



## James Strautman

February 4, 1927 - April 22, 2021

James Strautman, 94 of Carroll, died Thursday, April 22, 2021 at St. Anthony Nursing Home in Carroll.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be Celebrated at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 30, 2021 at St. John Paul II Parish – St. Lawrence Church in Carroll. The Celebrant will be Fr. Kevin Richter. Music will be by Marcy Anderson and Kathleen Macke. Lectors for the Funeral Mass will be Sarah Pike and Carol Strautman. Honorary Casket Bearers will be Sarah Pike, Debbie Koster, Marissa Strautman, Leah Taylor, Ellen Baker, Bridget Kosmach, Heather Jeffers, and Karlie Kaiser. Casket Bearers will be Randy Bruening, Michael Strautman, Kenny Kaiser, Kaden Kaiser, Bill Stoffel, and Will Stoffel. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carroll with Military Honors conducted by the Carroll American Legion.

Visitation without greeting the family will be held from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. on Friday at the church. Those in attendance are required to wear a face covering and abide by current social distancing guidelines.

In lieu of flowers, should one desire, memorials may be left for James J. Strautman Center for Academic Excellence at Kuemper Catholic Schools in Carroll, Iowa. A direct link is provided here: [https://kuemper.org/donate/memorial\\_\\_\\_honor\\_gifts](https://kuemper.org/donate/memorial___honor_gifts), or those memorials may be mailed to Sharp Funeral Home,

226 W. 8th St. Carroll, IA 51401 and will be forwarded to Kuemper Catholic Schools.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences for Jim's family may be left at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Jim Strautman was Born February 4, 1927 in Wien, Missouri, the son of Bernard and Theresa (Palms) Strautman. He grew up as a hard-working farm boy who was intensely loyal to and supportive of his family throughout their lives. Jim was a World War II veteran, serving with the occupation forces in France and Germany for two and a half years. He was also a Korean War Veteran who served with the 96th FA Battalion on the frontlines for 5 years. During intense fighting near the end of the Korean war he was awarded the Bronze Service Star for meritorious service. In his career, he reached the rank of Captain.

Jim received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture education from the University of Missouri in 1952 and a Master of Science degree from Iowa State University in 1958. He also earned post graduate honors in counselor education. Jim taught vocational agriculture at Bayard High School for two and a half years before accepting a position at Kuemper Catholic High School in 1956. Jim's career at Kuemper included teaching agriculture and physics as well as serving as a school counselor for a total of 31 years. He retired from Kuemper in 1987 to pursue his passion full time of his Christmas Tree Farm businesses he started in 1962. On May 30, 1987, Jim married Joan Olesen.

Jim was always interested in soil conservation and in growing trees. He was one of the founders of the Iowa Christmas Tree Growers Association and served as its first vice president. He was elected president of the association and served 5 years. He also served on the board of directors for 19 years.

For over 50 years, Jim loved working at his tree farms promoting Iowa trees and providing a cut- your-own family holiday experience for generations of Iowans. He planted, pruned, and cared for his trees personally alongside his children. Jim always said that Fraser firs were the best and added that the beauty of a Christmas tree is in the eyes of the beholder.

Jim was a member of St Lawrence Church, a member of the American Legion and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In May 2015, Jim and his granddaughter, Sarah, made the trip on the Honor Flight from Des Moines to Washington, D.C. to honor all veterans.

Survivors include his wife, Joan, of Carroll; two sons, Jim (Carol) of Carroll, John (Kate) of Fort Lauderdale, FL; daughters, Janice (Dr. William) Stoffel of Dubuque; Mary Jeffers of Warrenville, IL; Ellen (Larry) Johnson of Des Moines; Trish Strautman of Dubuque and Katie (Kenny) Kaiser of Ankeny; 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Joetta and mother of his children; a sister, three brothers and a son, Thomas.

# Tribute Wall

HD

“ *My deepest condolences to the Strautman family. I knew all of you and so very sorry for your lose. Sending prayers during time.*

**Holley Drees** - April 30, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of James Strautman.*



April 29, 2021 at 03:27 PM

DP

“ *We knew Jim through his marriage to Joan. He was somewhat quiet and very kind, and was always so good to Joan. When we would visit, he would proudly show us the back yard which is so beautiful. He was very proud of his trees and so knowledgeable. We always enjoyed visiting with him. Our hearts go out to Joan and family,*

**Doris & Danny Pickell** - April 28, 2021 at 08:02 PM

VH

“ *My sympathies to the Strautman family. I valued the the days working with him on the staff at Kuemper Catholic High. Kathie and I, as well as our children, enjoyed visiting his tree farm south of Glidden, picking out a fresh tree for our house at Christmas, and having Jim cut it for us. He will be in my prayers.*

**Vern Henkenius** - April 27, 2021 at 11:18 PM

JH

“ James and Jeanne Harlan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Strautman.



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**James and Jeanne Harlan** - April 27, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Strautman.



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April 26, 2021 at 10:42 AM

RB

“ Ellie I did not know your dad, but if he is anything like you, he had to be a wonderful person. Blessings to you & your family at this time of need. Rose

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**Rose Busby** - April 25, 2021 at 09:31 AM

MR

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Strautman family.

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**Mike and Denise Riddle** - April 25, 2021 at 08:40 AM

GT

“ Joni and I wish to express our deepest sympathy to the entire family. Your dad was a great example for all who knew him. May he Rest In Peace. God bless.

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**Greg Tigges** - April 24, 2021 at 09:11 PM

JS

“ Jan, our thoughts are with you and your family. I can see your father’s sense of service to community in you.

*Julie Steffen and Mike Ironside*

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**Julie Steffen** - April 24, 2021 at 08:36 PM

DO

“ My deepest condolences to family! A great guy and one of the kindest guys I knew while living in Carroll! He did so much in his life and for Kuemper and the Carroll area!

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**Denny O’Grady** - April 24, 2021 at 02:08 PM

BG

“ I’m sorry to hear about Jim’s passing. Mr. Strautman was a big influence in my life. I grew up in Carroll on Court Street down the hill from his home by the water tower. He encouraged me to do what I loved and ended up back in Carroll Chief Engineer at Carroll Broadcasting. Whenever I would see him he would always stop and visit. In high school I would help him film and video tape the sports. I would stop and see all the slides he took. He was really nice about sharing his interests. I made a couple trips with him to the tree farm by Ames. He was a good man. Rest In Peace Jim. Bob Grote

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**Bob Grote** - April 24, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Strautman.



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April 24, 2021 at 08:14 AM