



James F. Russell

FEB 8, 1932 - NOV 12, 2021



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J ames F. Russell, February 8, 1932-November 12, 2021

"It Had To Be You. It had to be YOU.
I wandered around and I finally found
The somebody who
Could make me be true
Could make me be blue
And even be glad, just to be sad, thinking of you.
For nobody else gave me a thrill
With all your faults, I love you still
It had to be you, wonderful you.
It had to be you."

A lifelong-Lakewood resident and proud LHS January class of 1950 graduate, Jim found the love of his life, and bride of 65 years, Patricia Sanders, at Michigan State University while working as the breakfast cook in her girls' dormitory. Growing up during the depression, as the son of Ralph and Eva Erndt Russell, and brother to Ralph, Eleanor, Robert, David, John, and Lenna, he learned about hard work as a Plain Dealer paperboy which served him well later in life while serving in the U. S. Army, working for American Steel and Wire as an engineer, launching the first packaging engineering department at American Greetings; as a night school law student at Cleveland Marshall School of Law; and finally as an attorney with Sanders, Sanders & Russell, Co., LPA for 54 years.

Well known for his quick wit and dry sense of humor, he made people laugh, especially his wife; his children: Janet Donovan (Daniel), Richard Russell (Jan) and Judy Whalen (Bob); his grandchildren: Katharine Donovan McCord (Steven), Stuart Russell (Katherine), Jacqueline Donovan Sullivan (Kyle), Kurtis Russell, Bridget Donovan Bonnette (Derek), Matthew Whalen,



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Joseph Whalen, and Kristen Armbruster (Mike); his great-grandchildren: Kayleigh Armbruster, Henry James McCord, and dozens of nieces and nephews.

He lived his 89 years to the fullest, playing decades of duplicate bridge as a Life Master, tripping the light fantastic across ballrooms and kitchens everywhere, cashing in chips at blackjack and craps tables in Vegas and on cruise ships on the Seven Seas, and traveling the world – each trip the trip of a lifetime.

In his own words, “I’ve had a wonderful life.” For those who love and miss him, living your life to the fullest will be a lasting tribute to him.


Private services will be held for immediate family.

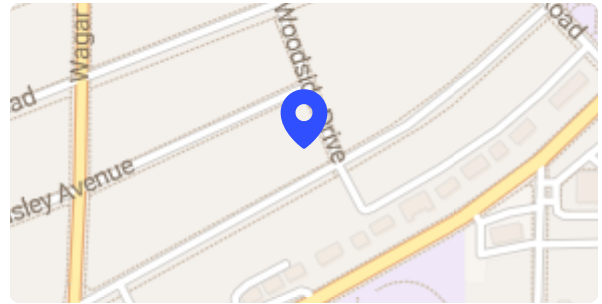


Events

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Cemetery Details

 **Lakewood Park Cemetery**
Rocky River OH





Tribute Wall

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Robyn Huck posted:

Dear Pat, Thank you so much for letting us know of Jim's passing. Such a heart break for us to hear that you've lost your #1 dance partner. We loved spending time with both of you. Jim's humor and twinkle in his eye are what we'll remember most. He was so much fun. Please know we are with you in spirit. Love and hugs, Robyn and Karl

November 27 at 10:11 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Russell family.



November 24 at 1:26 PM



Susan LeLaurin posted:

What a great life he had with you Pat and all of his loving family! I hope that memories and love will help give you strength during this time of sadness. You two were an inspiration to the rest of us out on the dance floor showing us how it was done - with skill and love. Hugs to you! Susan LeLaurin

November 24 at 9:07 AM



David Gamache posted:

Jim was a great guy. Always a gentleman and he knew how to bring joy to those that knew him. Pat I am very sorry for your loss. David Gamache

November 22 at 1:03 PM



Douglas Evans posted:

Jim was a real gentleman and a lot of fun. Jim dancing with Pat was a special treat for us at CLLA meetings as was their wit and companionship. Julia and I will miss Jim and want to give our sincerest condolences to Pat and family. Friends are forever. Doug and Julia Evans Springfield, MO

November 22 at 10:25 AM



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LH

Lauri Hudson posted:

I am so sorry to here about Jim's passing. Pat, I send my thoughts and prayers to you. You and Jim were one of the first people I met at the CLLA and I always enjoyed my time with both of you. Take care and we will be thinking of you in this trying time. Lauri Hudson

November 22 at 9:23 AM

PJ

Peter Jensen posted:

Sorry to hear of your passing. You were a big help to us at Collier Construction Company. We also remember Albert J. Sanders who introduced you to us and we all worked together to resolve problems or improvements necessary for so many years. I saw your smiley face in the obits and said I know that guy. So sorry to hear of your passing and you will be so fondly remembered always. Peter Jensen Collier Construction Company

November 18 at 7:03 AM

JB

Jim And Bobbie Bruder posted:

So sorry for your loss. Jim will be missed by all who called him friend. He was truly one of the good guys. Deepest sympathy from Jim and Bobbie.

November 18 at 6:59 AM

WH

William And Sylvia Hohmann posted:

A most wonderful, and respected colleague in the legal community who will be missed by all who know him. If only I could dance and throw darts like he did in his 80's ! He will be missed by all who knew him- a person of integrity and respect- I never knew until I read his obituary that he was an engineer of some accomplishment but in his humble way, this accomplishment was left to posterity. Good bye great friend and our sincere sympathy to Patricia and family - many great memories, will not soon be forgotten!, And, Pat, hang in there, you have a wonderful, loving family and friends for support, God Bless,Bill & Sylvia Hohmann

November 16 at 6:35 PM

TH

Tom & Nancy Hamilton posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Pat and family for your terrible loss. Jim was such a wonderful guy. We have so many fond memories of the fun times we shared through the years.Tom & Nancy Hamilton

November 15 at 6:15 AM



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Anonymous sent a Pretty Please to the Russell family.



November 15 at 3:03 AM



Ed And Verna Fink posted:

Pat, to you and your family, All our love. Pat ,Ed and I are here for you. WHENEVER, WHEREVER AND HOWEVER. WE LOVE YOU ALL AND PAT, YOU ARE ALWAYS IN AND PRAYERS.AND IN OUR HEART... ..JIM WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR MEMORIES AND THOUGHTS. Ed and Verna

November 14 at 9:56 AM



Ann Hayes November 29 at 7:34 AM

A light has been diminished from this world.. loved being around Jim and Pat on cruises.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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