



## James Joseph McGraw

May 16, 1929 - November 20, 2023

James (Jim) Joseph McGraw, of Manassas, Virginia, died peacefully in his sleep on Monday, November 20, 2023. He was born on May 16, 1929, in Pursglove, WV to parents James John and Mary Katherine McGraw. On December 27, 1955, he entered into holy matrimony with his loving and beloved wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Eisenbart, at her hometown church of St Joseph's Church in Yates Center, KS. A lifelong partnership full of spiritual and emotional joy and happiness, blessed them with six children. Their children and their spouses, Kevin and Claudia McGraw, Tim (deceased) and Cathy McGraw, Brian and Kathy McGraw, Mike McGraw, Jim and Kay McGraw, and Kelly and Bill Tully, increased their blessings with eighteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. As the oldest of four siblings: his paternal twin sister, Mary, brothers Peter and Frank (deceased) and sister Catherine (deceased) all grew up in Osage and attended St Francis De Sales High School in Morgantown, WV.

Jim had an illustrious professional career with an exemplary work ethic. After high school he enlisted in the Air Force and rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant becoming an electrical instructor for B47-4 Mobile Training Detachment at Sedalia Air Force Base in Missouri. After honorable separation from the service, he entered college at the Milwaukee School of Engineering earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Graduating in 1959, he joined Western Electric Company working on among other things, the SAGE Air Defense System. In 1965, Jim accepted a promotion to Senior Engineer in

the AT&T Long Lines transmissions department in White Plains, New York. In this position he managed both regional and international engineering product support teams involving work at sites as far away as Japan. Upon his retirement in 1989, he was recognized as a Telephone Pioneer of America. Jim's engineering skills were put to good use making several renovations and home improvements to his home in Shrub Oak, NY where he and Betty resided for over 43 years. With help from his sons, he added a three-bedroom dormer with a full bathroom onto the house, as well as a two-car garage. He extended the kitchen, and enclosed and screened-in his back porch. This is just to name a few of his many projects. Listening on the radio to the New York Yankees or whistling along to the song "When the red, red robin goes bob, bob, bobbing along," while bird watching, he truly enjoyed that back porch.

Jim loved sports. He was captain of his high school basketball team and remarkably was able to play alongside his two brothers. He enjoyed watching WVU sports teams and playing golf, especially with his sons at the annual Golf Getaway outing in Myrtle Beach, SC. Very active in his service to the sports community, he coached and acted as commissioner to the Shrub Oak Athletic Club Girls Basketball League for many years. He helped organize JFK high school booster clubs. He encouraged all kids, his own and others, to play sports. Whether it be basketball, football, baseball, volleyball, or track, he went to their games.

As much as Jim accomplished in his professional and community life, his focus, commitment, and devotion were always on the authentic practice of his Catholic faith and the loving support of his family. He gave much of his time, talent and treasure to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Shrub Oak, NY. He was head of the parish finance committee and yearly chaired SEAS's Archdiocesan Cardinal's Appeal committee. He was the local council coordinator of the Secular Franciscan Order and belonged to the Holy Name Society. Jim was heavily involved in all church ministries, be it Eucharistic minister, Lectoring or serving as an Usher. In 2011, Jim and Betty moved to

Manassas, VA and became parishioners of All Saints Catholic Church. They both continued their service to the Secular Franciscan Order, with Jim also becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus (Third degree).

Jim always had a special devotion to Our Lady, Mary, the Mother of God. He was never without the scapular or medals of the Blessed Virgin Mary around his neck. He and Betty had visited Medugorje three times, performed daily devotions, and asked for intercessory prayers from Our Lady on behalf of all their loved ones. Jim's exemplary life will always be a constant reminder to all who knew him. "Well done, good and faithful servant".

If so desired, donations to Jim and Betty's Secular Franciscan Order fraternity may be made by check to:

Holy Family Fraternity, OFS

P.O. Box 4562

Manassas, VA 20108

# Cemetery Details

## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 2. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church  
9300 Stonewall Rd  
Manassas, VA 20110-2566  
(703) 368-4500

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.*



December 01, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Cathy Jake Eva Danny Timmy Alexis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Joseph McGraw.*

**Cathy Jake Eva Danny Timmy Alexis** - December 01, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.*



December 01, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ *The Dietz Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Joseph McGraw.*



**The Dietz Family** - November 30, 2023 at 03:58 PM

ES

“ Thinking of all the McGraws at this time. What a wonderful tribute you have shared of the blessings Mr. McGraw showered on all of you. We are confident they will continue to reach you from his side of Heaven. Our hearts and thoughts are with you this week. And we are also confident that the Blessed Mother has placed her mantle around him. With love,  
Jim and Marybeth Mueller and the Mueller family

Elizabeth Szydlik - November 28, 2023 at 05:03 PM

EF

“ Ethel, Dan, D'Ann and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Joseph McGraw.

Ethel, Dan, D'Ann and family - November 28, 2023 at 02:02 PM



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



November 28, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.



November 28, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.*



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November 27, 2023 at 09:51 PM



“ *Jim, you were a great brother~in~law, I remember spending time with you & Betty when Tim was a baby!! You loved our Lord & he has given you your Eternal reward with him. Love you , May you rest in peace. Love Pauline*

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**Pauline Thomas** - November 27, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.*



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November 25, 2023 at 06:01 PM



“ *What a beautiful life Papa lived, and what a legacy he leaves behind. I will keep him in my thoughts always xx*

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**Hilary McGraw** - November 25, 2023 at 11:29 AM

HM

“ Hilary McGraw planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Joseph McGraw.

Hilary McGraw - November 25, 2023 at 11:16 AM

HM

“ Hilary McGraw purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James Joseph McGraw.



Hilary McGraw - November 25, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.



November 25, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.



November 24, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Joseph McGraw.*



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November 24, 2023 at 06:12 PM



“ *We extend our condolences and prayers to the McGraw family during this time of deep sorrow. We are confident that their sorrow is comforted by their deep faith in the belief Jim is at home with the Lord enjoying the fruits of a life dedicated to the Lord and his loved ones.*

*Jim's good example lives on in all whose lives he touched. As St Francis Assisi said "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today." Jim spoke many sermons by how he lived his life and we are all the beneficiaries of his example. We made a donation to the "Holy Family Fraternity, OFS" in Manassas where Jim and his beloved wife Betty have been members as Secular Order Franciscans.*

*Joan and Bill Tully*

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**Bill and Joan Tully** - November 24, 2023 at 01:44 PM