



James Kenneth Drennen

December 16, 2025

James Kenneth Drennen, 81, passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Jim was a man of strong contrasts—solitary yet adventurous, humble yet commanding, thoughtful yet stubborn. Standing 6’6” with a large frame and unmistakable presence, he could fill a room instantly. And yet, at heart, he was an introverted man who enjoyed his independence, lived by his "golden rules", and did things his own way.

He enjoyed life and nature and was grateful for each day he was given. He cherished his family and friends, delighted in his precious land along the Pequea Creek, and was a proud bar owner—there is no rock like The Shamrock. In his younger years, he did drywall work and loved hunting and fishing with his buddies. He adored and participated in the Ocean City White Marlin Tournament for many years. He completely loved taking long road trips out west and frequent short trips to Atlantic City. He encouraged his family and friends to join whenever they could go along, sharing his favorite routes and spots with them like rare and valuable treasures.

He was fascinated with reading the newspaper, especially the weather section and his favorite nature columnist, Ad A. Crable, III. He often said the three strangest things in life were love, death, and the weather—and he had strong

opinions about all three (and everything in between).

Jim had a deep appreciation for words, quotes, and phrases that carried meaning to him. One motto he loved—and frequently inculcated into his children—was, “All for one, and one for all.” It mattered deeply to him that his family stayed close, forgave freely, and helped one another. In recent months, he was especially fond of an Irish blessing he never quite quoted correctly but always meant sincerely. He'd say... “May the best day you ever have, be the worst you ever see.”

Jim was known by all as The Music Man. He was our Shazam before it ever existed, always whistling a tune or singing a song—sometimes even into our voicemails. He often said there were three songs he wanted his children to know and remember: “Candida,” “I Only Have Eyes for You,” and “Close to You.” He also held songs close to his heart for his ex-wife, friend, and close companion of 54 years, Eileen, including “Long As I Can See the Light” for their first dance together and, “Can We Still Be Friends” for after their divorce.

Jim loved a good argument (just ask his best friend, Joey DeMora). People either loved him or hated him, and he was perfectly fine with that. Many of his choices were bold, unconventional, and often very funny. His size helped him get away with things most people couldn't, which was sometimes shocking to witness.

James brought five children into this world. In birth order, they are...James Jr., Kelly, Corina, Talia, and Brandy. Unfortunately, and to his regret, he was estranged from his first two born and never got to meet three of his grandchildren. He didn't know how to mend that brokenness, so he just held love for them in his heart. They mattered to him always, and he prayed for the best for each of them. He had four grandchildren in his life that were blessed to know his love. In birth order, they are... Thaddeus, Wyatt, Maeve, and Raeya who already greatly miss their beloved Buckaroo.

He will be remembered as a man who lived fully, argued passionately, laughed often, and loved his family deeply—quiet in some ways, unmistakably bold in others, and always entirely himself.

May he rest in peace within the good graces of our Heavenly Father. We love you Buckaroo, forever and a day.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Dear Eileen & family,*

We were very sorry to hear about Jim's passing. May he rest in peace and may God comfort you and your family.

Sincerely,

Bob & Janie Marrow

Robert Marrow - December 29, 2025 at 09:20 AM

DA

“ *So sorry for your loss—Jim gave us so many wonderful memories sharing his land; camping, epic bonfires, hunting, and fishing. With heartfelt sympathy, Scott & Donna Adams*



Donna Adams - December 23, 2025 at 09:25 AM

DA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Donna Adams - December 23, 2025 at 09:17 AM

DS

“ So very sorry for your loss..Love Jeff Davis and Donna Speece



DONNA SPEECE - December 22, 2025 at 03:34 PM

IH

“ Ivie Hall

Eileen I was sorry to learn of Jim's passing. At the Heiney Family reunions I always enjoyed his stories about the Shamrock. Sure that he and Aunt Ivie have alot to talk about.

Ivie Hall - December 21, 2025 at 04:02 PM

AN

“ Always enjoyed conversations when he came in for dentist appts, always brought a smile when u knew he was ur next patient!!☐Ann

Ann - December 21, 2025 at 11:46 AM

LC

“ As I'm sure others can attest too I remember him and his humor however at the end of a Shamrock night 🤔☐ WELL 😂😂
RIP 🍺🍺

Lisa Cooper - December 18, 2025 at 02:56 PM

WR

“ MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT HE WAS A GREAT PERSON TO ME, EVERYONE AT SHAMROCK ALWAYS WAS, AND I THANK YOU ALL FOR THE GOOD TIMES I SHARED THERE! I REMEMBER ME. GOING OUTSIDE AND HE'D ASK ME IF I WAS GOING TO CHECK THE TOMATOES AND WHEN I'D RETURN HE ASK HOW THEY WERE, I WOULD SAY AS RIPE AS MY EYES 🍅 🍅 YOU WILL BE MISSED JIM. THANK FOR ALWAYS BEING NICE TO ME ALL THE YEARS I WENT THERE!!!

weezie Rodriguez - December 18, 2025 at 02:10 PM

DD

MAY GOD BLESS THE ENTIRE FAMILY JIM "BIG DADDY" WAS A GIANT IN LIFE TRULY MISSED ALWAYS LOVE MAY JIM REST IN PEACE HIS WORK IS COMPLETED MAY GOD HAVE FAVOR OVER HIS FAMILY'S FROM THE HOUSE TO HOMEBASE & THE WORLD PEACE BE WITH US ALL 🙏

DAYVENA DAVIDSON - December 31, 2025 at 02:37 AM