



James Marion (Jim) Nicely

October 1, 1946 - January 25, 2026

James (Jim) Nicely, 79, of Anderson, Indiana and formerly of Wabash, Indiana, passed away peacefully at home on January, 25, 2026, after a short, but brave battle with cancer. He was born on October 1, 1946, in Wabash, Indiana, to Paul Lester and Dorothy Rose Nicely (nee Johnson). Jim was preceded in death by his siblings, Richard Nicely and Melody Craig.

Jim attended Noble High School during his freshman and sophomore years and Southwood High School for his junior and senior years, from where he graduated in 1964. He joined the United States Army in November 1965. He completed basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and advanced individual training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, jump school and Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, eventually being stationed in Kaiserslautern Base, Germany, where he was a communications specialist decoding secret and top secret messages.

He was honorably discharged from the military in 1968 to work at his family's business. He married April Coppock in 1971. He worked at Container Corporation of America/Jefferson Smurfit from 1971 until retirement in 2006. After retirement, he dedicated his time as a Trustee at Zion Lutheran Church, Wabash, Indiana, as well as playing pickleball and fishing with his close friends and sons in Canada, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Jim was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Wabash until moving to Anderson, where he transferred his membership to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Indianapolis.

He is survived by his wife, April; two sons, Matthew (Cynthia) Nicely of Reno, Nevada, and Phillip (Kelly) Nicely of Anderson, Indiana, and his four grandchildren, Jack and Ella Nicely of Reno, Nevada, and Luke and Hannah Nicely of Anderson, Indiana.

A funeral service will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Saturday morning, January 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (8115 Oaklandon Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46236). A celebration of life will be held by his family and friends at a future date at Zion Lutheran of Wabash.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's honor should be made to Holy Cross of Indianapolis, Zion Lutheran of Wabash, Fall Creek Christian Church, or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8115 Oaklandon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
<https://hcindy.church/>

Tribute Wall

KC

“ I met Jim when I was a small child, as he worked with my father and both my parents used to play pinochle with Jim and April regularly either in their home or our own. Jim was always kind, honest, and cared greatly for his family. As I grew older I got to be included in the game nights and have many fond memories spent at their house in Wabash. I'm grateful for getting to meet Jim and the friendship he had for the Cooley family.

Keith Cooley - February 20 at 12:32 PM

JM

“ Jon, Diane, & Glenda Magee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Marion (Jim) Nicely.

Jon, Diane, & Glenda Magee - January 30 at 02:10 PM

DM

“ I knew Jim, Dick, and the Nicely family many years ago at Zion Lutheran in Wabash. Then when reading the obituary I saw that Jim married April Coppock. First of all, I send my condolences to the family, and secondly, seeing the names Nicely and Coppock brings back so many great memories from my years at Zion. May our Lord Jesus Christ hold you close and give His peace and understanding.
Denny McCombs

Denny McCombs - January 29 at 05:06 PM

GM

I first met Jim and his wife April after they moved into our neighborhood. I enjoyed playing pickleball, dominoes and jigsaw puzzles with Jim and April. When I ate with them, Jim always said grace before meals. He was a good friend and will be greatly missed.

Glenda Magee - January 30 at 03:14 PM

BW

My heart goes out to. April and the boys

Belinda Sue Coppock Wiist - January 30 at 08:06 PM

RC

“ *Jim became a member of our family when Phil married our daughter Kelly. From the first time we met Jim at a chili cookoff his kindness, warmth, and deep faith were always present. He will be especially missed at our family events. God Bless and rest in peace , you remain in our prayers. Ron & Elaine Cunningham*

ron cunningham - January 28 at 06:32 PM



I knew Jim for several years, personally and professionally. The man was full of wit, comedy, friendship, leadership, knowledge and care. He will be missed. My condolences to friends and family

Chris Dubuu - January 29 at 07:12 AM

PM

Recently getting to know April and Jim as friends and neighbors down the street from me ,you will be missed. I will never forget a storm last year that left me with this tree down in my yard and trying to clean things up I saw Jim coming down the street with his chain saw and asked if I needed help as we looked at this huge tree laying there and laughing! Thankfully no one was hurt and you have no idea how much I truly appreciate him helping me. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Pam Miller

Pam Miller - January 29 at 02:13 PM

PS

It is a gift from the Lord to have gotten to know Jim while being his pastor at Zion Lutheran in Wabash. Our time together was brief but the bond grew quickly. May all who mourn the loss of this dear brother be comforted in grace and peace by our Lord Jesus Christ who died that Jim will live again +

Pr. David Stout - January 30 at 07:09 AM