



## James Reese

December 19, 1925 - September 17, 2021

James Louis "Jim" Reese, age 95, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away on September 17, 2021 in Stevens Point.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery in Storm Lake. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the services at the CHURCH. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to designate a live tree memorial in various Storm Lake locations dear to Jim. Memorials will also be directed to the United Methodist Church food distribution program: 211 East 3rd St. Storm Lake, IA 50588 and Genesis Development Center: 1607 North Lake Ave. Storm Lake, IA 50588. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

On December 19, 1925, Jim was the first born of three children to Thomas and Marie (Ryan) Reese in Sioux City, Iowa. He grew up in Larchwood, Iowa where he attended school before moving to Storm Lake Iowa in 1943 for his senior year. After graduation Jim was inducted into the Army on June 6, 1944 and served in Italy during WWII. In the fall of 1946, he enrolled in Buena Vista College and in January of 1947 took a job with the Storm Lake Post Office. Although Jim had his sights set on becoming a high school coach, the opportunity for full employment for the postal service was too good to pass up. He was called back into the service in the fall of 1950 and served in Korea for

a year. Jim then returned to the Post Office where he served as a letter carrier, clerk, and Supervisor of Postal Operations until he retired in September of 1983. Retirement however, wasn't in the cards for long; he needed something to do. Jim became a salesman for Wick Buildings working through Taylor Contracting in May of 1984 until his second retirement 27 years later in February of 2011.

Jim met Elaine Weimer at a dance in Storm Lake at the Cobblestone Inn in 1945. They could really cut a rug! They married on June 22, 1947 at the Storm Lake Methodist Church. In 1954 Jim saw an ad for US Homes out of Des Moines in the Sears and Roebuck catalog. After the birth of their 3rd child, Jim and Elaine bought a lot on Renshaw Drive, hired a local contractor and built the house that would become their home for 64 years.

In 1956 with a 6 year old boy at home, Jim thought Storm Lake needed some kind of youth baseball program. He approached the Community Chest board and secured \$500 to start a program for 8 teams of 10-12 year olds. By year three, Jim had expanded the program to include 8-9 and 13-15 year olds for a total of 375 Storm Lake ballplayers. They each paid \$1 to join which covered insurance. Local organizations including Hy-Noon, Beaver Kiwanis, Rotary, Elks Club, Fire Department, Amvets and Lions were contacted and convinced to donate \$100 per year for a uniform fund. East Field at East Elementary School was the original home for youth baseball and continues to be used to this day with a plaque in Jim's honor as Little League President 1956-1987. Jim spent untold hours each spring and summer organizing teams, umpires, and announcers, as well as dragging and liming the fields for the boys to play ball.

In 1951 Jim began officiating high school football and basketball not only for his interest in sports but more importantly to supplement the family income. He was a referee for 20 years including girls' basketball which was half court

at the time. On a Friday night during the halftime of a class 3-A state tournament championship game, Jim was inducted into the Official's Hall of Fame in Des Moines, IA. It was a proud moment for the whole family.

Jim was an avid golfer and was a very proud charter member of Lake Creek Country Club. When loading the car for any trip, the clubs went in the trunk first. Jim enjoyed following the Buena Vista Beavers, Chicago Cubs, and Iowa Hawkeyes. He also worked in the Press Box at Buena Vista College for 30 years and enjoyed coffee with the guys at Sportsman's Monday-Friday before opening. They had a key.

Jim and Elaine enjoyed vacationing in Florida in the winter. Through Wick buildings and Taylor Contracting they enjoyed traveling to Jamaica, Disney World, Nashville, Cancun, and the Bahamas. They also loved to play cards, (bridge and pitch), and go out dancing at The Cobblestone.

Jim was a husband, dad, and grandpa first and foremost with a kind, generous and loving heart. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to laugh. His optimism and glass half full attitude was contagious. Growing up in the great depression instilled a work ethic that would steer many life decisions. Work hard, take care of your family, support your friends and neighbors, and promote your community. Jim truly loved Storm Lake, his little slice of heaven.

Jim is survived by his children Scott (Lynna) Reese, Sandra Davis, Patricia Rogers, 11 grandchildren, 12 great-children. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Richard (Dick) Reese, sister Mary Ann (Reese) Harris and his wife of 72 years Elaine Marie (Weimer) Reese.

# Cemetery Details

## Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery

875 IA-7  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake  
211 East 3rd Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## Funeral Service

SEP **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake  
211 East 3rd Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ I really enjoyed "Reese" as my husband, Al, used to call him! He was a great supporter for all the young athletes in Storm Lake and worked hard to get all of those Little League teams lined up to play every year. He also was the BEST booster for Buena Vista University athletics!!! I have several stories that I could tell, but probably not on here. Everyone that met Jim loved him! He will be missed by so many Storm Lakers and Buena Vista alumni as well! Sending warm wishes to his family.

*Love in Him,  
Dee Lewis*

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**Dee Lewis** - October 08, 2021 at 07:39 PM

BP

“ Jim was not only my baseball coach, he was my neighbor and great friend. I was fortunate enough to visit Jim 5 years ago when I was back in Storm Lake for my high school reunion. I couldn't believe he still lived in the same house just down the street where I grew up. What a great guy! My condolences to all of his family.

*Bill Parker*

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**Bill Parker** - September 26, 2021 at 01:44 PM

BM

“ Barb Murphy lit a candle in memory of James Reese



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**Barb Murphy** - September 22, 2021 at 01:01 PM

FJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen - September 22, 2021 at 10:36 AM

AL

“ I'm thinking of Jim, his family , and all the joy he brought to so many generations of Storm Lake kids.  
Art Lande

arthur lande - September 21, 2021 at 01:45 PM

RH

“ Jim was a longtime friend of our family.. A very kind man! Prayers to entire family. Rest In Peace Jim.

Ronda Utter Hogan



Ronda Utter Hogan - September 21, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Reese.



September 20, 2021 at 05:41 PM

TC

“ A life lived long and well.....but when we have to say goodbye it still hurts the same way. So sorry your hearts are hurting. God Bless Jim Reese and his family.

Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - September 20, 2021 at 02:10 PM

MB

“ Jim's legacy is the positive influence he had on his players and those around him. Just a remarkable individual.



Mike Bodaken - September 20, 2021 at 01:50 PM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF JIM REESE, A LEGEND OF YOUTH & SPORTS IN STORM LAKE. THANKSTO HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION. MAY HE RIP. TO HIS FAMILY, OUR PRAYERS.



LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE  
STORM LAKE, IOWA

PATTY GUNVILLE - September 20, 2021 at 01:22 PM

RW

“ I was on Jim's first Little Leage Braves team. I always thought highly of him. Jim was one of the first people who greeted me when I moved back to Storm Lake after spending 35 years in Nebraska after I graduated from college.

Robert Wilson - September 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM

SM

“ *Great man. R.I.P Jim*



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**Steph Mickelson** - September 19, 2021 at 01:21 PM

BS

“ *I very fondly remember Mr . Reese as the Little League Commissioner of baseball and his sincere commitment to bettering the lives of all of us who played back then. He was a great man. May he Rest In Peace having led a good life.*

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**Brad Strader** - September 18, 2021 at 07:51 PM