



James Kemper

August 30, 2024

James, who went by Jim to those who knew him and Jimmy only to his mother, was born the fourth of six children to Theodore LeRoy Kemper and Vera Minnie Hargraves in Toppenish, Washington just three months before America entered World War II.

Following graduation from Moses Lake High School, he served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Instead of using saved money to attend college as planned, he unselfishly gave it to his older brother who had recently been discharged from the military and had no means to provide for his family.

Jim married Joan Elaine Kendall in January of 1964 after a short courtship. Ten months later they welcomed their first child, a daughter. In the years to come they welcomed 4 more daughters and 4 sons.

During his life Jim worked at U&I Sugar Factory, drove tractor and was a diesel mechanic and farm hand for Crawford Jones, fixed lawnmowers and ran a locksmith shop with his dad and brothers, and drove bus for more than 30 years for the Moses Lake School District. After most of his children had grown up and moved out, he went to college and earned a degree in Accounting & Bookkeeping. He took care of his parents in their later years, especially his mother after his father passed on. He spent his last years helping his sisters with various needs and began digitizing his mother's and sister's genealogy work. His son, Kyle, helped him with care and needs the last few years of his life.

He loved gardening and always grew a variety of irises, his favorite flower. He often helped his neighbors with their yards and small gardens. He had a real green thumb.

James was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Danae, his oldest son, Walter, his parents, “Ted” and Vera, his brothers “Teddy” and David, his sister, Mary, his grandsons David and Christopher, and one great grandson, CJ. He is survived by two sisters, “Jane” and Joann, children, Suella, Alena, Connie, Randy, Kyle (Nellie), Van (Daisy), and Jessica, 48 grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and many great grandchildren.

Kayser’s Chapel of Memories

831 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake, WA

September 14, 2024

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.

Funeral Services: 11:00 a.m.

Graveside dedication to follow at Pioneer Memorial Gardens.

Cemetery Details

Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne
Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Service

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall



“ Jim,

You will be missed by many of the MLHS wrestling teams. We definitely appreciated your professionalism, punctuality and all the support you provided over the years. We won several titles while you were at the wheel.

You are in our thoughts,

MLHS Wrestling community

Jaime Garza - September 12, 2024 at 08:14 PM

SG

“ Things I remember: chasing lawn mower as a small kid while he mowed, learning to ride a bike, learning to weed the gigantic garden we had, getting chicken pox and mumps and a bad case of hives and Dad being there to help take care of me, giving me blessings and spankings 😊, getting me up early to change hand lines in wheat fields (I never figuring out how to get the syphon tubes to work to water field rows from the ditches), teaching me mow lawn so I could make money doing neighbors lawn, coaching me for track in grade school, learning to drive, watching Mash, Hee-Haw, Lawrence Welk, Wild Wild West, John Wayne and Clint Eastwood movies. Learning to speed read, and sharing Louie L'Amor books. So much more.... I learned my work ethic from him!



Suella Gran - September 08, 2024 at 04:23 AM