



### ***I'm Free***

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks undone must stay that way.  
I found that peace at close of day.  
If my parting has left a void  
then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
ah, yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me  
God wanted me now: He set me free.*

*James "Jim" Allen DeVries  
1943 -2023*



*In Remembrance*

**Jim** was born on June 10, 1943, to Elmer and Inez (Keeney) DeVries in Wahpeton. He grew up in Wahpeton and graduated from Wahpeton High School. He entered the Air Force after high school in 1961 and was honorably discharged in 1965, after which he attended North Dakota State School of Science where he attained his associate's degree in business.

He began working at the Daily News in Wahpeton in 1967. He met Claudia Ross of Campbell, Minnesota and the two were married on September 13, 1969. Jim and Claudia were blessed with two children, Chris and Heather.

Jim was employed by the Daily News until his retirement in 2005. During that time, he worked in ad sales and became the Assistant Publisher of the paper. It was through these jobs that he got to know so many people in the community.

He and Claudia were both active in the Wahpeton Jaycees where Jim earned many honors including being club president. Many lifelong friends were made during the Jaycee years. He was also a member of the Wahpeton Vet's Club and an American Legion Adjutant.

Jim had many passions, but none so much as his five grandchildren. They brought much joy to his life and he never missed a chance to ask how they were doing and what he could do to help them along.

He also enjoyed watching his Green Bay Packers and even purchased stock in 1998.

Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, Claudia; children Chris (Becky) DeVries, Wahpeton and Heather (Brian) Heger, West Fargo, North Dakota; grandchildren Emily DeVries, Fargo, North Dakota, Logan Heger, West Fargo, Brady DeVries and Leah DeVries, Wahpeton, and Sawyer Heger, West Fargo; sister Barbara Couillard, Breckenridge, Minnesota; sister-in-law Joyce DeVries, Wahpeton; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Inez DeVries; in-laws Ray and Gladys Ross; brother Gene DeVries; sister Connie Smith; sister-in-law Janice Buck; brothers-in-law Dale Couillard and Fred Buck; and niece Faith Couillard.

The family would like to thank the EMTs and ambulance crew, as well as the hospital and hospice staff, for all they did for Jim in his final days.



Vertin-Munson Funeral Home - Wahpeton, ND  
Funeral Directors: Dustin Turner, Whitney Demarais, Shanna Grumbles  
[www.vertinmunson.com](http://www.vertinmunson.com)

# In Loving Memory

## James Allen DeVries



### **Born**

June 10, 1943 - Wahpeton, North Dakota

### **Passed Away**

January 3, 2023 - Fargo, North Dakota

### **Age**

79 Years 6 Months 24 Days

### **Funeral Service**

11:00 AM - Monday, January 9, 2023  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, North Dakota

### **Officiant**

Pastor Matthew Tooman

### **Organist**

Nancy Kiefer

### **Music**

*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*  
*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"*  
*"How Great Thou Art"*  
*Special Music - "In My Father's House" by Elvis*

### **Pallbearers**

Gary Smith, Kyle DeVries, Kevin DeVries  
Curt Buck, Brad Buck, Jeff Smith, Joel Couillard

### **Interment at a Later Date**

Fairview Cemetery - Wahpeton, North Dakota