



## Ivan E. James

April 22, 1920 - January 21, 2018

Ivan E. James, age 97, of Ames, Iowa and formerly of Storm Lake, Iowa died January 21, 2018 in Ames.

Memorial services will be held Friday, January 26, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. Burial will be at a later date in the Milford Cemetery. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Ivan E. James, the son of Elmer and Edith (Carr) James, was born on a farm south of Milford, Iowa on April 22, 1920. He attended country school through eighth grade and graduated from Milford High School in 1937. He stayed on the farm until 1940, when he enrolled at Iowa State College in Ames. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force. In September of 1942, he went to Africa with the 8th Air Depot as an electrician. He was sent back to the U.S. in 1943 to train as a B29 flight engineer. Upon completion of training, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He received his discharge in October, 1945, and returned to Milford and began farming. On October 25, 1947, he married Dorothy (Dot) Olson, and they had two daughters. He and Dot were happy to celebrate their 70th anniversary last fall.

In 1950, they moved to Ames, where Ivan returned to Iowa State and earned

his degree in Animal Science in 1952, at which time they moved to Storm Lake. They were residents of Storm Lake for 53 years. Ivan first worked for the Buena Vista County Extension Service. He later went into the insurance and real estate business and retired in 1982 from Commercial Trust & Savings Bank.

Ivan was active in the community, as a member of Kiwanis and Elks clubs and served on the Buena Vista County Fair Board and the Methodist Church board. Ivan was a social person, who made friends wherever he went. He was also known for his quick wit and always had a supply of (often corny) jokes ready to share. He and Dot wintered for many years in Texas and Arizona, where they enjoyed the warm weather, dancing, and meeting new people. They also loved traveling to all parts of the U.S., in addition to Canada and Mexico.

Ivan was an avid golfer and a fan of the ISU Cyclones and the Chicago Cubs. He was a life-long learner. He learned to speak Spanish when he was nearly 80 and served as a volunteer to help immigrants learn to speak English. He embraced technology, learning to use the computer at age 80, and always expanding his skills, including blogging in recent years to share experiences from his childhood, the Depression, and years of military service. He was a proud veteran and was thankful for the opportunity to participate in an Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC in 2009.

Surviving Ivan are his wife Dorothy (Dot), daughters Carol (Rob) Thorson of Ames, and Connie (Bill Dodds) James of Denver, CO; grandson Eric Thorson of Phoenix, AZ; and seven nieces and nephews, along with other relatives and friends. His devotion to his wife and family was never-ending, and he will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Jennie.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any memorial gifts be sent in Ivan's memory to: Story County Freedom Flight, PO Box 83, Nevada, IA 50201, to help fund honor flights for veterans from Story County.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **26**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Memorial Service

JAN **26**. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

# Tribute Wall

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Funeral Home - January 25, 2018 at 11:10 AM

KJ

“ Kari Jansen lit a candle in memory of Ivan E. James



Kari Jansen - January 24, 2018 at 07:20 PM

KJ

So sorry to hear this — I'm Edith's daughter — she worked for Ivan at the Extension Service many years ago.

Kari Jansen - January 24, 2018 at 07:23 PM

J(

“ John And Connie (Swenson)Demers lit a candle in memory of Ivan E. James



John and Connie (Swenson)Demers - January 23, 2018 at 01:05 PM

DT

“ Ivan was such a great guy...daughter Carol was/is a best friend from Storm Lake. He was always so kind to me and patient (as was Dot) with our high school hijinks ! RIP Ivan.

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**Deb Stille Trizila** - January 23, 2018 at 12:58 PM

PG

“ Our prayers go out to Ivans' family. We lit a candle in his memory. Remember him well from Commerical Bank. May he RIP.

*Lary & Patty Gunville  
Storm Lake, Iowa*

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**Patty Gunville** - January 22, 2018 at 06:34 PM

JC

“ He was truely a great guy, always something good to say and always a good joke. I will miss him very much

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**John campbell** - January 22, 2018 at 02:03 PM

NJ

*Dear Dot--Carol and Connie--My sympathy to you at your great loss. Ivan was a kind and interesting friend--always so positive and caring for others. Remember buying our first S.L. home from them. May so many great memories of your happy years together --be of some comfort to you!! Ssincerely---Norma Juhl*

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**Norma Juhl** - January 24, 2018 at 07:02 AM