



## James L. Wagner Sr.

November 7, 1949 - June 24, 2025

James L. Wagner Sr.

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at age 75. Predeceased by his parents, Joseph and MaryLou; sister, Cheryl. Survived by his children, Melissa (Kyle) Nelson and James Jr. (Amanda); grandchildren, Lauren, Dillon, Addison and Jordan; brother, John (Lisa); and several nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Jim was born on November 7th, 1949 in Buffalo, NY to Joseph ( a hard working mechanic) and

Mary Lou Wagner ( a compassionate and loving homemaker). He was the first born of 3 children

and is predeceased by his sister Cheryl and survived by his brother, John.

Jim graduated from Kenmore East High School in 1967. He was known for his infectious smile

and a contagious laugh that lit up any room he entered. He was generous beyond measure,

thoughtful, and caring. These traits made him truly unforgettable.

His greatest passions included the Buffalo Bills, Army Lacrosse, his Harley Davidson

motorcycle, beloved dogs Trina and Gorman, playing golf, and a generous supporter of The

Wounded Warrior project.

Jim was a patriotic American and answered when his country called and drafted him into

Service. He served in the Army as an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division, deploying to Vietnam from March of 1970 until April of 1971, where he earned a Silver Star medal, recognizing his gallantry in battle. He later served as an officer in the New York National Guard until 1982.

Jim's professional life was marked by dedication and commitment to serving those whom he had the privilege to work with. He was an executive with Marine Midland Bank (now HSBC) where his compassion and caring demeanor shined. His colleagues described him as a "real guy's guy" which was rare in the corporate world. He was well liked, well respected, and was described as being a great manager, teacher, and role model by his colleagues.

Jim found his greatest joy in his family. Especially in coaching his son Jimmy in hockey and baseball when he was young. He took great pride in never missing a game or event in his daughter, Melissa's, high school sports career and continued that love and commitment onto his son while he played lacrosse at West Point in the following years. He drove countless miles around the east coast attending nearly every game in Jimmy's four year career.

In his most recent years, Jim was a devoted grandfather to his four grandchildren Lauren, Dillon, Addison, and Jordan. Being a grandfather was his greatest joy. He was extremely loving

and playful. His grandchildren loved playing games of UNO, Bingo ( to win candy of course!), and Skipbo. He prided himself in attending every game of soccer, basketball, softball, and cross country meets he possibly could to cheer on his 4 grandchildren. His love and encouragement will forever be etched in their hearts.

In every phase of life, Jim led with his heart and never gave up dreaming and wanting to follow his passions. His presence brought joy with a laughter that healed wounds, and his love left an imprint that time will never be forgotten. He will be remembered for the happiness and zest for life that he brought into the world, but also for the way he inspired and supported others around him.

Family and friends may call Thurs. July 3rd from 12-2pm at the Leo M. Bean and Sons Funeral Home. Funeral service to follow calling at 2pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JUL 3. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Leo M Bean and Sons Funeral Home  
2771 Chili Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14624  
(585) 426-7830  
beanfuneralhome@rochester.rr.com  
<http://www.beanandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUL 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

Leo M Bean and Sons Funeral Home  
2771 Chili Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14624  
(585) 426-7830  
beanfuneralhome@rochester.rr.com  
<http://www.beanandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ Jimmy and i were best and inseparable friend's in junior high and high school. I continued to correspond with him, as best as possible while he was in Viet Nam . Not know of his passing, on Friday i sent him a Facebook message that i had dined at Teds on Sheridan Dr and drove by the house on Monmouth where i spent so much time, as he did at mine. Perhaps one day too many when my dog bit him in the butt. You were a great friend Jimmy and i feel badly that so many years went by us.

scott schwartz - July 14, 2025 at 11:31 AM

CD

“ I was with Jim in the 9th Infantry Division Viet Nam before he was transferred to the 101st. He was always a friendly and happy guy.  
Clifford Deane

Clifford Deane - July 06, 2025 at 04:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James L. Wagner Sr..

July 03, 2025 at 08:30 PM



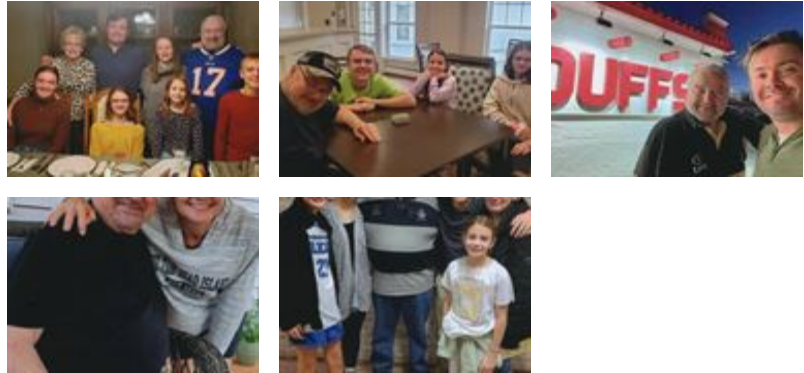
“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James L. Wagner Sr..



July 03, 2025 at 08:30 PM



“ 64 files added to the album Life Tributes



Leo M. Bean and Sons Funeral Home - July 01, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ The Nelson/Wagner Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Wagner Sr..

The Nelson/Wagner Families - July 01, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ The Nelson/Wagner Families purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of James L. Wagner Sr..



The Nelson/Wagner Families - July 01, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James L. Wagner Sr..*



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June 30, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ *The Veterans Outreach Center extends our deepest sympathy in James' passing.*

*We acknowledge and are truly grateful for his service to our country.*

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**Joan Brandenburg** - June 29, 2025 at 01:55 PM



“ *Jim, May you be with God you spent your time in hell. Rest in Peace. May God dry the tears and ease the pain of your loved ones and friends.*

*Semper Fi,  
Bruce Beebe*

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**Bruce Beebe** - June 27, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James L. Wagner Sr..*



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June 27, 2025 at 11:37 AM

TC

“ Jim was the most likeable and decent guy one could ever meet. He was a great friend to have during the times we shared. We met in the mid sixties and shared what a bunch of young dudes had then. It was 1967, "The Summer of Love". It was the Viet Nam War, drilling fear into us and helping us to uncover real friendships, not knowing what was in store for us. It was the Doors and Jimmy Morrison belting out "Light my Fire" with hard punching passion, that we all sang until we almost wore out that perfect Summer of, '67 badge of honor song. The music and open road caused Jim's 58 Chevy to hum even faster and smoother. Jim was a true friend with a huge heart and a sense of devious, loving humor. All of us young dudes dreaded the mail as the war raged on and none of us talked about it. Jim answered his call with courage and determination, I am certain. The last time that we talked he told me of his 100% disability, but not a word about how he was damaged physically. I will always remember you Jim, as al the gang will, as the best we could all do with regard to real, honest friendship and caring. I hope that we meet again on the other side . Tim

Tim Craig - June 26, 2025 at 01:20 PM

EC

We are very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Our thoughts and prayers to the family. Ed and Diane Clark

Ed and Diane Clark - June 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM

BR

So very sorry to hear of Jim's passing! I will always remember him on the sidelines of our lacrosse games and the support he sent along to his son. His family is truly fortunate to have shared the life of a man of great character and to carry on his legacy. Rest in peace Jim.

Bill Riffel - June 27, 2025 at 01:22 PM

RG

*Came to know Jim during the four years that our sons played lacrosse in college. We always looked forward to seeing him as he was more than just another parent, he was a friend. Rest in peace, Jim.*

**Rich and Kathy Green** - June 27, 2025 at 04:08 PM

DS

*Jim will be sorely missed. He was my boss at HSBC Bank for a few years. And I may add he was my best boss I ever had! RIP Jim*

**Donald Steinsholt** - July 01, 2025 at 10:24 AM