



James A. Hillis

July 3, 1941 - July 7, 2023

James A. Hillis, 82 of Zanesville passed away peacefully Friday, July 7 at Morrison House Hospice Care with his loving family by his side. He was born July 3, 1941 in Zanesville Ohio. He was the son of Loren "Doc" Hillis and Sarah Hillis.

Jim, along with his brother Dave, owned and operated The Hillis Funeral Home for over 50 years before retiring in 2013. He was also involved in many service organizations through the years. He served as President of Jaycees, St. Nicholas Parish Council, and Zanesville Daybreak Rotary, of which he was a founding member. He was a member of St. Nicholas Church and an avid supporter of Catholic Schools.

Jim possessed a warm heart, quick wit, and gentle nature. He had a remarkable ability to empathize and assist people in their greatest time of need. He helped countless families over the years and truly loved what he did.

Jim valued his family above all else. He loved hosting get together for family and friends at his pool and enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren participate in their many activities. He genuinely loved being surrounded by family and thankfully was until his final breath.

While Alzheimer's may have robbed him of many memories, it never took away his sense of humor or his sweet, friendly demeanor. He had a beautiful

smile and was truly a precious soul who never knew a stranger.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sondra "Sue" Hillis. He fathered 7 children; Scott (Sara) Hillis, Kelly Hillis, Aaron (Tonya) Hillis, Kristy (Vince) Paul, Keely (Mark) Dempsey, Jason Hillis, and Matthew Hillis. He also had 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He is also survived by his sisters Carol and Ellen Hillis. He was preceded in death by his daughter Kelly, granddaughter Madison Paul, sister Kay Mell, and brother David "Ned" Hillis. The family would like to thank the staff at the Morrison House for the wonderful care they provided to Jim during his final days. They were truly a blessing and we will be forever grateful.

Friends may call 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the Hillis, Combs & Nestor Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, where a Christian Vigil will be held at 7:45 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:30 AM, Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 925 East Main Street, Zanesville, with Fr. Martin J. Ralko as celebrant. Jim will be laid to rest in Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olive Cemetery

2057 East Pike
ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

Visitation

JUL 11. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

Prayer Vigil

JUL 11. 7:45 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 12. 10:30 AM (ET)

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church
955 East Main Street
Zanesville, OH 43701

Tribute Wall



“ *Hillis Combs Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James A. Hillis*



Hillis Combs Funeral Home - July 10, 2023 at 05:43 PM

TS

The smile says it all. A life well lived. Blessings Sue and family. Tami Swope

Tami Swope - July 11, 2023 at 05:53 PM

BG

Jim was a special person, always had a smile for everyone. He will be missed by all. My sincere sympathy to Sue and family

Barbara Gibbs - July 12, 2023 at 03:06 PM



“ *James A. Hillis*

October 06, 2023 at 04:22 AM

RT

“ *Mr. Hillis was such a kind man that was always a class act. There is a special place for him in heaven as he did so much for others. So sorry to see him gone.*

Ryan Thomas - July 13, 2023 at 08:39 PM

SL

“ *Deepest Sympathy to the family of James Hillis.
May James rest in peace.*

SHIRLEY LABAKI - July 13, 2023 at 02:31 PM

SO

“ *Sue & Hillis Family, my thoughts & sincere sympathy to each of YOU on this great loss of Jim. His caring & loving ways, his loyalty & humor will forever resound in each of you as you share memories. Hillis Funeral Home always cared so well for many relatives of our family over these many years. THANK YOU! Now, he is with Doc & Sarah, Dave & Kay & his loving family members in their heavenly home rooting for all of you.*

Sister Sharon Paul, O.S.F. - July 12, 2023 at 06:32 PM

WS

“ *I was welcomed into the Hillis family during my exchange year in Zanesville and am extremely grateful for Jim's great care, warmth and contagious joy that immediately made me feel at home, thousands of miles away. I fondly cherish these memories to this day. My deepest condolences to Sue and the whole Hillis family! Until we meet again, my dear host-dad Jim, Wolfgang*

Wolfgang S - July 12, 2023 at 05:25 PM

JM

“ Jim always handled the funeral arrangements for my family over the years. I'll never forget when my father passed away there was a knock at the back door of our house. It was Jim with a beautiful ham that Sue had baked. His personality was hard to resist and no matter how difficult the situation you could always count on him to be warm and caring. He was the best!

John Mercer

John Mercer - July 12, 2023 at 03:50 PM

LS

“ Sue, Ellen and all families,
What a great guy! Always smiling! A friend to the entire Kendrick family. My heart hurts for all of you.
Lynda (Kendrick) Sharrer

Lynda Sharrer - July 12, 2023 at 01:35 PM



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

July 11, 2023 at 10:19 PM

RH

“ Sue and family our sincere condolences. The Hayman's Bob and Margaret.

Robert Eugene Hayman - July 11, 2023 at 04:02 PM

CM

“ Jim was a good man who has left behind many great memories for those who knew him. He will be missed.

Charles Mell - July 11, 2023 at 03:50 PM

NI

“ In 1990, my father passed away. I was 12 years old at the time. This lovely man helped me make decisions a young girl that age shouldn't have to make.

I will NEVER FORGET his kindness to me.

Your family is in my thoughts. I hope you can take some solace in knowing how many lives he touched in a kind and understanding way.

Nicole - July 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM

ML

I just found out that Jimmy died this afternoon. Our families go back so many years with so many memories. I am saddened to know you have lost another great family member. I wish I was closer to make the funeral. My deepest condolences condolences to all of you, Carole, Ellen (Squeaky)Sue and all. It meant so much to me when I saw you Alan at Tim's funeral. How fast such warm memories come to the surface. I'm so sorry I can't be there.

Molly Longstreth LaFond

Molly Longstreth LaFond - July 11, 2023 at 06:04 PM

ML

Correction: Ellen, not Alan

Molly Longstreth LaFond - July 11, 2023 at 06:05 PM



“ 64 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



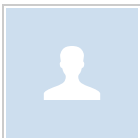
Hillis Combs Funeral Home - July 10, 2023 at 05:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *James A. Hillis*.



July 10, 2023 at 04:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *James A. Hillis*.



July 10, 2023 at 03:38 PM

PP

“ Sue and family our deepest condolences. Certainly enjoyed the years with Jim in Rotary, what a character, he will be missed. The Pugh Family.

Patrick Pugh - July 10, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James A. Hillis.



July 09, 2023 at 07:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James A. Hillis.



July 09, 2023 at 10:17 AM

TB

“ Sue, so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jim was a very special person and will be missed by many. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and this picture of Jim says it all.

Tamera Bowman - July 08, 2023 at 12:01 PM



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

July 08, 2023 at 09:59 AM




“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of James A. Hillis.



July 08, 2023 at 09:59 AM



“ Dear Sue and family, so sad to learn of Jim's passing. He was a wonderful neighbor and friend with a terrific smile for everyone. Please accept our condolences for your loss . The Bland Family

Rick and Jan Bland - July 08, 2023 at 09:48 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James A. Hillis.



July 08, 2023 at 09:34 AM



“ Aaron and Tonya, my heartfelt condolences for you and your family and may God bless you during this time.
Dale Lister

Dale Lister - July 08, 2023 at 09:30 AM

TL

“ Thoughts and prayers.

Tonnya Lloyd - July 08, 2023 at 08:17 AM

SH

Peace comfort and prayers to the family

Sharron Jo Hayes - July 08, 2023 at 08:34 AM

LG

“ Rest in peace Jim! My thoughts and prayers to Sue and family.
Jim was my best man at my wedding to Joan!
Larry Gatewood

Larry Gatewoos - July 07, 2023 at 06:33 PM

CP

“ I remember jim as a sweet guy me n my dad used to plow his lot for
years. He always took care of a lot of things
He will be missed by so many people n friends

From the Paisley family

chancy paisley - July 07, 2023 at 06:20 PM



“ I was Jim and Sue's neighbor when I went to Roosevelt Ellen was a
friend Jim was always a nice guy who loved his children so much
The family was always kind to me and my Mom and Dad All my
sympathy and Prayers for you all , Bobbie Parrill Walter Also Scot is
a friend and our attorney Jim was just a great guy!!

Bobbie Walter Walter - July 07, 2023 at 06:10 PM

FS

“ Jim was so welcoming when I joined his Rotary club. His smile and laugh are what I will remember. He was a sweet soul. My sympathies to Sue, Ellen and the whole Hillis family. Francine Swiger

Francine Swiger - July 07, 2023 at 03:28 PM

MH

“ Seems so personal to me even though I'm not family. The Hillis Family & The Mell Family were part of my childhood memories. Jim was a good guy - always smiling. My condolences to his whole giant family. ❤️

Mary (Robb) Hagemann - July 07, 2023 at 03:18 PM

EP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Ellen and Carol and the rest of Jim's family.

Ellen Coe Presnell - July 07, 2023 at 01:58 PM

SG

“ Our thoughts and prayers sent to family, Sue , Ellen and all . ❤️🙏

Suzanne Gale - July 07, 2023 at 01:44 PM