



James L. Goedert

October 12, 1947 - June 2, 2025

James Lee Goedert (Jim) 77 of Kearney passed away Monday, June 2, 2025 at his home in Kearney. Graveside services will be held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 12, 2025 at Fort McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell, NE. Military honors will be provided by the North Platte Honor Guard in Conjunction with the Nebraska National Guard Honors Team.

Jim was born October 12, 1947 in North Platte, NE to Dob and Eleanor (Sullentrop) Goedert.

He attended grade school and high school in Wallace, Nebraska.

Jim was drafted into the Army in 1968 and proudly served in the 1st Air Cavalry while in Vietnam. He was wounded by rocket fire and received the Purple Heart. During his recovery time at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Aurora, Colorado, he had the opportunity to reconnect with his future wife, Marilyn Mae Sommers.

Jim received an undergraduate and Master's degrees in Secondary Education at Kearney State College. After which he taught part time in the Industrial Education Department at Kearney State/University of Nebraska at Kearney for parts of 20 years.

Jim was one of the founding fathers of the Kearney Slow Pitch Softball

Association and was the Executive Director for 22 years. During his time as director, he was responsible for facilitating and bringing some of the largest slow pitch softball tournaments in the state to Kearney.

He married his high school friend, Marilyn Mae Sommers, or “Red” as Jim referred to her as (he nicknamed her this because of her auburn hair) on March 1, 2018.

Jim enjoyed woodworking, barbed wire hunting, and traveling with Red. Most of all he enjoyed time spent with his family.

Left to cherish his memory are his sons, Jimmy Goedert and wife Jill of Kearney, Jeff Goedert and fiancée Shelli Davis of Norfolk, Nebraska, Jon Goedert and wife Melissa of Denver, Colorado; Grandchildren, Caitlyn Goedert, Taylor Brown, Pierce Wright and Parker Wright; and great granddaughter Waverly Wright, as well as many extended family and friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife Marilyn and his parents Dob and Eleanor.

Memorials are suggested to the Marilyn Sommers-Goedert Memorial Scholarship c/o O’Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home, 4115 Ave N Kearney, NE 688. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O’Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Fort McPherson National Cemetery

12004 State Highway 56A Spur
Maxwell, NE
(308) 582-4433

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Fort McPherson National Cemetery
12004 State Highway 56A Spur
Maxwell, NE
(308) 582-4433

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I first came across Jim when he was editor of *The Barbed Wire Collector* magazine. I am a collector but, unusually, I am in the UK. Jim asked me if I could write an article from my perspective of being a lonely collector! I did and we often used to email each other from that time on. We did meet at a Barbed Wire Show and got on like a house on fire. Since then we have kept in vague contact - birthdays, Christmas etc. Jim gave me - gave not sold - some of my best wires. I really liked him and I am so sorry that I will not be receiving any more emails.

Jacky Smith - June 23, 2025 at 06:16 AM

BP

“ Ben and Kara Porter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Goedert.

Ben and Kara Porter - June 10, 2025 at 07:10 PM

BP

“ Ben and Kara Porter purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of James L. Goedert.



Ben and Kara Porter - June 10, 2025 at 07:10 PM



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

June 09, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James L. Goedert.*



June 09, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ *Jim was my softball coach. Even though I was not the best player. Jim always knew that if you showed up for practice you got to play. More about enjoying the game than winning. Jim was also a master craftsman. He could build anything out of wood. My wife still has and use's the awesome jewelry box that he built for us. Jim you were one of a kind. The world needs more of you. Toby Tollefsen*

Toby Tollefsen - June 09, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ *Rich Johnson and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James L. Goedert.*



Rich Johnson and Family - June 05, 2025 at 10:21 AM



“ *Jim was a great friend. Jim and my husband, Kim, shared many memories high school to post Vietnam. I will always remember the day in Kearney just after Kim got home from Vietnam Jim showed up at our door and just a few days later Jimmy was born, a great reunion for them. We had some special times together. Prayers for Jimmy Jeff Jon in your loss!*

Connie Stewart - June 04, 2025 at 08:58 PM

JW

I was lucky to get to know Jim over the 30 some years of cutting his hair. He was always so great about wanting to hear the latest about my life and family. He was a straight shooter and always knew what he was thought. I will greatly miss our one on one time. Hugs to all the family for your loss ♡♡♡

Jill Williams - June 07, 2025 at 08:46 PM