



James Reber

June 15, 2022

James Reber passed away the evening of June 15, 2022 at the age of 87 in Louisville, KY. He was born in November of 1934 in Taylorville, IL to the late Everett and Gladys Reber. He graduated from Taylorville High School in 1952 and Baptist Bible College in 1957. James became the founder of Janesville Bible Baptist Temple in 1957 and Oakhill Christian School in 1972 both in Janesville, WI. He later retired as a general manager from Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance. James enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf. In his younger years he was an amateur boxer. He was passionate about football and loved the Green Bay Packers and the UK Wildcats. He was a charismatic, people person and was never happier than when interacting with others. James said he wanted to be remembered as “a servant of the Lord.” He was a longtime member of Shawnee Baptist Church. James was preceded in death by his sisters Dorothy Repscher and Mary Beck, his brother,

Robert Reber, his step-sons Johnny Wyss and Ray (Tig) VanNatta Jr., and his grandson Joel Mattison.

He is survived by his wife Lois Reber, his brother Thomas Reber, his children Roy (Tammy)

Reber, Bobbie Fortney, and Becky (Kirk) Ruppert and his step-children Angie (Gary) Mattison,

Terri (Jerry) Dampier, and Tammy (Terry) Huttenlocher. His grandchildren are Abigail Reber,

Joshua Reber, David (Britny) Fortney, Jamie Fortney, Adam (Jubilee) Ruppert, Danielle

Ruppert, Jessica (Dale) Carman, Nicoal (Jared) Steinmann, and Steven Keen Jr. His

great-grandchildren are Izabelle Reber, Luke Ruppert, Hunter Carman, Haley Carman, Blake

Steinmann and Paige Steinmann.

Public visiting hours will be held at 10 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 1 p.m. on Monday,

June 20 at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Hwy, Louisville, KY 40216. His final resting place

will be at Bethany Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in his memory to

the Alzheimer's Association https://www.alz.org/?form=alz_donate

Cemetery Details

Bethany Memorial Cemetery

10917 Dixie Hwy
Louisville, KY 40272

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 20. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Service

JUN 20. 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

PO

“ *Mr Reber baptized me as a child back in 1972 at Janesville Bible Baptist Temple. My dad was his youth leader for several years. I do personally remember him as a kind man. However. What he did to his 1st wife and children (left them high and dry with the church secretary) and what he did to my Dad in 1976, I can only pray he found God’s forgiveness because he never came back and asked my Dad to forgive him. Paul Olmstead*

Paul Olmstead - January 10, 2025 at 06:41 PM

PO

You’re welcome to remove this if you’d like. I find that i guess I am as not as forgiving as what others might be for what he did.

Paul Olmstead - January 10, 2025 at 07:54 PM

BL

I can understand your feelings Paul. Pastor Renee had baptized me when I was 15. When I married 5 years later I took classes and was confirmed into the Lutheran Church. I was born Lutheran but was never baptized as an infant or brought up in the Lutheran faith. I remember when they left the church. I can’t understand why but I too hope that he found Gods forgiveness. I don’t know what he done to your father. I’m sorry for that though. It is written that only God can judge but it can be difficult to do.

Brenda(Bluhm) Laughlin - December 02, 2025 at 02:48 PM

JB

“ *Mr. Reber was my boss when I worked for him Jefferson county Farm Bureau. He was the BEST boss I ever had in my working career. He was so caring and just a good man. I will always think of Mr. Reber of a man of faith and such great respect and love. My thoughts go out to Ms. Lois and his family..*

Janet Bale - June 21, 2022 at 05:22 PM

LP

“ *Mr. Reber was a great man! A great friend to all that knew him. I was proud to know Jim and he was a great mentor. He will truly be missed by all that were fortunate to have had the pleasure of knowing him.*

Lisa Pittman - June 20, 2022 at 03:44 PM