



James "Jim" Phegley

May 22, 1947 - September 9, 2025

James "Jim" Phegley, 78, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on May 22, 1947, to Vernon and Constance Phegley, Jim grew up the youngest of nine children. His childhood in Rensselaer laid the foundation for a life marked by strong faith, deep family ties and a loving heart.

On September 9, 1967, he married Kathy Whaley, and they were married almost 35 years until her passing in 2002. They had two children together, Jennifer and Chris. Out of his abiding love for Kathy, in 1998 he donated a kidney to her and as a result gave her 4 more years of quality life and was able to meet her first grandchild.

Jim's career spanned over 3 decades working at Per Pak and its successor companies. His strong work ethic and attention to detail left a lasting effect. Jim was involved in The First Christian Church of Rensselaer and served on the board for many years.

A proud and loving father and grandfather, Jim treasured time spent with family. He was known affectionately as "PawPaw" by his grandchildren. Jim had a great love for classic cars, IU basketball and spending time in his immaculate yard and garden.

On October 25, 2014, Jim married Eileen (Gray) at The First Christian Church of Rensselaer. They spent many happy days together traveling to Key West, Las Vegas and North Carolina. They enjoyed a spirited marital battle arguing about IU and Purdue.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Eileen Phegley; his children, Jennifer (Jonathan) Randall, Christopher Adam Phegley, Patrick Dowds (who along with his mother was his primary caregiver), Corey (Cheri) Dowds, and Shannon Dowds; and his cherished grandchildren, Emma Randall, Nathan Randall, Sarah Randall, Madison Phegley, Nicholas Phegley, Callie Beaver, and Madden Beaver. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and countless friends who will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Kathy Phegley; his parents, Vernon and Constance; one brother and seven sisters.

Graveside burial at Weston Cemetery Rensselaer, Indiana September 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CT.

Memorial Service to be held at 11:00 a.m. CT at The First Christian Church, 327 North Van Rensselaer Street, Rensselaer, Indiana.

Cemetery Details

Weston Cemetery

Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Previous Events

Graveside Services

SEP 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Weston Cemetery
Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Memorial Service

SEP 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church
327 N. Van Rensselaer Street
Rensselaer, IN

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I don't know who wrote Jim's obituary but it told a great story of Jim's life, almost a love story. Jim and I were very close friends in high school sharing many great times together. He was always humble, never trying to be the center of attention. After high school we carried on our friendship as he worked in Warsaw and I lived a short distance away in Plymouth. Whenever in Rensselaer I always stopped to spend time reminiscing and laughing about our times together. He was truly a great friend and I will miss him. Eileen, Jennefer and Chris you were blessed to have him in your life.
Denny Garriotte

Dennis Garriotte - September 13, 2025 at 07:56 AM

GE

“ Hey Chris so sorry to hear, thinking of the younger years.
Gabriel Edwards

Gabriel Edwards - September 13, 2025 at 04:38 AM

TC

“ Went to school with Jim in Rensselaer. He always shared a warm smile and had an all knowing gleam in his eye. He was always kind and genuine and made those around him feel better for the conversations and goodness and time he shared with them. Sending sympathy and a prayer of thanks to all his family and those who knew him. Tim Childs

Tim Childs - September 12, 2025 at 09:53 AM

DL

“ I had the privilege of going to school with Jim for 9 years and always found him to be a kind and considerate person. He was truly one of the good guys. My husband Jim and I send our deepest sympathy to Eileen, Jennifer, Chris and the entire Phegley/Whaley/Gray Family, as well as all of his friends and acquaintances. The RCHS Class of 65 has lost a dear member and we are all better for having known Jim. I look forward to seeing you again, Jim, when God calls me home. Rest in peace, My Friend. Love, Dorrie

Dorrie Gilbert Lefler - September 11, 2025 at 03:31 PM

JB

“ Jim was one of the first people I met when Penny and I moved to Rensselaer. Couldn't have have found a nicer person. Our prayers go out to Jennifer and Chris and the rest of the family. Rest in peace

Joe Bardoczi - September 11, 2025 at 02:36 PM

JW

“ He would always tell me how he used to think my mom was his mom, because she was his oldest sibling and took care of him all the time.
He was the best! Love and miss him.
Julie Westfall

Julie Westfall - September 11, 2025 at 11:26 AM

GD

“ So many great memories growing up at Jim & Kathy's house. Wonderful man & he was like a second father to me.
Rest in peace sweet, loving Jim ❤️

Gloria Deno - September 11, 2025 at 10:52 AM

JO

“ *Janice Odom lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Phegley*



Janice Odom - September 11, 2025 at 09:30 AM

PS

“ *Rest in peace my friend*



Pastor Jeff Seger - September 11, 2025 at 09:22 AM

LM

“ *Lori Prohosky Mattos lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Phegley*



Lori Prohosky Mattos - September 11, 2025 at 05:48 AM



“ *Marilyn Hackney lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Phegley*



Marilyn Hackney - September 11, 2025 at 03:25 AM

GB

“ Gloria Baier lit a candle in memory of James
"Jim" Phegley



Gloria Baier - September 10, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ I worked with jim at per pak he was a kind and conserate man he
would help anybody

Marcia Carlson - September 10, 2025 at 02:36 PM