

## James Anthony Goeser, 76

Aug. 8, 1940 - July 3, 2017

**HARLAN** – James (Jim) Anthony Goeser was born in Defiance to Bruno and Mildred (Weiland) Goeser on August 8, 1940. Family-first, faith, hard work, leadership, generosity, and humility were among Jim's finest qualities.

Jim began working at the Defiance Locker when he was just 14 years old. He graduated from St. Paul's High School in Defiance in 1958. At the age of 20, Jim bought the Defiance Locker and changed the name to Jim's Market and Locker.

On December 2, 1961, Jim married Janet Mitzel at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manilla. To this union, four children were born: Christopher, Cari, Jay, and Jeffrey. In their 55 ½ years of marriage, Jim and Jan glided across many dance floors, led a successful business, raised outstanding children, doted on grandchildren, delighted in great-grandchildren, and walked countless miles together - literally and figuratively.

In 1965, the Goeser family moved from Defiance to Harlan and added another business, "Jim's Wholesale Meats." Eventually, Jim sold the Defiance business and expanded Harlan operations. He gave not only his children, but also many other young people, their first jobs. Jim sold the business in 2008 and retired in 2009.

While never seeking accolades, many were given to Jim, including, "1977 Harlan Citizen of the Year," for his tireless efforts establishing the Harlan Little League Baseball Program. He served as president of the Iowa Meat Processors Association and always made time to give back to Harlan, volunteering in positions with the Harlan Chamber of Commerce, St. Michael's Catholic Church, Harlan Industrial Foundation, and the Harlan Parks and Recreation.

Jim loved quietly and gave generously to his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings, friends, and community. Make a little noise the next time you watch the Yankees, the Cyclones, and the Packers. He'll be cheering with you.

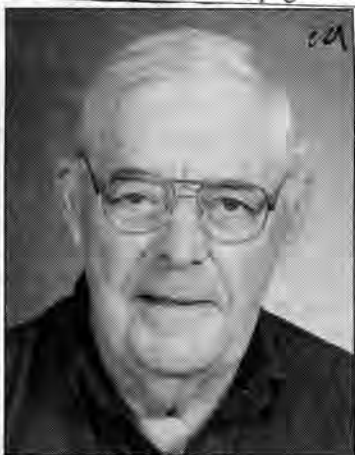
Jim died Monday, July 3, 2017 having attained the age of 76 years, 10 months and 25 days.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; son Chris; granddaughters Alexi Goeser and Katie Kernes; and beloved brothers Paul and Frank Goeser.

Survivors include his wife, Jan Goeser; daughter Cari (Glenn) Kernes of Overland Park, KS; son Jay (Mary Beth) Goeser of Norwalk; son Jeff (Chris) Goeser of Omaha, NE; daughter-in-law Holly Naramore of Bauxite, AR; seven grandchildren and one step-grandson; three great-grandchildren and three step-great grandchildren; siblings Edward (Marilyn) Goeser, Leo (Janie) Goeser, John Goeser, Mary Griffin, Theresa (Lawrence) Fedewa, Alice Goeser, and Larry Goeser; and sisters-in-law Debbie Goeser and Mary Lou Goeser; and other friends and family.

A 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. John Frost on Friday, July 7, 2017 at the St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Jamie Naramore, Kyle Ledford, Ryan Kernes, Ana Goeser, Abi Goeser, Chase Goeser, Isabel Goeser, and Ben Goeser served as honorary casket bearers. Bob Kloewer, Kevin Kenkel, Ron Mosher, Dick Jones, Jeff Goeser, Merle Worple, Martin Zacccone, Mitch Osborn, Paul Kruse, and Steve Goeser served as casket bearers. Interment was held at the Harlan Cemetery in Harlan.

Pauley-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



**Pauley Jones**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION

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