. In those days your word was your bond and a phone call to a neighboring utility would help keep the lights on for everyone and Jim was someone you could count on. Don Herrly retired system operator Montana Dakota Utilities and Wesrern Area Power Administration.

Don Herrly - July 21, 2017 at 01:37 AM

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“ So sorry. Jim was a great person. He was a joy to work with. Jim trained me in when I went into system operations. Jim was my partner on the same shift for about 4years. Both Karen and I became great friends of Jim's family and so where our kids. We hunted fished and had a lot of fun. Signed Loren & Karen Moxness

loren & karen Moxness - July 20, 2017 at 03:27 PM

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“ I remember seeing that photo in my mothers stuff. So sorry for you loss.

randi royce - July 22, 2017 at 12:39 PM

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“ Mike and I are so sorry for your loss. Jim was a very nice man. He will be missed! You have our condolences.

Patty and Mike Shol - July 20, 2017 at 01:29 PM

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“ Dennis and I are so so sorry to hear about Jim!!! We figured it would be a long haul after all he went through!!! But your family is in our thoughts and prayers!!!!!!loveB0nnie and Dennis

Bonnie Bergerud - July 20, 2017 at 12:05 PM

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“ Jim was a warm, kind, loving man. Warren and I were so happy that you and Janet were a part of our wedding ceremony in Minneapolis. The love of your Labradors was a joy to watch. We will never forget you with "Heidi". Your family has lost a marvelous man who was devoted to his gardens, the lake, and his family. Your precious memories will keep him with you forever.

Jannette - July 20, 2017 at 10:47 PM



“ Jannette and Warren Lowe should be signed in the sympathy above .

**Jannette** - July 20, 2017 at 10:54 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I pray that God surround for days to come.Roy Nell

**Roy Nell Norby** - July 21, 2017 at 08:06 AM



“ Darlyne and I were just recalling the other day when we had the van loaded for a family trip to Florida and we stopped by to see you Janet, and Jim. Working at Minnkota Power in Grand Forks gave me the ability to meet and make friends with all of the operations people at Ottertail Power in Fergus. Jim was certainly one special friend and I only wish that we had been able to get together more after my retirement. We send our deepest sympathy and know your wonderful memories of him will help ease your grief in the coming months. Dennis and Darlyne Szymanski

**Dennis and Darlyne Szymanski** - July 23, 2017 at 07:36 PM