



James R Berger

September 10, 1946 - February 15, 2017

James R. Berger, 70, of Bluffton went home to be with his Lord at 3:05 P.M. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at his residence, surrounded by his two daughters, family and friends.

Jim was born on September 10, 1946 in Panama City, Panama Canal Zone to Col. Leon H. & Ann M. (Laschitz) Berger. He obtained his BS in Industrial Technology from Ohio University. He worked at Kitco in Bluffton as a processing Engineer and plant manager for 18 years. Jim retired in 2005 as the operations manager for Ken-Koat, Inc., where he worked for 13 years. He served our country as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force where he was honorably discharged after serving during Vietnam from 1967 to 1971. He was a member of the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton where he had served as the Commander from 1984-1985. He started a trivia night at the Legion in 2012, earning him the name "Mr. Trivia".

He was a member of River of Life Church in Bluffton along with serving as the first past-chairman of the Wells County Chapter of Citizens Against Drug Abuse. Jim enjoyed spending winters in Ellenton, Fl. with his cousin, fishing for salmon in the fall, helping his daughters make hay and playing golf. He started every day with breakfast with his best friend Bob, but above all, Jim loved the Lord and spending time with his family and friends.

Jim is survived by two daughters; Kristin M. Cochran of Lagro, IN and Allison M. Alma of Liberty Center along with two brothers; Robert J. Berger of Dayton, Ohio and Ronald J. Berger of Lake Tahoe, Ca. and a sister Pamela A. Lloyd of

Navato, Ca.

A service to Celebrate Jim's life will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday (Feb. 19, 2017) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Pastor Wayne Ball will officiate. Burial will follow at the Northridge Mausoleum located at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Military honors will be performed by the United States Air Force Honor Guard and American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton. Calling Hours will be held from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the River of Life Church.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Northridge Community Mausoleum located in Fairview Cemetery

3101 East St. Rd. 124
Bluffton, In

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 19. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Celebration of Life Service

FEB 19. 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James R Berger*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 19, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ *James R Berger*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I enjoy working with Jim at kitco he was a good person to work with and a good boss. Always see him with a smile on his face He will be missed by several people from Kitco Sincerely Yours, Tammi Helm*

Tammi Helm - March 02, 2017 at 01:09 PM

KT

“ We learned of Jim's passing through family. We both feel so sorry for his family and all others who knew him. His absence will be felt, however, his life should be rejoiced. We certainly feel that way. I first met Jim when I was hired by Kitco as an engineer. It was he and Les who introduced us and set up our first double date together in 1972. In a way, Jim and Les both enriched our lives and that will now continue through our family as well. Linda and I have been married since 1975, raised two great kids (coincidentally, our son has 16 years in the Air Force), and have now retired in Louisiana. It is only in a loss of this type that one truly understands what an opportunity missed by not keeping in touch. We should have made the effort after we left for Michigan in 1976. For not, we are less blessed. Jim was a kind, funny, trusting friend to us. I see now that he was the same for everyone he touched. We offer our condolences especially to his family. May God bless him.

Keith and Linda (Schaffter) Tregre

Keith Tregre - February 23, 2017 at 03:36 PM

DS

“ *Dorothy and Charles Shedd*

So sorry to hear about Jim's passing. I worked with him at Kitco and he was a great boss!

Dorothy Shedd - February 22, 2017 at 07:42 PM

GH

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Wayne worked with him at Kitco and later ordered supplies from him when they both worked at other companies. Have many memories of him through the years, especially at the Kitco 063 Club parties. At one particular picnic he praised my oatmeal cake. Since then I have always thought of him when I make the cake. He was always friendly and such a gentleman when we would see him out and about. Pray God blesses you with beautiful memories to bring you comfort and peace in the days and weeks ahead!!
Glennis and Wayne Henly

Glennis Henly - February 21, 2017 at 01:04 PM

CD

“ We got know Jim when I worked with him at Kitco, he was a great guy and lots of fun. We are sorry for your loss and pray you find peace in good memories.

Cindy and Jerry Dillon - February 20, 2017 at 06:17 PM

LW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was so proud of you, even when you were just little and hanging out with me on Saturday nights! He would always want to hear the stories of what the two of you had done while he was away from you that evening. You girls have grown into beautiful women. In the pictures you've shared, you can see the love and pride your dad has for each of you. I hope your memories and his love comfort you until you are together again.
LaChele Henkle Weaver

LaChele Henkle Weaver - February 19, 2017 at 07:43 PM

OF

“ Osborn Family lit a candle in memory of James R Berger



Osborn Family - February 19, 2017 at 09:01 AM

GF

“ I worked for Jim at Ken-Koat as the Maintenance Manager. Jim was such a wonderful man to work for. We did have some differences, but he was always a gentleman, as in Gentle Man. After his retirement, he & I would call each other several times a year & have very nice talks. At other times, he & I would meet & have lunch together & talk about the Lord & he would always tell me how good God has been to him. I will miss him greatly, but I know that he would not come back to this world after seeing the glories of heaven & never any more pain.

Glenn Fisher

Glenn Fisher - February 19, 2017 at 08:13 AM

BD

“ Kristin and Allie,
We are so sorry for your loss. Your dad was a wonderful, caring man who influenced almost everyone he met. He will be greatly missed.

Our sympathies are with you,

Barry and Connie Duncan - February 19, 2017 at 12:11 AM

BD

“ *Barry And Connie Duncan lit a candle in memory of James R Berger*



Barry and Connie Duncan - February 18, 2017 at 11:50 PM

BD

“ *Kristin and Allie,
We are so sad for your loss. Your dad was a wonderful, caring man who influenced almost everyone he met. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathies are with you.*

Barry and Connie Duncan - February 18, 2017 at 11:42 PM

BD

“ *Kristin and Allie,
We are so sad for your loss. Your dad was a wonderful, caring man who influenced almost everyone he met. Our sympathies are with you.*

Barry and Connie Duncan

Barry and Connie Duncan - February 18, 2017 at 11:23 PM

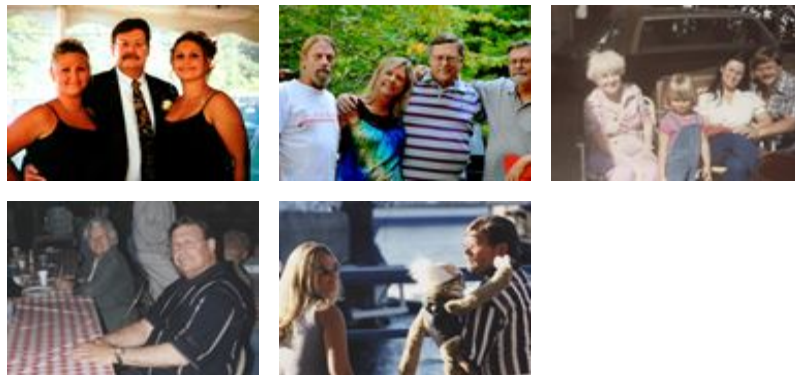
RT

“ I met Jim through his cousin Ray in Ellenton, FL several years ago. We always looked forward to his visit to Florida when he was able to visit. We missed seeing him these last few years when he was too sick to make the trip. He always treated my elderly mother with the kindest respect and she missed him too. My mother was called to her heavenly home on Dec 3, 2016, so I suspect that they are able to visit with each other again. We played trivia with Jim and he was always a pleasure to be around. I will remember him fondly and my brother, Tony, and I will miss him. God bless his family and know that he was loved by many.

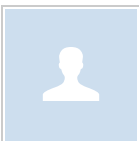
Rose Marie Taylor - February 18, 2017 at 09:25 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 18, 2017 at 06:39 PM



“ Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy was purchased for the family of James R Berger.



February 18, 2017 at 01:48 PM

RG

“ Ryan & Maria Graft purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of James R Berger.



Ryan & Maria Graft - February 17, 2017 at 07:07 PM

BB

“ Jim was always ready help and never wanted to overshadow those around him. He knew how to make friends with all he met and always saw the good in others. He made you want to be able to call him your friend because he was always there to help if you needed him. God gained a true saint among sinners when our Lord called him home.

Bob Buehl - February 17, 2017 at 12:04 PM

CH

“ Christine lit a candle in memory of James R Berger



Christine - February 17, 2017 at 06:36 AM

CH

“ Lesley, Kristin and Allie, There are no words to express how sorry we are about Jim's passing. He was very special to us for many years, we loved him and we will miss him always. Christine & Doug xxx God Bless.

Christine & Doug Hart - February 17, 2017 at 06:35 AM

CW

“ So very sad for his daughters, I know that he loved you both more than life itself. I know that he will be missed by many. His family and close friends will have a huge void in their life's. I have always liked Jim. Whenever I ran into him, he always treated me like he was thrilled to see me. I never heard him ever speak unkindly about anyone. He seemed to find the good within others. We could all do this a little bit more. So very sorry for your loss. Know that you are in my thoughts.

Cozette Weaver - February 17, 2017 at 01:35 AM

CW

“ Cozette Weaver lit a candle in memory of James R Berger



Cozette Weaver - February 17, 2017 at 01:21 AM

WF

“ With love from The Lawsages and family. purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of James R Berger.



With love from The Lawsages and family. - February 16, 2017 at 09:42 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James R Berger.*



February 16, 2017 at 08:55 PM



“ *Jim was a man who managed large companies but handled his responsibilities with grace and humbleness. He had a great sense of humor and a wisdom only God could provide. I Loved the sparkle in his eyes and his mischeivous grin. Saw him about 5 weeks ago. His vision was failing but his spiritual insight was 20/20. He told us he was in a sweet spot with God and was at total peace. When he came to know the Lord, he was all in. He never looked back. I loved to see his faith. Now he can see his savior face to face. I can imagine them talking and laughing. I am glad for him, but sad for those of us left without him for a while. Kristin and Allie, your Dad was so very proud of you and love for you radiated from him when he talked about you. You blessed him in a multitude of ways. He was grateful for the women of character you had become and the good you brought to the world. I am thankful that this life isn't all there is, thanks to Jesus. We'll see you again good friend.*

Linda

Linda M Haag - February 16, 2017 at 05:57 PM

BG

“ *Bill Galivan lit a candle in memory of James R Berger*



Bill Galivan - February 16, 2017 at 03:07 PM