



James D. Dorn

January 27, 1931 - September 13, 2025

James David Dorn, 94, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 13, 2025 surrounded by his family at his home in Long Grove, IL. Jim was born January 27, 1931 in Chicago, and grew up in Oak Park. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Northwestern University and remained a dedicated alumni throughout his life. He was a loyal season ticket holder (#46) and watched every home game from the 50 yard line. Jim served honorably in the US Air Force before embarking on his career in sales and engineering. In 1976, he founded Mechanical Power, Inc. in Wauconda, IL and built it from the ground up to be the global industrial parts distributor that it is today. Jim was a talented pianist and enjoyed traveling with his Dixieland jazz bands, skiing in Colorado, and was proud to hike the Grand Canyon from rim to rim at 65 years of age. He especially enjoyed weekend trips to his Wisconsin vacation home, "Folly Farm", and planted many hundreds of trees there over the years. Jim will always be remembered as having a cold IPA in a warm glass at the ready and a limerick or two to share.

Surviving is his wife of 70 years (and greatest love of his life), Helen Dorn; 2 children, Elizabeth (Doug) Zwiener and David (Carrie) Dorn; 5 grandchildren, Kathleen (Chris Edwards) Zwiener, Brian James (Vanessa) Zwiener, Daniel Zwiener, Connor Dorn and Adam Dorn; 3 great grandchildren, Theodore, August & Harrison, and dozens of acres of evergreen forest up north.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Marilyn Griffith, and was greeted in heaven by his beloved labradoodle, Annie.

Private services will be held by his family at a later date. Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville, IL. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com

Tribute Wall

DV

“ We are so blessed to have met Jim and Helen when we moved to Long Grove as a part of our neighbor attempt at saving our "lake". Jim was always smiling, always a gentleman, and always. always spouting a new limerick. Always too a fan of a glass of homemade wine and a couple pieces of pizza. Our heartfelt condolences to Helen and family.

Debra and Harry Vignocchi

Debra & Harry Vignocchi - September 30, 2025 at 12:39 PM

KP

“ Our family had the privilege of knowing Jim for 47 years. Jim was the first salesman I met as a purchasing agent. Our business relationship turned into a valued friendship for our family. Jim invited our family to join him at the Warsaw, IN Pizza Hut after sales calls. Our trips to Chicago would include a visit for dinner at Hackney's with Jim and Helen. By the time our 2 children were married, Jim and Helen were their "honorary Grandparents" as my parents had passed. We treasure all the memories we have of Jim.

Kerry, Sue, Kevin & Kara Price - September 28, 2025 at 09:45 PM

JM

“ Susie and I well remember our outing with Jim and Helen on the Tippecanoe river in the early 60's. It was a wonderful weekend with our Lincolnshire neighbors. We stayed at JIM and Helen's place. There were several couples and we had the best time floating down the river on inner tubes. God bless Jim and our love to Helen and family. John McClory

John McClory - September 28, 2025 at 03:35 PM

EM

“ It is with tears rolling down my face that I write this. Jim became my adopted Dad. He was a man of wisdom, humor, humility and kindness. For the last eight years, his big smile greeted me each day as he said “Good Morning!”

In my capacity as a caregiver to both him and Helen , I was blessed to see love in action as Jim stood to greet Helen daily with a hug and the words” Your smile lights up the Universe!”

On our trips to doctors appointments or to grab a growler , his hands would quickly find the radio tuner and each trip became an education in music ranging from classical to Sinatra or Jazz. He seemed to know every tune!! And he always had a song in his head and heart! Words cannot adequately express the great loss I feel for my AD(adopted Dad) who was quick to remind me that I was a part of his family and his AD(adopted daughter) nor for the lasting impressions that he left wherever he went. He was a phenomenal human being, father, grandfather , great grandfather and father in law. They truly broke the mold when he was created ! Your legacy lives on in your family ! I look forward to seeing you again my AD

Ellen Mortimer - September 23, 2025 at 03:31 PM

EM

It was both an honor and a privilege to be a part of your journey and your life and I will cherish the memories, the laughter and the love you showed always.

Ellen Mortimer - September 24, 2025 at 02:59 PM

CC

And you made the best toast❤️

Carol Czekaj - September 26, 2025 at 01:59 PM

LK

“ I met Jim while visiting my dear friend Ellen. I will always remember my time visiting with him and his wonderful wife Helen. I grew very fond of him over the years and will always cherish the Colorado Spruce he blessed me with which now is growing in my backyard. He will be missed

Lynn Kopfer - September 23, 2025 at 10:54 AM

AH

“ The Hall family has fond memories of Mr. Dorn. From visiting his lovely home in Long Grove, spending at least one holiday there with the family and a fantastic visit to Folly Farm. May your memory be a blessing.

Audree Hall - September 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM

RJ

A wonderful, generous man whose presence always brought a smile to your face.

Ron Hall Jr - September 23, 2025 at 11:04 AM

CC

The best neighbor & friend anyone could have❤️. So kind, generous, funny & loving. We always loved sharing some of his ever flowing groller or sitting on the deck on a lovely summer night, enjoying margaritas and listening to nature. I love you my friend & will always miss you.

Carol & Claude Czekaj

Carol Czekaj - September 26, 2025 at 02:03 PM