



James Roark

March 9, 2011

James C. Roark, 80, of Thebes, Ill., died Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at his home. He was born September 19, 1930 in Hammond, Ind. to King Watson and Mayme Rudolph Roark. He and Harriet L. Kowalczyk were married Saturday, August 11, 1951 at Hammond, Ind. James was a graduate of Reidland High School. He served in the Army from 1951 to 1953. He worked for Lonestar at Oglesby, Ill, and in Cape Girardeau. He then worked for Biokyowa and retired as plant manager in 1997. He was a member of St. Mary Cathedral and the Lions Club in Cape Girardeau. He was a past Post Commander of American Legion Post 232 in Hammond, Ind. James had lived in Thebes since 1978. Survivors include his wife, Harriet L. Roark of Thebes; two sons, Joseph Roark (Darlene) of Festus, Mo., David Roark (Gaileen) of Thebes; three daughters, Diane Schmidt (Robert) of Altenburg, Mo., Barbara Woshner (Lawrence) of Dallas, Texas, Marybeth Whren of Bloomington, Ill.; one brother, Robert Roark (Lou) of Indianapolis, Ind.; 12 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Daniel and Andrew Roark. Friends may call 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, March 11, 2011 at Ford & Sons Sprigg St. Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau. Parish prayers will be at 5:00 PM. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 AM Saturday, March 12, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Tom Kiefer officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Cape Girardeau. Memorial contributions may be given to TIP Hospice, 125 Leigh Dr., Suite D, Anna, IL 62906.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ *Our thoughts are prayers are with you. We are sorry we could not be there in person.* ”

Kelli Steiber Bastiaanse and Matt, Aiden, and Bail - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *James Roark* ”

Greg and Candace Corum - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

“ James C. Roark His mother used to call him Jimmie, and he would not allow any one else to call him by that name. He was also known to some as Red, because when he was a young man believe it or not, he had a full head of dark red hair. People he worked with over the years have referred to him as Jim, ♦ Mr. Jim ♦ or sometimes as ♦ Big Jim ♦. And because of his choice of hair style, some of my brother David ♦ s braver friends would occasionally call him, from a distance I might add, ♦ Cue Ball ♦, after which we would see his face turn instantly beet red. He took even this nickname in stride and would laugh about it when David ♦ s friends were not around. Later in life after some of us moved away, we began to affectionately refer to our dad as ♦ The Old Man ♦ and this nickname just stuck because he knew the love that was sent every time it was spoken. The ♦ Old Man ♦ was born in 1930 during the heart of the great depression. His farther was killed when he was 9 years old. Red was raised by is three older brothers, and spent every summer on his uncle ♦ s farm in Kentucky. This, I think, is where Jim developed his love of animals. Mr. Jim told the story of raising rabbits as a boy, in Reidland, Kentucky with is his life long childhood friend T.E. Because some of these rabbits got away, Big Jim claimed that even today, their rabbit ♦ s offspring were still running around Reidland, Kentucky. In 1951 James C. married our mother and together they started our family on Kenwood Street in Hammond Indiana. Together they had the five of us, all within eight years and before they were 30 years old. I am the oldest and, in my opinion, the best looking. He referred to me as ♦ Hot Shot ♦. Diane, better known as Di Di is the next oldest and is probably the smartest of the bunch, next is Barbra, also known as Barbie or Barbie Doll, she is the conversationalist. Marybeth, the Princess, is the thinker, and David the youngest of the group is our worrier, and may be the most like our dad. As kids growing up we all tested the waters to learn what and how much we could get way with and how hard we could push to get what we wanted. The things that come to mind that would get any of us into trouble without any discussion were simply upsetting our mother, not coming home before the neighborhood street lights turned on, or being late for dinner. Our

Dad was a workaholic and his legacy to his offspring was his work ethic. He taught us to always give our best in everything we do, he used to tell us if something is worth doing, it was worth doing right. He coached us each in a way that as individuals we would all become successful. Not by his definition of success but by our own definition. He did not try to bend us to follow his path but taught us to each find our own. My father didn't tell us how to live; he lived, and let us watch him do it. He was proud of all of us and took us each for who and what we are today. After my parents moved to Thebes, IL, our father began to raise a few animals. It usually began with two animals at a time, a male and a female. Mr. Jim used to say no animal should grow up alone. These animals over time would multiply and too quickly became more than even Big Jim could handle. The list of animals is too long to mention, let me just say that over the last 35 years if an animal had a hoof, a wing, if it barked or meowed James C. probably had two of them, at one time or another. During his retirement years, after he could not work outside for long periods of time, The Old Man began collecting things. He discovered E-Bay. When he learned that he could purchase things over the internet and have them delivered to the house the flood gates opened as never before. He bought, he cataloged, and he organized a group of things you can only imagine. Our mother put up with this obsession because he enjoyed it so much. And it kept him busy. During his last hospital stay I jokingly told him I had forced to sell all of my E-Bay stock. He

Joseph Roark - December 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ I have wonderful memories of Uncle Jim. He was a special person. I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Susan Jurik - November 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers in this most difficult time. Sorry for your loss. The Evans Family, Tim, Paula & Madison

Paula Evans - November 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ My deepest condolences to you in this time of loss.

AL Trask - October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ We are so sorry about Jimmy passing. We have a lot of good memories about Jimmy I can still hear him laughing. God bless and be with all of you. Wish we could come and be with you. He and Thomas had a lot of good times. We still remember him riding his Motor bike to Mrs. Vera's to visit. We will remember you in prayer Love and hugs. Thomas and Roberta Rudolph and family

Thomas and Roberta Rudolph - October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.. LOVE DOLORES AND SUZANNE

DOLORES AND SUZANNE LOPP - October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ZA

“ You and Grandpa are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. love Zak & Brianna Koch

Zak - September 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *My dear Jim, you are home! Rest now in the arms of Christ. We love you!*

Gaileen - September 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM