



## James Michael Donelan

December 21, 1930 - December 29, 2013

James Donelan III, 83, of Ft. Collins passed away on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2013. He was born December 21, 1930 in Colby, KS to Hazel and James Donelan Jr. In 1934, the family moved to Keenesburg, CO, where his Dad opened a grocery store. Jimmy, as he was then called, lived with his family in an apartment at the rear of the business for the next 20 years. He was active in sports and worked at the Foster Lumber Company during his high school years. He graduated from Keenesburg High School in 1948 and attended the University of Colorado for a year. He returned to Keenesburg to again work for the lumber company as an assistant manager and bookkeeper.

Jim married Gloria Nelson of Lakewood, Colorado on October 1, 1950. Soon after, he joined the 140th Colorado Air National Guard, and was activated on April 1, 1952. He trained for the U.S. Air Force in Denver at Buckley Air Base and at the Squadron in Burbank, California. After his service career, he returned to Keenesburg to assist his father in the grocery business for the next 4 years.

Jim then worked for H.W. Moore Equipment Co. a Denver-based firm which sold industrial road building equipment. His duties included billing, payroll, and accounts payable. During these years Jim and Gloria continued their life in Keenesburg and The Lord blessed them with 3 beautiful daughters; Patricia, Gale, and Carol.

The family then moved to Greeley, CO. where for the next 3 years Jim worked as a store manager at the new Downtown Foodliner. He was then hired by Dick and Milt Uhlenhopp to open a new supermarket in Sterling, CO. The U-Save Supers store was an immediate success and within 3 years earned the Associated Grocers' Top Sales Volume Store Award. The Uhlenhopp brothers bought another supermarket in Sterling in which Jim was a 1/3 partner, and was appointed General Manager of both stores. Later, Jim bought Dick Uhlenhopp's interest in the 2 Sterling stores. He was elected to the Associated Grocers of Colorado board of Directors for two 3-year terms. During this time, Jim was instrumental in building an AG warehouse in Denver.

On Dec. 14, 1973, he married a wonderful woman, Thelma Karsten. His new marriage brought great joy to Jim's life, as he not only had a new wife, but also became a stepfather to 4 wonderful children; Colin, Sandy, Jon, and Joe.

Jim became the sole owner of both U-Save Supers stores when he purchased Milt Uhlenhopp's interest. His excellent leadership style resulted in a loyal and enthusiastic management team and a strong work ethic in his younger staff. Eventually, he enlarged the south U-Save Supers store which became the first supermarket in the state to scan groceries. He expanded his grocery operation to Alliance, NE. In 1982, Jim sold the 2 Sterling U-Save Supers stores to Sixth Street Markets. At the age of 52 Jim found himself retired.

His interests included the love of flying which led to a pilot's license and many cross country trips, golfing, and fishing. In his retirement, Jim and Thelma had the opportunity to travel the world and most of the 50 states; they belonged to golf clubs and lived in Indian Wells, CA, Keystone, CO, and Fort Collins, CO. They met and enjoyed the friendships of people from all walks of life. Together they blended their respective families, and God blessed them with the love of three sons, four daughters, eleven grandchildren and one great grandson.

Jim is survived by his wife, Thelma, his children; Colin (Patty) Karsten, Sandy (Denny) Barnes, Patricia (Tom) Grant, Gale (Doug) Eveleth, Carol (Dirk) Steinsiek, Jon (Jane) Karsten; grandchildren Jenny (Chad) Naughton, Greg (Siu) Grant, Joan Grant, Shauna Steinbach, Ryan (Ann) Steinbach, Brooke Karsten, Kendall Karsten, Sara (Bryan) Moll, Leslie Barnes, Jonathan Karsten, Chad Karsten; and great grandson Avery.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Hazel Donelan, his sister Mary Ann Rapp, and his youngest son Joe.

Memorial contributions in Jim's honor may be made to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7755 Greenstone Trail, Fort Collins, CO, 80525.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
7755 Greenstone Trail  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Michael Donelan*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Thelma and family*  
*Tom and I feel for your loss of such a wonderful husband, father and friend to so many. Our prayers are with you and your family. Our deepest sympathy.*  
*Tommy and Linda Smith*

Linda Smith - January 03, 2014 at 02:31 PM



“ *Thelma and family,*  
*I am so sorry for the loss of Jim! He was an AMAZING man and will be missed by everyone who knew him. I'll never forget how he made the trip to my dad's (Mitch) retirement party! It meant the world to all of us that he was there!*  
*Thoughts and prayers to all of you! ((Hugs))*  
*Micki (Mitchell) Messersmith*  
*Alliance, NE*



Micki Messersmith - January 03, 2014 at 11:09 AM



“ *Carol Gray McCarthy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Michael Donelan.*



Carol Gray McCarthy - January 02, 2014 at 11:06 PM

CM

“ *Carol Gray McCarthy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Michael Donelan.*



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**Carol Gray McCarthy** - January 02, 2014 at 11:05 PM

LW

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Laura & Wally Wrathall** - January 02, 2014 at 04:55 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James Michael Donelan.*



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January 02, 2014 at 01:06 PM

YF

“ *Your Midwest Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of James Michael Donelan.*



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**Your Midwest Family** - January 02, 2014 at 01:06 PM

DM

“ *Thelma and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Jim will be missed. He was a great man! My thoughts and prayers go out to you all.*  
*Dave Muth*

**Dave Muth** - January 02, 2014 at 12:48 PM

MM

“ *Marian, Bill, Kathy, Bailey, Judy, Hale, Bunny and Mike. purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of James Michael Donelan.*



**Marian, Bill, Kathy, Bailey, Judy, Hale, Bunny and Mike.** -  
January 02, 2014 at 09:56 AM

JD

“ *Janet Donelan, Pam Johnson, Gregory Donelan and John Donelan purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Michael Donelan.*



**Janet Donelan, Pam Johnson, Gregory Donelan and John Donelan** -  
January 01, 2014 at 12:02 AM

CM

“ *Chrissy McCollom lit a candle in memory of James Michael Donelan*



**Chrissy McCollom** - December 30, 2013 at 02:44 PM