



James Andrew Reusch

April 8, 1936 - June 20, 2019

James Andrew Reusch, 83, of Salisbury, MA a proud Veteran of the United States Air Force, formerly of Lawrence, passed away peacefully at his home on June 20, 2019. He was born in Lawrence to the late Augustine and Mary (Batts) Reusch. Growing up, he attended St. Laurence O'Toole Elementary and graduated from Central Catholic High School. In January of 1955, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After basic training, he was assigned to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS where he was assigned to the USAF Security Service specializing as a radio intercept operator. He was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany for four years as part of the 6913th RSM receiving and translating messages in Morse code. During his time in Germany he played on the military base, flag football, baseball, and basketball teams; winning European championships in baseball and flag football, competing against American military bases throughout Europe. He treasured his time in the service and has maintained close friendships with the men he served with.

Upon returning to the States following his service, Jim was employed at Reusch's Service Stations until 1966 when he was appointed a reserve Firefighter in the city of Lawrence. He became permanent in 1969 joining his father, Gus, Uncle Nick, and cousin, Leo Turner on the department. He attended North Shore Community College for Fire Science. He was appointed Lieutenant in 1985 and he retired in 1992 after 26 years of service. Nicknamed "Cricket", he spent almost his entire career on Ladder 4 at Central Fire Station. His last two years on the job were spent in Fire Prevention where he enjoyed visiting elementary schools and working with young children. He loved being a firefighter and part of the brotherhood where he made lifelong friends.

Jim played softball for years in The Greater Lawrence Fast Pitch Softball League and later the Social Club Softball League. When his playing days were over, Jim turned his knowledge and love of the game to umpiring. He joined the Merrimack Valley Umpires Association, and for 28yrs, you could often find him on local high school fields in the afternoons and umpiring men's or women's games throughout the Merrimack Valley at night. He was well respected by umpires, coaches, and players alike.

Family was everything to Jim and he loved going to large family gatherings on the holidays or attending a celebration for a special occasion. Jim's greatest enjoyment in

retirement came when his grandchildren began to arrive as he was young and healthy enough to be their daily caretaker. He loved and cared for each one in their own special way from birth until they went to school. He never missed a school play, concert, or sporting event they were involved in. As they got older, breakfast with Papa on Thursday or Saturday was a regular event.

Jim and his wife Winnie enjoyed traveling and through the years, with a close group of friends, they traveled to many destinations. Among them was a cruise to the Baltic Capitals of Europe where Jim got to revisit Berlin, Germany and Copenhagen, Denmark. There was a special anniversary trip to Ireland and during these same years they attended several 6913th Reunions with his Air Force buddies. His final trip was his favorite, when he cruised to Bermuda with his wife, children and grandchildren. He walked the plank of a pirate ship, snorkeled, and danced the night away with his grandchildren.

Jim is survived by his wife the former Winifred (Winnie) Gillen and his three children and their spouses; son, Michael J. Reusch and wife Nancy (Nartiff) of Salisbury, daughters, Martha J. Tatro and husband Stephen, also of Salisbury, and Kate Keyes and husband Kenneth of Haverhill. He leaves five beloved grandchildren; Jessica and Christopher Reusch; Mackenzie and James Tatro; and Sydney Keyes. In addition, he is survived by his brothers and their spouses, Augustine and wife Ann Reusch, Andrew and wife Connie Reusch. His sisters, Mary and husband Jack Horan, Frances Zahn, Kate and husband Phil Howshan, Jean and husband Phil Lane. He was predeceased by his brothers John and Larry Reusch, brother in law E. Bruce Zahn and sister in law Lorraine Reusch. He leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. The family is grateful for the care provided to Jim by Home Health VNA/Merrimack Valley Hospice throughout these last several months.

Arrangements: Friends and family may call Sunday June 23rd from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, 122 Amesbury St., Lawrence, MA. Funeral Mass to be held Monday June 24th at 11:30 a.m. at Star of the Sea Chapel, 140 North End Blvd, Salisbury, MA. PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH FOR THE FUNERAL MASS. Interment will be at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lawrence Fire Department Scholarship Fund, PO Box 533, Lawrence, MA 01941; Home Health VNA/Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St., Bldg. 9, Lawrence, MA 01843; or the Salisbury Beach Betterment Association Scholarship Fund; PO Box 5508 Salisbury, MA 01952. www.breenfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

Events

Private.

MA,

JUN Visitation 04:00PM - 08:00PM

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John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. - Lawrence
122 Amesbury St., Lawrence, MA, US, 01841

JUN Funeral Mass 11:30AM

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Star of the Sea
140 North End Blvd., Salisbury, MA, US

Comments



“ Brent and Catherine Tracy purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Andrew Reusch.



Brent and Catherine Tracy - June 23, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ Had many good memories of playing fast pitch softball with Jimmy. Our prayers and thoughts are with the entire Reusch family.
Dick and Margaret McCarron

Dick McCarron - June 23, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Andrew Reusch.



June 23, 2019 at 11:33 AM



“ Jimmy: I have known you for a long time. We were in the Air Force - Bremerhaven, Germany together and you were my room-mate. We had a lot of laughs together and we ended up living close to each other. We have been to Air Force reunions together and had a lot of fun. You are now in a much better place and you will always be remembered by Connie and myself and the great family that you have begun with Winnie. RIP ALWAYS. GOD BLESS... Paul Reihms

Paul Reihms - June 22, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of James Andrew Reusch.



June 21, 2019 at 01:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Andrew Reusch.



June 21, 2019 at 01:07 PM



“ Leroy W. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James Andrew Reusch.



Leroy W. - June 21, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ My deepest Sympathy to the Reusch family .



Gina M DeNuncio Wonsley - June 20, 2019 at 10:32 PM



“ RIP Jimmy! Tell Danny hello when you get home!! You two reminisce, laugh and Jim always be Winnie’s guardian angel!

Elaine Corsbie - June 20, 2019 at 07:23 PM



“ Elaine Corsbie lit a candle in memory of James Andrew Reusch



Elaine Corsbie - June 20, 2019 at 07:18 PM



“ Loved sitting at the baseball games, and all the great stories he shared. I must admit i did learn a number of things from him as well!
What a great man! Glad to have him in my life.

Lori B - June 20, 2019 at 07:13 PM



“ To Winnie, Mike, Martha and Katie I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Jim he was a Great man and have many good memories when we were neighbors my Heart felt Condolences to you all All my Love Lynn Angelone

Lynn Angelone - June 20, 2019 at 06:36 PM



“ Lisa Cascio lit a candle in memory of James Andrew Reusch



Lisa Cascio - June 20, 2019 at 05:21 PM