



## Jo Anne Margaret James

January 21, 1930 - January 25, 2025

“Remember I’m not really gone, just gone on before you.”

On January 25, 2025, the voice of one of the Anderson Indians most loyal fans fell silent at 5:15 a.m. Jo Anne Margaret James, age 95 and a graduate of the 1947 class at Anderson High School, passed from this life surrounded by her children and family friends.

Jo Anne was born on January 21, 1930, a daughter to Charles Edward and Peggy Jayne Dent at St. John’s Memorial Hospital. She attended Anderson High School where she became a devoted friend to Paula Savage.

Following high school, she pursued her passion for healthcare. She graduated from St. John’s Holycross Nursing School in 1951 as a registered nurse.

Initially, her career included participation as a surgical nurse, as well as a nurse in labor and delivery. During this time, she had the honor of delivering a child during a cold winter’s night in the parking lot of St. John’s Hospital, a memory that she lovingly shared often. It was there that she caught the eye of one of Anderson’s most prominent obstetric and gynecological physicians, Frank C. Donaldson, MD. He convinced her to work for him as the head nurse in his practice until he found a suitable replacement. What she didn’t realize was that Dr. Donaldson had already found his head nurse (her), and both retired from his practice 33 years later.

It was also during this time that she met E. Edward James. The two were married for 62 years and raised their two children, Jane Ann Russell and Daniel Edward James. Both she and Ed honored their children by never

missing their sporting, dancing and school events. Jo Anne encouraged her children to always do their best. She consistently reminded them that they could achieve any goal they had by simply putting their mind to it and believing in themselves. These words have guided both throughout their lives. One of Jo Anne's favorite holidays was Thanksgiving. Family and friends gathered faithfully each year at her home. Great food and conversations with loved ones created memories that are deep in hearts. Both young and old participated in competitive games of Win, Lose, or Draw, creating memories that will not be forgotten.

Jo Anne was a lifetime member of the Anderson Church of the Brethren. She served as a deacon in the Anderson church, a place of worship that her ancestors founded in 1896.

Jo Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Ed James. She is survived by her daughter, Jane Ann Russell; her son, Daniel Edward James; daughter-in-law, Kimberly Sobjack James; grandchildren, Lauren Nicole Parker, Katie Lauren James, Bailey Rose Sobjack, Jordan Christian Russell, Taylor Elyse Russell, and Zachary Edward James; and great-grandchildren, Faith Margaret Parker, Noah Christopher Parker, Penny Nicole Parker, and Arabella Jane Harvey.

A gravesite service will be conducted at 2 PM on Friday, January 31, 2025, at Anderson Memorial Park. Friends and family are encouraged to attend.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory.

[www.LooseCares.com](http://www.LooseCares.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Anderson Memorial Park

6805 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.  
Anderson, IN 46013

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JAN 31. 2:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Memorial Park  
6805 Dr. MLK  
Anderson, IN 46013

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ Janie and Danny, I'm sorry to hear of aunt Jo passing. 💔 I wanted to come pay my respect and love to you both, but Judy and I were at another funeral home making daddy's arrangements. 💔 I hope you find peace and comfort in knowing that your parents are together again. 🙏 I'll be keeping you and your family in my prayers. I love you both.

Diane James Eytchison - February 03, 2025 at 05:30 PM

JR

Thank you Diane. It was great seeing you at your dad's funeral. I would not have missed it for the world as a matter of fact I reschedule my flight home just so that I could be there for you and it was very good too. I love you too. Let's keep in touch. Family means so much to us.

Jane Russell - March 06, 2025 at 10:34 PM

RK

“ I grew up in Anderson Church of the Brethren! Jo Ann was as always a wonderful lady! She gave us kids hugs every Sunday! She will be missed by so many!



Renae Kinzie - January 30, 2025 at 11:01 PM

RF

“ Robert F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Anne Margaret James.

Robert F. - January 28, 2025 at 04:45 PM

KF

“ Our son Jonathan regularly visited with Joanne as one of the people her family engaged to bring food to her. I occasionally went along and she never failed to tell me how much she enjoyed Jonathan’s company. She also enjoyed telling stories about her early nursing days. The one that stood out for me was the story of a nursing student being kicked out of the exam (presumably for looking up or around). I think the thought of a young woman being deprived of her career for an innocent mistake bothered Joanne deeply and is indicative of her care for others. Joanne lived a full life and I hope she is resting easy for a job well done.

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**Karen Fullerton** - January 28, 2025 at 11:07 AM

NF

*JoAnne, I always loved our visits. Though we didn't get to see you much the past several years, Bruce and I will always remember our visits! I have loved you like sister and will miss you! Rest lovely lady!*

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**Nancy Fraser** - January 31, 2025 at 01:04 PM

GS

*Janie and Danny:*

*My deepest condolences for the passing of your mom, Mrs. James. I hope prayers, family, and friends help you through this difficult time.*

*Growing up in South Edgewood, she was like my second mother. Nearly every childhood memory I have involves the James family. We had great times.*

*Also, it was very well known the team of Dr. Donaldson and RN Mrs. James provided the best OB/GYN care in Anderson, IN.*

*Finally, Mrs. James' spiritual life was incredibly strong. She was so proud and happy when Danny would take me to church youth activities and I had a great time. Mrs. James was obviously very sad when Mr. James passed, but was happy that one of the last things they did together was go to the church to work earlier in the day.*

*God bless Mrs. James. Thank you for being a very important part of my life.*

*Greg Stuart  
Jackson, TN*

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**Gregory Stuart** - February 17, 2025 at 02:58 PM