



James F. Connell Jr.

July 9, 1932 - May 8, 2015

James F. "Head" Connell, Jr., 82, of Mounds, died Friday, May 8, 2015 at his home surrounded by family and his wife of 63 years.

Jim was born in Chicago on July 9, 1932. He graduated from Mounds Township High School in 1950. He married his high school sweetheart in 1951. He served in the National Guard. Jim worked for Joppa Energy Plant for over 30 years as a control operator and in coal handling. He was an avid jug fisherman, taking many friends and family along with him. He also loved to hunt deer and turkey with his sons and grandsons. He was a devout Catholic, lifetime member of St. Mary's Church in Mound City and St. Patrick Church in Cairo.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Ruth Connell of Mounds; seven children, Susan (Al) Fischer of Albita Springs, LA., Knute (Debbie) Connell of Goreville, JoEllen (Bobby) Reichert of Grand Chain, Marci (Cal) Niemi of Arlington Heights, IL., Jane (Martin) Flournoy of Kevil, KY., Joanie (Duke) Jones of Cairo, Mark (Tabitha) Connell of Rock Hill, SC; sister, Joan Dunn of San Antonio, TX; sixteen grandchildren, Tim Stone, Betsy Stone, Natalie Connell, Adam Connell, Chad Kerr, Barbie Traylor, Rob Reichert, Trevor Niemi, Tyler Niemi, Phillip Flournoy, Lacey Flournoy, Katey Flournoy, Ryan Goins, Jill

Hogg, Emily Martin, Brent Connell; eight great-grandchildren, Blake Stone, Kailee Taylor, Eva Kerr, Scotty Goins, Brody Goins, Rylee Goins, Myla Hogg, Alyssa Connell.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, James (Papa) and Josephine (Nana) Connell; sister, Carole Dille; grandson, Kenny Jones.

Visitation will be from 5:00pm-8:00pm on Sunday, May 10, 2015 at the Crain Funeral Home in Cairo. Holy Rosary will be recited at 7:30pm. Visitation will also be held at the funeral home from 9:00am-10:30am on Monday, May 11, 2015.

Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00am Monday, May 11, 2015 at St. Patrick Church in Cairo with Father Chris Mujule officiating. Military honors will be accorded by local veterans and the Illinois National Guard. Interment to follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Mounds, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warriors or The Allie Byrd Foundation Fund and will be accepted at the funeral home.

To leave online condolences visit www.crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall



“ *James F. Connell Jr.*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Our hearts go out to your family during this time of sorrow. Head was an icon to us and many others. As kids, your house was home base, whether it be flashlight tag in the evenings, flag football, or just hanging out. In all the chaos we extra kids added, Head always had a huge heart and open arms. We always were welcome and felt loved. He had a zest for life that has rubbed off on all of you, and hopefully, you will pass that zest to your children and grandchildren. Love you all dearly. Your daddy will be missed.*

James and Angie Biggerstaff

Angie and James Biggerstaff - May 11, 2015 at 11:25 AM