



James Joseph Epley

April 5, 1934 - May 1, 2025

James Joseph Epley, 91, of Pana, Illinois, died Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 4:41 AM at Pana Health and Rehab Center, Pana, Illinois. Visitation will be Thursday, May 8, 2025, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Kennedy & Sons Funeral Home, Pana. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered Friday, May 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana, Illinois, with Father Joseph Havrilka officiating. Following Mass, Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Pana Township, Illinois. Memorials in honor of James may be made to Pana Sacred Heart School or Quad County Hospice.

James Epley was born Thursday, April 5, 1934, the son of Jesse Edward and Dorothy Janette (Vits) Epley. He grew up in Pana and graduated from Pana High School in 1952. He later served in the United States Army. James Joseph Epley married Mona Audrae Erisman on May 22, 1965, in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Assumption, Illinois, and she died July 25, 1998. James married Carolyn Newberry on June 16, 2001, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana, Illinois. James had a long career with ten years in the gasoline retail business, thirty years farming, and fifteen years as a school bus driver after retirement. He was also very active in the community with memberships in the Pana Sportsman's Club, Pana Elks Lodge, Moose (Lifetime Member) Lodge, Lions Club, and Pana Eagles. He held a sixty-year membership in the Oconee American Legion, and a fifty-year membership in the Pana Knights of Columbus, Council #896, where he served twice as Grand Knight. James was

also very active in St. Patrick's Catholic Church and served as a Eucharistic Minister for several years. In later years, he was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and a nursing home ombudsman.

James Epley is survived by his Wife: Carolyn; Children; Luke Epley of Pana; Nicholas (Michelle) Epley of Pana; Suzanne (Michael) Meislahn of Champaign, Illinois; Kyle (Kelly) Epley of Libertyville, Illinois; and Rachel (William) Anderson of Blaine, Minnesota; fourteen Grandchildren; five Great-Grandchildren; Stepchildren: Vicki (Timothy) Reiss of Ramsey, Illinois; Tami (James) Denton of Huntingdon, Tennessee; and Kelli (Victor) Bell of Ramsey, Illinois; Numerous Step-Grandchildren, Step-Great-Grandchildren, and a Step-Great-Great-Grandchild; Brothers: Jack (Noreen) Epley and Larry (Donna) Epley, both of Pana, and Steve (Peggy) Epley of Taylorville, Illinois. He is preceded in death by his Parents, first Wife: Mona; and Daughter: Mary Alison Epley, who died September 4, 1976; Great-Grandson: Bayden Lee Klein; Brother: Richard Epley; and Sister: Nancy Chladny.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery, Pana

2207 W Rt 16
Pana, IL 62557

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kennedy & Sons, Funeral Directors
401 S. Locust Street
Pana, IL 62557
(217) 562-3959
info@kennedypana.net
<https://www.kennedypana.net>

Burial

MAY 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
301 South Locust Street
Pana, IL 62557

Tribute Wall



“ *Lori Miller Ambrose lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Lori Miller Ambrose - May 09, 2025 at 06:13 PM

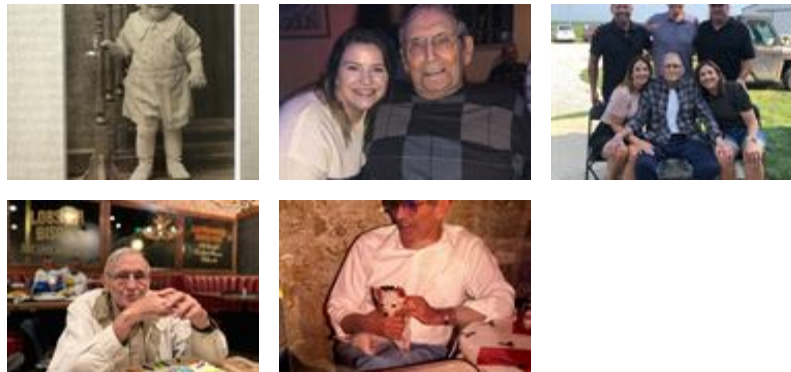


*Thoughts and prayers to the family.
Ron, Lori, Andrew, and Derrek Ambrose*

Lori Miller Ambrose - May 09, 2025 at 06:14 PM



“ *15 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Kennedy & Sons Funeral Directors, P.C. - May 07, 2025 at 05:16 PM

RH

“ *MY SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS BE WITH THE FAMILY. MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE. GOD BLESS*

ROSEMARY HORSTHEMKE - May 06, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JG

“ *Judy Glick lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Judy Glick - May 06, 2025 at 10:11 AM

MK

“ *So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. My thoughts and prayers for all of his family.*



Mary Kimmel, - May 06, 2025 at 09:02 AM

GL

“ *Gary Lewis lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Gary lewis - May 05, 2025 at 08:58 PM

LT

“ *Lloyd Temmen lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Lloyd Temmen - May 05, 2025 at 06:30 PM

DA

“ *Dennis & Sue Aumann lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Dennis & Sue Aumann - May 05, 2025 at 05:29 PM



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



May 05, 2025 at 04:29 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Joseph Epley.*

May 05, 2025 at 04:29 PM

MS

“ *Mary Schneider lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Mary Schneider - May 05, 2025 at 03:48 PM



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



May 05, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ *Pete & Diane Scherzer lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Pete & Diane Scherzer - May 04, 2025 at 11:08 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Jim was one of the good guys. He will be missed. God bless*



Denny and Phyllis Elmore - May 04, 2025 at 08:35 PM



“ *Brian And Michelle Lebon lit a candle in memory of James Joseph Epley*



Brian and Michelle Lebon - May 04, 2025 at 06:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Joseph Epley.



May 04, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Joseph Epley.

May 04, 2025 at 04:34 PM



“ So sad to hear of Jim's passing. He was part of a very well known and fun family! Prayers for the family.



Francie and Rick Schmitz - May 04, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ Michael Havrilka sent a virtual gift in memory of James Joseph Epley



Michael Havrilka - May 04, 2025 at 02:43 PM



Sincere sympathy to Jim's family during this difficult time. Always great memories at the KC club!

Michael Havrilka - May 04, 2025 at 02:45 PM

BB

“ *Our Deepest Condolences to Carolyn and all of the Family
Jim was a Great Guy. God Bless You All*

Bud & Penny Brown - May 04, 2025 at 12:47 PM

VE

“ *So sorry for the loss of your loved one
Prayers and Sympathy for the family* 💖🙏🙏🙏
🥹



Vickie Ellenberg - May 04, 2025 at 07:53 AM

KW

“ *To Jim's children, so sorry we are not able to attend the services for
your Dad. As our families were growing up, Mona and I traded rldes
picking up our kids after school and taking them to practices, etc.
We were all close neighbors. We will be visiting our son out of state.
Karen and Dean Wise & family*

Karen Wise - May 03, 2025 at 11:02 PM

EH

“ *Sorry for your loss! Sympathy to all the
families!*



Evelyn Hildebrand - May 03, 2025 at 04:35 PM

CS

My sincere condolences to the families of Jim. I had the occasion to visit with Jim and Carolyn a few times during his last weeks. May Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, grant each of you much comfort during this time.

Carol Schramm - May 04, 2025 at 08:47 AM

JM

“ We always liked being around Jim. May God bless his Family

Jim and Linda McNeely - May 03, 2025 at 03:20 PM

DK

“ Generations of good memories with the Epley & Chladny families. Lots of good stories by my dad, Dick Taylor, over the years about good times. Sending our love & sympathy to all.



Dave & Allison (Taylor) Koontz - May 03, 2025 at 03:17 PM

JM

“ Jim And Linda McNeely sent a virtual gift in memory of James Joseph Epley



Jim and Linda McNeely - May 03, 2025 at 03:15 PM

EB

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers to family!



Earl & Doris Bailey and Rod Bailey - May 03, 2025 at 02:56 PM