



James D. O'Brien

July 25, 1925 - August 12, 2015

James D. O'Brien, 90, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at Tiller's in Oswego. He was born as Donald Neven O'Brien on July 25, 1925 in Aurora to Martin and Anita O'Brien. Since he was born on Saint James Day, the nuns at the hospital convinced his mother to call him James. He graduated from West Aurora High School, and as a young man, worked as an announcer at his father's radio station, WMRO. During WWII, he joined the Marine Corps and served his country for more than 40 years in active and reserve duty. After the war, he studied at North Central College, Western Michigan University and before graduating from UCLA in California, he met Margaret Mary Winter. They married in June of 1949 and settled in Aurora where they raised 5 children. Jim was a real estate investor. In his spare time, Jim was a collector and had an affinity for all things associated with beer. He collected beer labels, patches, bottles and signs. Jim also loved to travel with his family. One of his favorite accomplishments was traveling to every county in every one of the contiguous 48 states.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife Margaret, his parents, his brother Michael and sister Regina. He is survived by his 5 children, Philip (Carolyn) O'Brien of Vienna Virginia, Paul (Gwynne) O'Brien of Aurora, Karen (Jeff) Beallis of Aurora, Denise (Reynold) Weigelmann of Sugar Grove, and Suzanne (Mark) Phillips of St. Charles and 9 grandchildren Kathleen & Patrick O'Brien, Hallie & Dennis O'Brien, Megan, Margaret & Joseph Beallis, Amy & Reid Weigelmann, and one great grandchild, Rachel O'Brien. He is also

survived by his sister Dorothy Butler of Virginia Beach, Virginia and many nieces and nephews.

There will be no visitation. A Memorial Mass will be held Friday, August 14, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Holy Angels Church. Fr. Mariana Ery will officiate.

Inurnment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are being handled by THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, IL 60506. (630) 631-5500. Please visit our interactive website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may sign the guest book or leave condolences for James' family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

278 Ashland Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

AUG 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Angels Church
120 South Lancaster Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506

Tribute Wall

KA

“ There were seven Martines waiting for him, a full 21 gun salute. Forty one years in the Marines...What? I've never been more shocked. My husband looked at me with wonder, what do you mean...can't you see it? My nephew is a Marine and yes, he too is soft on the inside, but Jas, a Marine? Then my husband, Paul, goes into how afraid he was of Mr. O'Brien as a child. Again, shock...what? Jas? He entered my life in 1992 or 1993. By that time he was over 65, retired. He was proud of his beer collection, and with good reason; proud also of seeing every COUNTY in the 48 states and quite a lovely soul. He always greeted me with a hug and kiss and instantly I was a welcome part of his family. The only way that I can imagine the tough side is through stories, and there are many, so it must be true.

My absolute favorite and perfect example of a Jim moment was before his daughter's wedding. Suzanne was nervous, to say the least. It's the closest to a "basket case" that I've ever seen her. I strolled in to see her, thankful that I was close enough to her to do so. I thought that telling her about seeing Gerry Glosson, "Coaches," and how he wished her all the best on this, one of the most important days of her life, would be a good and appropriate thing. I thought the sentiment sounded sweet. Suzanne focused on the "most important day of your life" section of the comment and I would swear that her breathing pattern changed greatly, for the worse. I felt like a stupid idiot and crappy friend; what had I done...I had actually made the situation worse! No worries, for who was at her side but her Dad, he took one look at the situation, turned to Suzanne and said, "How about them Cubs." This was the perfect comment and it came forth so easily. He found a way to calm her nerves without insulting me and pointing out my stupidity...what a man.

A true gentleman and someone whose hugs and kisses I'll miss, for they are those of a great Dad. We love you, Mr. O'Brien, Jim, Jas.

Kristen Alger

Kristen Alger - August 18, 2015 at 06:41 PM

CZ

“ *I always knew him as "Uncle Jim," as his brother, Michael O'Brien, was my grandpa. I have memories of visiting him in his home & while I did not know him well, I loved that he was an O'Brien and so was I.*

God bless him & may he rest in peace.

*Clare (Brockway) Zemlick
Daughter of Julie O'Brien*

Clare Zemlick - August 14, 2015 at 07:49 PM

“ When Linda and I were at SIU-Carbondale we often consumed Wiedemann Bohemian Special, because it was the best tasting of the cheap beers. On one of those Fine Beer (“It’s Registered Pure”) days my roommate emerged from the kitchen with a freshly opened can held high and proclaimed, “I’m a WiedeMANN.”

To which I lifted my can and proclaimed, “I’m a WiedeMANN”.

Linda also saluting can in hand proclaimed, “I’m a WiedeWOMANN”. At some point she sketched a Weidewomann superhero.

Several years later she offered to embroider a jean jacket for me. I suggested Wiedewomann.

On a visit to Aurora we stopped by to see Jas with the idea of buying some Wiedemann paraphernalia. He said he wasn’t actively collecting anymore but had some Wiedemann items. He came back to the upstairs with a rectangular patch with the Wiedemann name on it and round patch with just the shield.

I asked, “How much do you want for these?”

He said, “Seeing you in the garment will be payment enough.” He then handed me a business card on the back of which was the agreement, hand written in ball point pen.

After Linda finished the jacket we made a special trip to remit. It was summer, very hot, very humid, very sunny. I wore the jacket from the car to the house. Jas and Mrs. O greeted us at the door off the driveway. The ac was quite refreshing.

We sat and talked for while about Algiers and O’Briens, a discussion that easily went on for some length. At an appropriate pause I fished the business card out of a jean jacket pocket and asked him to mark it paid.

He took the card from me and put it in his shirt pocket. We all talked for awhile more then Linda and I left and visited my parents.

So we did pay and he knows it and now everyone else does too.

I still smile about it when I pull the Wiedewomann out of the closet and off the hanger--on a cool autumn day!



Mark C Alger - August 14, 2015 at 02:52 PM

KR

“ *I have fond and mixed memories of this wonderful man. As a kid, he was one of the most intimidating adult figures I ever encountered. He really scared the heck out of me. I seemed to take great pleasure in it. As we all grew older, I came to understand the quirky patriarch in the cardigan, as a very warm and caring man. His traits can be found throughout his family. He was obviously proud of his entire family. RIP James*

Ken Regnier - August 14, 2015 at 12:23 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of James D. O'Brien.*



August 13, 2015 at 04:19 PM