



## James R. Ephlin

June 20, 1955 - August 9, 2024

James Robert Ephlin, 69, a long time Rushville area resident and business owner, passed away August 9, 2024 at his home in Rushville. Jim was born June 20, 1955 in Johnson County, IN. to James R., Sr. & Margaret Joan (Averitt) Ephlin. He spent his early life in Johnson County and the family moved to Rush County in 1960. Jim was a 1973 graduate of Rushville Consolidated High School and he obtained his BS in Political Science from Ball State University. He married Karen Showalter on February 22, 1992 and she survives.

Jim & Karen owned & operated the Rushville Bowl from 1984-2024. He was instrumental in all things bowling! Jim was affectionately known as “Mr. Bowling” by his bowling community. The USBC had just recognized Jim for bowling in 50 consecutive National opens. He had multiple 300 games and 800 series, bowled on the Ball State University bowling team, was instrumental in starting youth bowling, he began and named the Mid-Indiana Bowling conference which began a bowling team at Rushville High School. Jim was named the bowling proprietor of the year thru the BPAA. Jim was also a member of the First Baptist Church in Rushville.

He will be missed by his wife, Karen, of Rushville, a son, J.T. Ephlin of Rushville, a daughter, Annie Ephlin (Doug Tompkins) of Spiceland, a sister, Cathy (Stephen) Schneider of Rushville and his grandchildren, Aaliyah Jo Ephlin, Hallie Harlow, Isabell, Ryliegh, Myah and Noah Tompkins. Jim was also survived by several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by

his parents.

A Celebration of Jim's life will be held at 5 PM Wednesday, August 14, 2024 in Moster Mortuary, Rushville with Pastor Cody Hensley presiding. Friends are welcome to visit the family on Wednesday in the mortuary from 1:30 until time of service. Burial will follow in the Rushville East Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church or the Rush County Bowling Association.

# Cemetery Details

## East Hill Cemetery

746-740 IN-44  
Rushville, IN 46173

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **14**. 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Moster Mortuary  
334 North Main Street  
Rushville, IN

## Celebration of life service

AUG **14**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Moster Mortuary  
334 North Main Street  
Rushville, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Moster Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Moster Mortuary** - August 14, 2024 at 08:52 PM

LL

“ *Lori Suzanne Land lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Lori Suzanne Land** - August 22, 2024 at 09:03 PM

PA

“ *Penny Adams lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Penny Adams** - August 16, 2024 at 02:15 PM

LS

“ We as a community lost a corner stone, a huge part of many of our lives for decades. In many ways we lost a hero. I know for the 40 years I've known Jim he was such an influence that I just wished I could be half of the man he was. His thoughtful nature, his love for the community and to the sport of bowling is something our community will ever see from one man. Jim knew no stranger, all the advice whether it was life experiences or the game itself, Jim you sure made everything look so easy and carefree. All 3 of my children have individual stories of how Jim touched their lives and with a simple statement or that smile helped shape their future into better human beings. You made all of us or anyone that came into contact with you in any form or fashion made us all better people. You loved life to the fullest Jim I have so much to say but am struggling to find the words, you are a true friend that will truly be missed, the whole community is grieving along side Karen, J.T. Annie and their families. You will never be forgotten.. rest easy my friend!! With love and respect Larry, Josh, Justin and Kayleigh Storms (Davis) Karen our hearts are with you and the family during this difficult time

Larry Storms - August 14, 2024 at 03:23 PM

KM

“ Kelly And Susie McClure lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Kelly and Susie McClure - August 14, 2024 at 10:20 AM

KM

Our thoughts and prayers to Karen & the entire family. 🙏

Kelly and Susie McClure - August 14, 2024 at 10:25 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of James R. Ephlin.*



August 13, 2024 at 03:35 PM



“ *Mike & Sandy Fussner lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



**Mike & Sandy Fussner** - August 12, 2024 at 06:38 PM



*Karen so sorry for your loss.*

**Sandy** - August 12, 2024 at 06:39 PM



“ *The Boatright Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James R. Ephlin.*



**The Boatright Family** - August 12, 2024 at 10:49 AM



“ *The Boatright Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James R. Ephlin.*

**The Boatright Family** - August 12, 2024 at 10:49 AM

DN

“ *David And Monica Newman lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**David and Monica Newman** - August 11, 2024 at 07:42 PM

JW

“ *Jim Walker lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Jim Walker** - August 11, 2024 at 06:52 PM

JD

“ *Jane Holder Davis lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Jane Holder Davis** - August 11, 2024 at 06:08 PM

GC

“ *My condolences to the family Jim will be missed by everyone! We had a lot of good memories at the Rushville Bowl*

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**Gary Cameron** - August 11, 2024 at 05:38 PM

PG

“ Penny Goins lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Penny Goins - August 11, 2024 at 05:08 PM

JN

“ My condolences to the family. I have known Jim since I was a kid and even worked for him as a pin chaser. He always told me I bowled to hard. I will miss the laughs with him but always cherish the time we had together. He was a true friend for many many years. RIP buddy. You will be missed.

John Norvell - August 11, 2024 at 04:05 PM

GR

“ Thanks for the memories my friend. 🙏❤️🙏

Greg Raike - August 11, 2024 at 01:16 PM

BP

“ Barbara Peterson lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Barbara Peterson - August 11, 2024 at 10:20 AM

MD

“ Sending love, hugs and prayers to all.



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**Mary & Troy Dickson** - August 11, 2024 at 10:01 AM

DG

“ So seems like yesterday, but wasn't. It's been 7 yrs that Jim and Karen welcomed my family into theres..

*Started as a sub and for my better half. Jim seen something in my bowling I didn't and asked me to help out and join his Thur night team subbing for him. After that first night I knew it was get better or it was going to cost me alot of \$. So I did.. I went from 180 ish average to this year over 200...*

*I can not ever make him aware of how much he meant to me and helping me be a better bowler, and any time I need advice on a move. He was always quick with do this or that.. and ALWAYS helped.. Going to miss that man sitting behind the table yelling " One time "..*

*Or back behind the counter .. with the announcments.*

*You will be missed brother..*

*Rest in peace*



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**Don griffith** - August 11, 2024 at 09:56 AM

TB

“ *Tonya Buckley lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Tonya Buckley** - August 11, 2024 at 09:48 AM



“ *Ken Redden lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin*



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**Ken Redden** - August 11, 2024 at 08:59 AM

JV

“ *Starting bowling 1999 maybe with Stag Jim welcomed me like I was from Rushville and Him and Karen treated me like family ever since. He will be missed for sure .Prayer going out to Annie , Jt , grandkids and Karen and the Rushville Bowlinf Community*

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**Jessica Vaugjn** - August 10, 2024 at 11:29 PM

ML

“ *Jim and I bowled for Ball State together about 50 yrs ago he s been one of my most cherished friends since day 1 . I will miss him deeply and send my prayers and love to all the family and multitude of friends this great guy had*

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**Mark Little** - August 10, 2024 at 11:15 PM

LJ

“ Prayers to the family.Had a lot of great times with Jim and the Rushville Bowling Alley. Great people and great times and a lot of memories. God rest your soul my friend 🙏



Lewis W Lee Jr. - August 10, 2024 at 08:59 PM

JD

“ Jane Holder Davis lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Jane Holder Davis - August 10, 2024 at 08:36 PM

CT

“ Cindy Griffith. Fred Thoman lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Cindy Griffith. Fred Thoman - August 10, 2024 at 08:12 PM

BC

“ Beth Clifton lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Beth Clifton - August 10, 2024 at 08:09 PM

DS

“ Darlene Sullivan lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



Darlene Sullivan - August 10, 2024 at 05:33 PM

DS

Jim was such a good person. My prayers are with his family.

Darlene Sullivan - August 10, 2024 at 05:34 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of James R. Ephlin.



August 10, 2024 at 04:41 PM

RG

“ Robin Gilbert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James R. Ephlin.

Robin Gilbert - August 10, 2024 at 04:41 PM

JC

“ John & Sally Collyer lit a candle in memory of James R. Ephlin



John & Sally Collyer - August 10, 2024 at 03:34 PM

JC

*So sad! What a wonderful guy. Jim and I graduated together. He was definitely one of the best. Thoughts and prayers for all family. 🙏🙏🥹*

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**John & Sally Collyer** - August 10, 2024 at 03:38 PM

JB

“ *So many great memories of Jim. He was a great friend to people of all ages. I truly appreciate the friendship he had with my family over the years. My thoughts and prayers to karen and the children. I know he loved his family very much.*

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**John and Mary Byrne** - August 10, 2024 at 02:37 PM