



## Mr. James J. Chanen

March 29, 1940 - July 19, 2020

James J. Chanen, 80, of Pittsfield, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 19, 2020 after a short illness. Born on March 29, 1940, Jim was the son of Nicholas Chanen and Anna Novitski Chanen, both of whom emigrated from Poland as children. He was proud to be from Pittsfield and was a graduate of Pittsfield High School class of 1957. He later received a BA in Mathematics from UMass Amherst and returned to work at General Electric for over 20 years, during which time he received his MS in Systems Analysis from Union College.

Though Jim worked for a long time in program planning for GE, he was usually most proud of some of the short-term jobs he did. He fondly remembered his time as a teenage lifeguard at Onota Lake as the most carefree time of his life. His year in the Coast Guard Reserve after college was formative. His retirement jobs at St. Joseph High School working on office systems and teaching physics, or working in the introductory math classes at Berkshire Community College turned into new careers. He loved driving back roads to his job at Millitech Corporation in Northampton and a stint traveling to fix computer programs for the Y2K bug: “Yeah, they say we had no problems when it turned 2000, but that’s because we fixed it!”

Jim was stubborn and he loved to argue or tell endless stories. Though it seemed at times that he was always serious, beneath that, he enjoyed life. He teased himself wearing his “Grumpy” t-shirt. He enjoyed crackers and cheese and a good Manhattan, or wine that was actually OK but only cost \$7.99 for

1.5 liters. He liked to eat. A lot. He also cared about trying out new recipes and exploring food. He cooked almost every meal that he and Carol ate for the last 20 years, and since he always loved to learn, his tastes and his cares expanded as he traveled the world with Carol and their friends in his later years. He loved to sit in the sun with his shirt off on hot days. He enjoyed polishing his shoes, or at least it seemed like he did! Jim loved marching in the Fourth of July Parade, whether as a student for the PHS marching band or later for the Berkshire Highlanders playing the pipe band snare drum. His fun side came out most when he got back into a lake or pool to play alligator and monster with his kids, his nieces and nephews or his grandchildren. Jim was quietly dedicated to his children and grandchildren no matter where they were living in the US or around the world. Most importantly, he was dedicated to Carol. They nagged at each other until the end, but they laughed every day and they were never separated. For the past three years, the aim of his life was taking care of Carol.

James is survived by Carol, his wife of over 50 years, and his three children and 6 grandchildren: Brian Chanen and Jane McGee with their children Cassandra and Gabriela; Daniel Chanen and Laura Pinsoneault and their children Bridgid and Ella; Katie Horstmann and Travis Horstmann and their children Alivia and Skylar. He also leaves behind his brother Edward Chanen and his two sisters, Halima Chanenczuk and Barbara Chanen.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. James J. Chanen will be Friday, July 24, 2020 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Joseph's Church at 9 a.m., celebrated by the Msgr. Michael A. Shershanovich, Pastor. For those who would like to view the service through a live webcast, please contact Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home by 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020. Entombment in the St. Michael of the Archangel Mausoleum at St. Joseph's Cemetery will follow. Calling hours will be on Thursday, July 23, 2020 from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield, MA, 01201. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Joseph Food Pantry in care of the

Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, in his memory. Doantions CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL 24. 9:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Church  
414 North St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

## Visitation

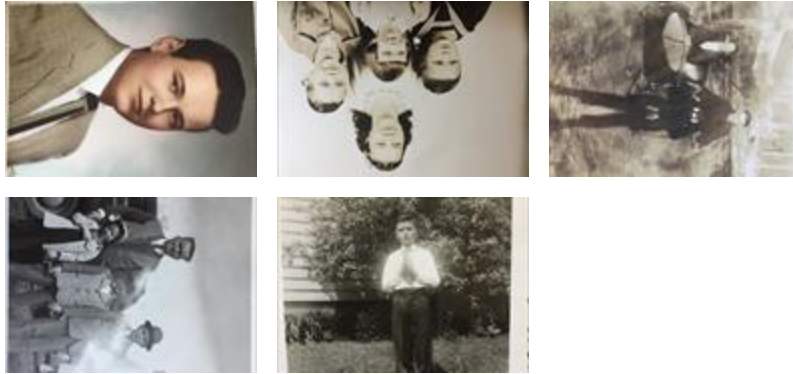
JUL 24. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield  
220 East St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 445-4064  
info@dwyerfuneral.com  
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BR

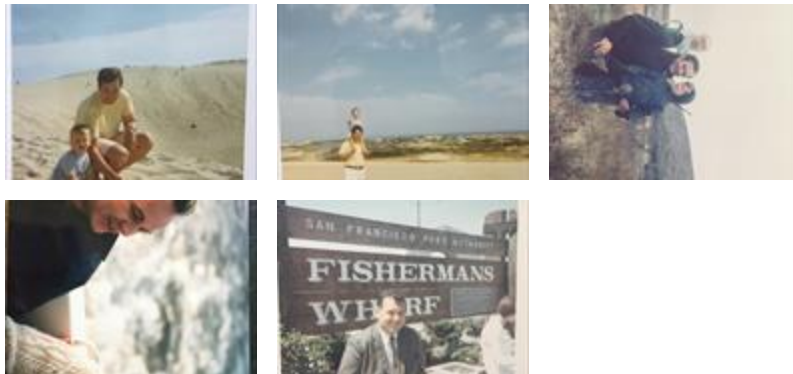
“ 5 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Brian - July 25, 2020 at 05:45 PM

BR

“ 11 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Brian - July 25, 2020 at 04:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Dwyer Funeral Home Inc.** - July 23, 2020 at 01:59 PM

MF

“ *Carol, We are so sorry that Jim has left us - and so quickly. We've so enjoyed both of your company over the years and want to tell you that we'll miss Jim a lot. This is a difficult time for you but you certainly have family and friends to see you through, which will be a great help. We will keep you both in our prayers and come visit you when we get to the Berkshires. We had a reservation for this summer but there's not much open to attend so I hope we can get up there in the Fall. Take care and be strong. It's not an easy time for you.*

*Fondly, Steve and Meg Francis*

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**Meg Francis** - July 23, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Mr. James J. Chanen.*



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July 23, 2020 at 12:22 PM

KR

“ We are both so saddened by your death. We enjoyed our trips to England, France, Turkey, Croatia, Greece, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany and Italy by car and river cruises. Our three transatlantic cruises with you were so much fun. You were the perfect travel companions. You and Carol loved to travel the way we do. We miss you!!

*We had so much fun together at St. Joe events, family weddings and quiet dinners with friends. We loved your visits to our Florida home.*

*Jim, you were a great friend, a devoted husband and father. Rest in peace, dear friend.*

*With much love  
Kathy and Michael Rainey*

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**Kathy and Michael Rainey** - July 22, 2020 at 09:00 PM

LW

“ To Carol, Brian, Daniel, and Katie,

*We are so sorry for your loss and hope your memories of husband and father bring you some comfort and peace. We are grateful to have known Jim and our memories always bring a smile. Our hearts and prayers go out to you. Lee and Sharon Woodry*

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**Lee and Sharon Woodry** - July 22, 2020 at 03:38 PM

RT

“ To Carol, Brian, Dan, and Katie - - We were so sad to hear of Jim's passing, and we want to convey our love and sincere sympathy to each of you.

We have so many happy memories of Jim. Our "Fun Bunch" comes immediately to mind. We did have much fun and laughter.

We have lost a good friend and a good man.

Most sincerely,

Chris and Bob Timmins

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**Robert Timmins** - July 22, 2020 at 02:03 PM

HA

“ Jim,  
You are always in my heart for your help with math problems, gourmet recipes, and giving me advice in every aspect of my life  
Thank you Jim.

Your Sister,  
Halima "Rosemary"

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**Halima** - July 22, 2020 at 12:23 PM

JM

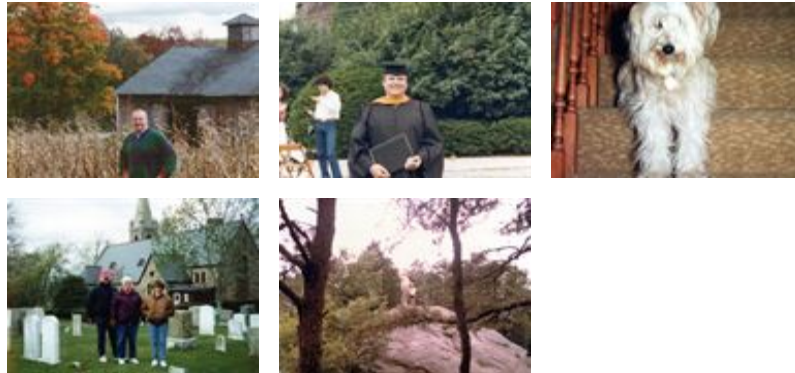
“ We were privileged to have known Mr. Chanen as a teacher, and we were lucky to have gotten to know him even better as a colleague later in life. What an exemplary person! He and Carol are one of the all-time best couples we have ever known. We will especially miss seeing him at the BCC dinners. Thank you, Jim, for all you have done over the years for our community. May perpetual light shine upon you. Justin and Nicole Maaia

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**Justin Maaia** - July 22, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ 53 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Dwyer Funeral Home Inc.** - July 22, 2020 at 09:56 AM

YB

“ *Your lifetime Brother. purchased the Infinite Love for the family of Mr. James J. Chanen.*



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**Your lifetime Brother.** - July 21, 2020 at 10:17 PM

SM

“ *To Carol, Brian, Dan, Katie, & Families;*

*Our sincere sympathy on the loss of Jim. So many memories of the trips to see Jane & Brian, thanksgiving (Jim in the kitchen no one else) motel 6 stops on the way to Dan's, the cottage. Again our sincere sympathy & give Carol a hug.*

*Sam & Sylvia McGee*

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**Sam McGee** - July 21, 2020 at 11:18 AM

ML

*Dear Mrs Chanel, Brian, Dan & Katie,  
My mom called me the other day to tell me the sad news. Please know that you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers. I'm traveling with my family in SC this week so am unable to be in Pittsfield for the services but will be thinking of you all during this difficult time. Hugs.  
Missy (Bercury) L.*

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**Missy Bercury L** - July 21, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ 27 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Dwyer Funeral Home Inc.** - July 21, 2020 at 09:17 AM

SM

“ *To Carol, Brian, Dan, Katie, & families;*

*Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Jim. The memories of the trips together to visit Jane & Brian, the thanksgivings together (Jim running the kitchen) the motel 6 stops on the way to visit Dan, cottage time. Give our love & hug to Carol for us.  
Sam & Sylvia McGee*

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**Sam McGee** - July 21, 2020 at 08:56 AM

JN

“ Dear Carol and Family,  
Jerry and I send our condolences to you.  
We remember our fond times together in Pittsfield.  
We will pray for you, and keep Jim in our thoughts and prayers.  
Blessings and Love.  
Jerry and Mary Ann Mc Neff 🌸

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**Jerry and Mary Ann Mc Neff** - July 21, 2020 at 08:41 AM

LC

“ I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of Your dad. He was such a good guy and adored and did everything for your mom. I used to tease Carol if she went first I was next in line as I wanted someone who would cherish me that much! They were the best couple.  
Lori Cote

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**lori cote** - July 21, 2020 at 08:23 AM

PG

“ To Carol and Jim's Family,  
Please accept our deepest sympathy and prayers in the loss of your father. Both of your parents were good friends. They always had a great time attending Irish Sister City events. It was always a joy to see them, carry on stimulating conversations and hear about their latest travel ventures. Your parents always had the greatest smiles, too. Your Dad was so dedicated to your Mom these past few years. We know he will continue to look after her from heaven above. Please give Carol our sympathy and prayers, too. We know you will keep memories close and call on them when needed. In prayers and love.

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**Patrick & Marie gormalley** - July 21, 2020 at 06:41 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James J. Chanen.*



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July 20, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ *I am fortunate to have been able to talk on the phone with my brother on his last day. I will very much miss our rare visits.*

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**Edward Chanen** - July 20, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ *I will miss Uncle Jimmy. I can't list every happy memory but there were many. His "very serious" dancing at my wedding, his extremely competitive nature during our Easter egg cracking competitions, an so many more. When I was a teenager I remember I was wearing these funky, "tye dye ish" socks. He told me I looked like I had varicose veins. I didn't know what that meant but I remember him laughing at his own joke. I will miss him more than I can express. Hugs and love to Brian, Dan, Kate, and Auntie Carol. ❤️*

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**Judy McDonough** - July 20, 2020 at 07:36 PM