



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
James Bernard Piechowski

WHO WAS BORN

July 6, 1935

Frazee, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

January 20, 2024

Graceville, Minnesota

MEMORIAL MASS

Saturday, February 3, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

St. Anthony's Catholic Church

Browns Valley, Minnesota

CELEBRANT

Father John Paul Knopik

MUSICIANS

Carmen Hills, Accompanist

Jim & Norma Jung, Vocalists

Tess Appel & Sue Varpness, Vocalists

St. Anthony Funeral Choir

HONORARY URN BEARERS

All of Jim's Nieces and Nephews

Roger Goodhart | Chet Bigelow | Jerry Kaus

Mike Smith | Isaac Hills representing Ben's Service

MILITARY HONORS

American Legion William Krensing Post #58

Browns Valley, Minnesota

INURNMENT

Calvary Catholic Cemetery

Browns Valley, Minnesota

APPRECIATION

Jim's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your many expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the inurnment, please join the family for food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall.

Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home - Browns Valley Minnesota

FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A *season*,
AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN:

A TIME TO BE BORN,

AND A TIME TO DIE;

A TIME TO PLANT,

A TIME TO PLUCK UP THAT WHICH IS PLANTED;

A TIME TO KILL,

AND A TIME TO HEAL; A TIME TO BREAK DOWN,

AND A TIME TO BUILD UP,

a time to weep

AND A TIME TO LAUGH;

A TIME TO MOURN, AND A TIME TO DANCE;

A TIME TO CAST AWAY STONES,

A TIME TO GATHER STONES TOGETHER;

A TIME TO
embrace

AND A TIME TO REFRAIN FROM EMBRACING;

A TIME TO SEEK, AND A TIME TO LOSE;

A TIME TO KEEP, AND A TIME TO CAST AWAY;

A TIME TO MEND, AND A TIME TO SEW;

A TIME TO KEEP SILENCE, AND A TIME TO SPEAK;

A TIME TO LOVE, AND TIME TO HATE;

A TIME FOR WAR, AND TIME FOR

peace

-ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

*J*ames Bernard Piechowski was born on July 6, 1935, in Frazee, MN, to Bernard and Celine (Sichmeller) Piechowski. He was baptized on July 14, 1935, and confirmed at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Browns Valley, MN, on June 19, 1947. Jim attended school in Browns Valley and graduated high school with the Class of 1953.

Going on to further his education, Jim attended The Minneapolis College of Music and earned his bachelor's degree in music in 1957. Two weeks after earning his degree, he enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Riley, KS. Jim was a member of the 1st Infantry Division Band. After two years of active duty, he spent seven years with the 147th Army Band stationed in Mitchell, SD.

Continuing his education, Jim earned his Master of Music Degree from the University of South Dakota. He began his teaching career in 1960 in Kimball, SD, and spent the next 35 years as a band director in South Dakota. Jim was voted Teacher of the Year more than once. In 1994, he took early retirement and sold his home that he built overlooking the Missouri River and moved back to Browns Valley to help care for his father, Bernie. Jim's father passed away in 1999 and Jim resided in Browns Valley until 2017, when he moved into the Graceville nursing home.

From a young age, Jim always loved music. In high school, he started with the school band playing the tuba and baritone bass. He became fluent with other instruments such as the flute, clarinet, trombone, and nearly everything except oboe and saxophone. Jim also participated in the school choir. During this time, he also played in a band called, "The Commanders" out of South Dakota. This helped shape his future in music.

Jim always said there were challenging moments in teaching, getting ready for concerts, and lots of stress, but he always had excellent bands and students. He played in bands like, "The Colonels", "Tri-State Band", "The Commanders", and "The Lundstoms" just to name a few. The band in Sioux City, IA, was the best he'd ever played in. Music truly was the love of his life. He still loved listening to music on his Bose in the nursing home and watching his favorite movies on his big television in his room.

Jim is survived by his sister, Patsy LeClair of Browns Valley, MN; his brother, Steve (Emily) Piechowski of Wahpeton, ND; nieces and nephews: Jason (Rachel) Piechowski, Jackson (Kimberly) Piechowski, Mike (Inez) Westbrook, Doug (Linda) Westbrook, Jerry Westbrook, Trish (Steve) Ejnik, Toni (Brad) Kellerhuis, Stacy (Kevin) Baker, Darcy Palmer, and Scott LeClair; along with many great-nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; sister and brother-in-law, Bernice and Bill Westbrook; and brother-in-law, Fritz LeClair.

Remembering

T H E L I F E O F



James Piechowski

1935 - 2024