



## James G. Dukovic

January 19, 1926 - September 29, 2021

James Gabriel Dukovic, age 95, passed away on September 29, 2021 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Jim was born on January 19th, 1926 in Pittsburgh to Mary (Specic) Dukovic and Michael Dukovic, a steelworker and boiler operator. His youth in Shaler Township was marked by close Croatian family ties, helping with chores, working the fields of a nearby farm, picking tomatoes, and - unaware of how it would play into his life's journey - belonging to a Boy Scout troop!

Graduating from high school at 17, too young to enlist for World War II, Jim worked as a welder, making gratings for warships. When he did join the Army, he was assigned to a field artillery battalion of the 28th "Keystone" Infantry Division. He arrived in Europe soon after the Battle of the Bulge and participated in defending newly taken territory and guarding German POWs.

After the war, with the unexpected opportunity afforded by the GI Bill, Jim enrolled at California State Teacher's College. He later transferred to Penn State University, initially studying forestry and ultimately earning a Bachelor of Science in psychology in 1950.

While at Penn State, Jim completed ROTC training and earned a U.S. Air Force officer commission. But at graduation, he chose a civilian life. His curiosity was aroused by a job posting for a professional staff position in

Baltimore with the Boy Scouts of America and he went for it.

In Baltimore, Jim met Jane Owen, the love of his life, at a YMCA rooftop dance. They married in 1954. Jane soon pivoted from her career in the nascent computer industry to focus on raising children. Jim stayed on in the B.S.A. for his whole career, with executive positions in Pennsylvania: in Chester County; in Schuylkill County, where he devised innovative programs for vocational guidance and disabled youth; in Valley Forge; and eventually returning to the Chester County Council as Program Director. Scouting, with its strong ideals and mission of developing character in young people - achievable only by marshalling legions of adult volunteers - was Jim's lifelong vocational passion.

With a growing family, Jim built - with his own hands and no power tools - a fine ranch-style house on a verdant hilltop in Kimberton, PA. He enlarged it over the decades, building ever-fancier masonry features from stones he collected from far and wide.

Jim and Jane were inseparable soulmates, married for 66 years, till her passing in 2020. Together they raised four children in a loving, nurturing family, and, when grandchildren came, immersed themselves generously and creatively in each of their lives, remaining thoroughly connected with all over the years. Side by side, Jim and Jane travelled the wide world: the 50 states, the 10 provinces, Europe, China, India, Siberia, Australia and New Zealand, returning each time to their happy Kimberton home with new photographs, friends, perspectives and memories.

Jim was a thinker - philosophical and spiritual - a lifelong student of human nature and management principles, with passions as down-to-earth as gardening and as ethereal as clairvoyance. At age 70 he wrote a philosophical novel in which aliens abduct a dairy farmer and educate him to save the

human race. He also created poems, essays, and a moving Christmas letter each year.

Jim was a hard worker, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, a friendly neighbor, and a great believer in service to others. He was active in Rotary and in later years volunteered with his church and Meals on Wheels. He was a lover of trees, flowers and birds, and a constant champion and exemplar of gratitude. He had a sparkle in his eye, and an abiding passion for the people in his life till the end.

Jim is survived by his four children, Jan Turner (with spouse Russel Turner), Joan Dukovic, John Dukovic (with spouse Linda Frommer), and James M. Dukovic (with spouse Debbie Dukovic), and ten grandchildren Alex Turner (with fiancée Lola Shperdhaja), Bradley Turner (with spouse Christine Mehta), Eric Turner (with spouse Manami Turner), Christopher White, Brandon Dukovic, Kevin Dukovic, Anna Dukovic, Ethan Dukovic, Rachel Dukovic, and Kelsey Dukovic. He is predeceased by his sister Theresa Sigmund, his grandson Andrew Dukovic, and his beloved wife Jane Dukovic.

A funeral service open to all will be held on Thursday, October 7th at the Church of St. Basil the Great in Kimberton, PA: 10:30 gathering and visitation, 11:00 mass, 12:15 burial ceremony at St. Ann's Cemetery in Phoenixville, followed by a luncheon at Limoncello Restaurant in Chester Springs.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Jim's name to the Church of St. Basil the Great in Kimberton (<http://stbasils.org>) or to Mission for Educating Citizens with Autism (<http://paalprogram.org>). Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be offered online at <http://PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com>.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Ann Cemetery

502 Main St  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 7. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Basil the Great R.C. Church  
2300 Kimberton Road PO Box 637  
Kimberton, PA 19442

## Mass

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Basil the Great R.C. Church  
2300 Kimberton Road PO Box 637  
Kimberton, PA 19442

# Tribute Wall

DP

“Loved Mr. Dukovic with all my heart! He was an appreciative, selfless, and kind man. I will miss him a lot but I'm sure he is happy with Mrs. Dukovic in heaven.

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**Daisy Pimentel** - October 26, 2021 at 02:52 AM

DM

“I have a letter Jim wrote to me in 1983 and have saved it these many years. Each time I read it, it reminds me of the caring person he was and lifts my spirits. I looked forward to seeing him every year at the Horseshoe alumni association summer outings. I will miss him but cherish the many memories I have of our times together.

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**David Mellinger** - October 09, 2021 at 09:06 PM

JO

“From Danilo, Danielle, Jackie, Rodrigo Villamil-Bustos:

*"Our deepest condolences for the loss of Jim. Our hearts rejoice in the thought that he is in the house of God and next to Jane. Jim is a great man and his kindness has reached many, many lives. There is no end to how blessed we feel for meeting him and enjoying him the little time we had when we came for visits. He always wanted to do more for us, for my children. We are here to tell you, Jim, you did more than enough. You opened your home and your heart to us and made us feel part of your beautiful family. For that and much more, thank you."*

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**johndukovic** - October 08, 2021 at 06:14 PM

JO

“ From John O. McGovern:

*"Jim Dukovic was a gentleman like you wouldn't believe. He helped me many times when I was a Scoutmaster in the seventies. I'm honored to have known him over the years."*

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**johndukovic** - October 08, 2021 at 05:40 PM

JO

“ From Dorene Mittwer:

*"Wish I could be there today to honor your amazing father."*

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**johndukovic** - October 08, 2021 at 04:56 PM

JO

“ From Arthur Thomas Owen:

*"Your beloved dad was a fabulous guy, multi-talented, with high person-to-person skills, and deeply engrained integrity. I admired him for the man he was, and am forever grateful for the love and care he provided ceaselessly to my mother and my sister Jane, especially in their last illnesses. Forever grateful..."*

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**johndukovic** - October 08, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



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**Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home** - October 06, 2021 at 10:02 PM

JD

“ *My amazing dad....  
Patriarch, storyteller, protector, nature lover, veteran, philosopher,  
builder, grower, honor-bound, larger than life, father...grandfather...  
Thank you for loving us profusely, for teaching us the most  
important life lessons, for challenging us to be the best we can be,  
for showing us the beauty of gratitude, and for inspiring us to always  
leave things better than we found them. You sure did.  
You gave us the best of you, always. And now you can rest in  
eternal peace. 💔*

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joan Dukovic - October 06, 2021 at 09:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



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Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - October 06, 2021 at 06:51 PM

JO

“ *From Jeff Spencer, Scout Executive/CEO, Chester County Council:*

*"Thanks for sharing and very sorry to hear this news. My  
condolences to you and your family.*

*Jeff"*

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johndukovic - October 06, 2021 at 12:53 PM

JO

“ From OA LodgeMaster, Octoraro Lodge 22, Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America:

*"Vigil Honor Members, I wanted to pass along sad news about a member who has gone home. Today we learned of the passing of James G. Dukovic. Jim kept his Vigil in 1983 and was very active in Scouting, serving in many professional positions through the Boy Scouts of America. Jim's first year camping at Camp Horseshoe was 1954 and he attended many HSRAA reunions upon his retirement. His son said that Camp Horseshoe was ever dear to his heart."*

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**johndukovic** - October 06, 2021 at 12:50 PM

JO

“ From Gus Sauerzopf, Lodge Advisor to Octoraro Lodge #22, Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America:

*"I'm so sorry for your loss. Please pass along our Lodge's condolences to your family."*

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**johndukovic** - October 06, 2021 at 12:40 PM

IR

“ Irena lit a candle in memory of James G. Dukovic



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**Irena** - October 05, 2021 at 07:53 PM

JO

“ From long-time friend June MacDade:

*"We were such good friends. My husband and I got together many times with Jim and Jane. Happy memories from the Phoenixville Women's Club, from Rotary, and from many dinners together over the years."*

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**johndukovic** - October 04, 2021 at 05:22 PM

JD

“ From Jenifer Haines (daughter of Maureen & Bob, neighbors at Spring Mill)

*"I treasure the moments that I have spent with your dear father over the past few years. He was a true gentleman who always brought a smile and kind words to every person he met, every day. Please accept my deepest condolences. ❤️"*

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**joan Dukovic** - October 03, 2021 at 09:11 PM

JD

“ *In Memoriam to my dear Angel on Earth  
James Dukovic RIP. Thank you for your Legacy of Unconditional  
Love. God has a special place for you. 🗨️🗨️*

*✨ ✨ Thank you for so much love received from you and your  
beautiful family.*

*✨ ✨ Thank you for opening the doors of your home as soon as I  
reached this country, when I was single, I felt alone and without  
family.*

*✨ ✨ Thank you for your support and advice as a Father and making  
me feel part of your family.*

*✨ ✨ Thank you for sharing your Home with my friends, who needed a  
roof to live temporarily, and opened the door of your Home, without  
knowing them.*

*✨ ✨ Thank you for your wonderful legacy of unconditional love,  
generosity, sensitivity and solidarity, that you leave me.*

*Yesterday I heard the sad news of your departure. You leave great  
pain and emptiness in my heart.*

*✨ ✨ Sorry for this big loss... Jane and family, Joan and family, Jimmy  
and family, John and family. Joan Dukovic Jan Turner All of you are  
in my heart and prayers. Send my Love to all of you. Sonia, Jorge,  
and Jorge Emmanuel. ❤️🙏*

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joan Dukovic - October 03, 2021 at 07:18 PM

JD

“ *Together again. ❤️❤️*



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joan Dukovic - October 03, 2021 at 07:16 PM

JO

“ From long-time friend Pat Hall:  
“Jim and Jane were my very best friends. I loved both of them dearly. We kept in touch together ever since the prayer group we belonged to in Orwigsburg in the 1960s. They made generous contributions to people in need. I remember wonderful dinners at their home way up on the hill.” I have wonderful memories of both of them.

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**johndukovic** - October 03, 2021 at 07:00 PM

RD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Rachel Dukovic** - October 02, 2021 at 10:28 PM

DO

*Beautiful tribute. Proud to have called him Uncle* 💔

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**Dorene** - October 03, 2021 at 03:38 PM

AM

*Beautiful*

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**Amy McCormick** - October 07, 2021 at 07:22 PM