



James C. Penjak

January 8, 1937 - July 27, 2025

James "Jim" C. Penjak, age 88, of Wickliffe, peacefully passed away at Hospice of the Western Reserve on July 27, 2025 surrounded by his loving family. He is now eternally with his beloved wife Louise. James was born on January 8, 1937 in Pittsburgh, PA to the late John and Mary Penjak (nee Okowitz).

Jim was a proud parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church for over 60 years, finding joy and purpose in his faith and community. Jim enjoyed many years of racquetball and pickleball at the Willoughby YMCA with his friends and Thursday lunches with the guys was a cherished tradition of his. He was a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan, and he wore his loyalty proudly. In addition, Jim's love for reggae music brought joy to his life, and weekends often found him exploring the local wineries in his beloved Saturn Sky, always sharing smiles and stories with those alongside him. A passionate advocate for animal rescue, Jim's heart was as big as his laughter. He saved countless dogs throughout his life, providing warmth and companionship to those who needed it most. His infectious sense of humor was a beacon to all who knew him; he was always ready to do anything to get those around him laughing.

Above all, Jim treasured any time he got to spend with his family. His unwavering spirit and humor will forever live on in all who had the honor of knowing him.

Jim was the beloved husband of the late Louise Penjak for 68 years; loving father of Denise (Alan) Kaston and Darlene Hayes (fiancé, Joe Brejcha);

proud grandfather of Ryan Kaston, Sean (Amanda) Kelleher, and Brianna Hayes; caring great grandfather of Jaxon and Kash; brother-in-law of Carole Zalokar; uncle of Brian (Michele) Leslie; and his loving dog, Coco.

He was also preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Anthony Rufo and John Zalokar.

Family will receive friends on Monday, August 4, 2025 from 10:00am - 11:00am, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 29850 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, Ohio. Funeral Mass for James will follow at 11:00am at the church. James will then be laid to rest at All Souls Cemetery in Chardon, OH.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
29850 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092

Funeral Mass

AUG 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
29850 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092

Tribute Wall

RA

“ My most sincere condolences for your loss....I played pickleball at the Willoughby Y with Jim... “The Dude”. We had some great conversations over the years and shared many of the same values. He was an amazing gentleman. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to all the family.
Rose Ambrose

Rose Ambrose - August 01, 2025 at 09:04 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James C. Penjak.



August 01, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of James C. Penjak.



August 01, 2025 at 01:23 PM

TO

“ *Teresa Oloff purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of James C. Penjak.* ”



Teresa Oloff - July 29, 2025 at 07:01 PM