



James Francis Metz

November 8, 1934 - April 30, 2026

Princeton - James "Jim" Francis Metz, 91, of Princeton passed away peacefully on April 30, 2026, at Liberty Village in Princeton.

Jim was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, to Fred E. and Mary Ellen (Bartells) Metz. After the passing of his parents at a young age, he was lovingly raised by his aunt, Emiline Briscoe, in Portage, Wisconsin, where he later graduated from high school. Those early experiences helped shape Jim into the resilient, hardworking, and caring man his family and friends came to know and love.

On July 18, 1959, Jim married the love of his life, Mary Anna "Ann" Ward, in Ottawa, Illinois. Together they built a life centered around family and simple joys, sharing many wonderful years together until Mary Ann's passing.

Jim was a devoted father to his four children: Edward (Angie) Metz, Susan (Doug) Ray, Marion (Bob) Hopper, and Tricia Johnson. He was also a proud grandfather to twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who brought him endless happiness-especially the Snapchats and messages that kept him smiling and connected to the younger generations.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary Ann Metz, and his parents.

Jim found joy in life's everyday pleasures. He loved fishing and hunting, playing euchre with family and friends, and camping at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at O'Connell's, and feeding his trusty squirrel friends in the yard. A gifted handyman, Jim had a special talent for refurbishing old trunks, bringing forgotten treasures back to life with patience and care. He also loved gardening and eagerly anticipated the arrival of spring each year.

Jim proudly served in the United States Army for three years. Although he requested overseas deployment during the Korean War, he was unable to serve in combat because of a back condition. Jim often felt he did not deserve recognition as a veteran because he did not serve on the front lines, but his children continually reminded him how proud they were of his service and sacrifice.

For 37 years, Jim was employed at Harper Wyman in Princeton, where he was respected for his dedication and strong work ethic.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the Friends of Strays of Princeton Illinois.

Online condolences may be left at www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Tribute Wall

RK

“ *Renee Kasuba lit a candle in memory of James Francis Metz*



Renee Kasuba - May 25 at 11:14 PM

RK

I am so saddened to hear of your loss. Sending Sue, Doug & the entire family my thoughts & prayers at this difficult time.

Renee Kasuba - May 25 at 11:16 PM

MS

“ *It was an honor to know this man. He was so sweet and I will miss his smile so much. It was always a great day seeing James especially when he joked around. Forever will be missed*

Mackenzie Sissel - May 20 at 07:07 PM

SR

Mackenzie, thank you for your exemplary loving care you provided to our father. You were one of his favorites!

Sue Ray - May 22 at 12:13 PM