



Mr. William James "Jim" Griffin, Jr.

November 22, 1938 - August 18, 2024

UTICA – On Sunday, August 18, 2024, humanity lost a bright light with the death of William James Griffin – a gentle gentleman, a humble unassuming man.

He was born in Utica on November 22, 1938, to William and Alma (Ruben) Griffin, both of whom predeceased him.

Jim was married to Jean Puleo; a loving marriage until her death in 2017. He was the father of two sons whom he cared for deeply - with concern for their well-being.

He was a graduate of Utica Catholic Academy in 1956 and Utica College (Utica University) in 1969. Jim completed the required graduate credits at Upper Division (SUNY Poly).

He possessed deep devotion to the Christian faith in Jesus. Jim frequently ended conversations by saying, "Pray for the children."

Jim had a kind heart in all ways and was dedicated to the teaching profession with a special concern for the academically challenged students. He was moved to help with charity work until a brain tumor compromised his eyesight. When a friend was told of his passing, she said, "He was a wonderful, lovely

man.”

He was a faithful friend who demanded no requirements for the friendship. He was a friend who asked for nothing but gave generously. Jim was mostly a quiet, decent man, but would speak up for a just cause.

He was a quietly proud veteran of his service in the United States Army (1961-1963) and multiple years' service in the National Guard.

Jim never got caught up in the over-devotion to professional sports although he enjoyed playing baseball in high school and was an active bowler for a time. He did fish for pleasure in his younger years.

He was the great-nephew of one of Utica's earliest professional major league baseball players - Mike Griffin of 1887-1898.

He departs his two sons, Steven James Griffin, and Glenn Matthew Griffin; one grandson, Blake Sterling Griffin and his mother Danielle Washburn; one sister, Gail (Griffin) Santacroce; two sisters-in-law, Annette (Evan) Lewis, and Anita (James) McNichol; two brothers-in-law, Philip (Sharon) Puleo, and Michael (Linda) Puleo. Jim also leaves many friends, professional teaching colleagues, and former students.

He was predeceased by a sister-in-law, Theresa Ann Puleo.

William James Griffin had no official titles or political standing except a reputation of being a model citizen with a willing heart eager to contribute to his community. As this is being written, there is a nagging guilt that Jim would be embarrassed by the kind words stated in public. It is sad that a man like Jim, with an impeccable character and humble personality, is unknown until his obituary is read in the newspaper. Those who knew him, know the length

and breadth of influence for good that came from his life quietly well-lived.

To help heal our turbulent society, the world could use more men like William James Griffin.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 25, 2024, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Memorial contributions in Jim's honor may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at <https://www.stjude.org/donate> or to the Alzheimer's Association Mohawk Valley Chapter online at <https://www.alz.org/centralnewyork>; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend William's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St. Entombment will follow in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum where Military Honors will be conferred by the U.S. Army.

This obituary was lovingly composed by William's dear friend.

Cemetery Details

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Funeral Service

AUG 26. 10:00 AM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus
2222 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13502
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

Tribute Wall

GB

“ Dear Steven and Glenn
Our Hearts go out to you in the loss of your wonderful Father.
Gary And I have such happy memories of him; he was like a big
brother to
Gary growing up and the best man at our wedding. It is never easy
to lose
a parent but when you have been so loved as you both were, that
love
remains with you throughout your life and is a source of strength
always.
I noticed that your Dad passed on August 18th just as your Mom
did, as
though he was reaching out to her to join her on the Anniversary of
her
passing. Take Care of each other and of Blake as he would want
you both
to. With all our love and heartfelt sympathy Gary & Denise

Gary & Denise Brown - August 25, 2024 at 11:51 PM

GT

“ Dear Steven and Glenn, My deepest sympathy to you on the
passing of your dear father. Losing him is a heartache I wish you
didn't have to go through. Take good care of each other during this
sad and difficult time. "And when he shall die, take him and cut him
out in little stars, and he will make the face of Heaven so fine that all
the world will be in love with night" (Wm. Shakespeare). From your
long time neighbor on Baker Avenue, George Tulloch

George Tulloch - August 24, 2024 at 09:20 PM



Thankyou George: for your kind words: love the quote, And when he shall die, take him and cut him out in little stars, and he will make the face of Heaven so fine that all the world will be in love with night" (Wm. Shakespeare)

Steven Thevirgin - August 25, 2024 at 10:35 AM

AL

“ Annette and Evan Lewis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. William James "Jim" Griffin, Jr..

Annette and Evan Lewis - August 24, 2024 at 08:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. William James "Jim" Griffin, Jr..



August 24, 2024 at 08:28 AM

CB

“ Sincere condolences to the family, Mr. Griffin was my 4th grade English teacher at Conkling School (1967), he was a wonderful teacher, very well liked by the students. 🙏

Connie Zogby Betar - August 23, 2024 at 11:40 PM

TG

“ *Griff and Glenn*

My sincere condolences on the passing of your Dad! His obituary summed him up to a T.... JUST A GOOD, GENTLE MAN.... May he rest in peace.

Tommy Giruzzi

Tommy G - August 23, 2024 at 11:14 AM



Hi Tommy < Tom >

Thanks for your time

In replying here for my father. The time in my life we had I cherish that baseball is both our love. In our lives both in the past and present we still think of those goidvtimes today which are greatly Memories. My dad played in high school. I have him swinging the baseball bat with his 5 year old grandson. we went together to the baseball field it off the baseball t together and I recorded it all. how much my father loved his grandson but then 2020 evil woman his mother who made up tgecworest stories imaginable came into my fathers life. Those stories broke my fathers heart and caused him tremendous pain even after the loss of my mother 3 years older and this abuse made him live with emotional pain. My Life most go on my father life is ended but his spirit goes on in my heart. we all cherish those good time and I have had that with my father. I recorded us together with his grandson blake in 2019 that recorded on my phone I will share someday of hiw much he lived him.

Steven Thevirgin - August 25, 2024 at 10:19 PM



Hi Tommy < Tom >

Thanks for your time

In replying here for my father. The time in my life we had I cherish that baseball is both our love. In our lives both in the past and present we still think of those good times today which are greatly Memories. My dad played in high school. I have him swinging the baseball bat with his 5 year old grandson. we went together to the baseball field it off the baseball t together and I recorded it all. how much my father loved his grandson but then 2020 evil woman his mother who made up tgecworest stories imaginable came into my fathers life. Those stories broke my fathers heart and caused him tremendous pain even after the loss of my mother 3 years older and this abuse made him live with emotional pain. My Life most go on my father life is ended but his spirit goes on in my heart. we all cherish those good time and I have had that with my father. I recorded us together with his grandson blake in 2019 that recorded on my phone I will share someday of how much he loved him.

Steven Thevirgin - August 25, 2024 at 10:19 PM



Hi Tommy, < Tom>

Thanks for your time.

I am replying here for my father. The time in my life we had, I cherish that baseball is both our love. In our lives, both in the past and present, we still think of those great times today, which are greatly remembered. My dad played in high school. I have him swinging the baseball bat with his 5-year-old grandson. We went together to the baseball field, off the baseball field, and I recorded it all. how much my father loved his grandson, but then the 2020 evil woman, his mother, who made up the scariest stories imaginable, came into my father's life. Those stories broke my father's heart and caused him tremendous pain even after the loss of my mother, who was 3 years older, and this abuse made him live with emotional pain. My life goes on; my father's life is over, but his spirit goes on in my heart. We all cherish those good times, and I have had that with my father. I recorded us together with his grandson Blake in 2019 on my phone. I will share someday how much he loved him.

Steven Griffin - August 25, 2024 at 10:39 PM



Hi Tommy, < Tom>

Thanks for your time.

I am replying here for my father. The time in my life we had, I cherish that baseball is both our love. In our lives, both in the past and present, we still think of those great times today, which are greatly remembered. My dad played in high school. I have him swinging the baseball bat with his 5-year-old grandson. We went together to the baseball field, off the baseball field, and I recorded it all. how much my father loved his grandson, but then the 2020 evil woman, his mother, who made up the scariest stories imaginable, came into my father's life. Those stories broke my father's heart and caused him tremendous pain even after the loss of my mother, who was 3 years older, and this abuse made him live with emotional pain. My life goes on; my father's life is over, but his spirit goes on in my heart. We all cherish those good times, and I have had that with my father. I recorded us together with his grandson Blake in 2019 on my phone. I will share someday how much he loved him.

Steven Griffin - August 25, 2024 at 10:39 PM



Grammar Checker

Use QuillBot's free online grammar checker tool to perfect your writing by reviewing your text for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Whenever you need to review your writing

Steven Griffin - August 25, 2024 at 10:40 PM

SL

“ Dear Glenn, Steve and family
I can honestly say...a kinder gentle spirited man... I have never met.
A man of integrity and great faith, always ready to listen and always
ready to help. His examples of humility and strength followed him
everywhere. His smile was contagious and his love for humanity
and God was undeniable. He was a father who left a legacy to be
proud of.

Fondly,
Sharon LaBella

Sharon Labella - August 22, 2024 at 06:12 PM



Hi Sharon LaBella, thank you for your condolences on my fathers
passing

Steven Thevirgin - August 25, 2024 at 10:21 PM

MM

“ Mr. Griffin what a kind sweet caring person.
This breaks my heart to hear of his passing .
He will always be dear to my heart. I
remember having him as my teacher in 1990
he always smiled and gave me confidence .
My goodness i was just a teenager when i knew Mr. Griffin he was
such a respectable person and an exceptional human being. Even if
you did not see him for a while and you ran into him he would
remember you and always ask about your well being . Glenn and
Steven I am so sorry for your loss I am so glad that I did have him in
my life and he will be missed . I remember that red ford truck he
drove with the white cab . Those are memories that i will hold close
to my heart. Heaven has truly gained an Angel.



Melanie Myers - August 22, 2024 at 04:55 PM

RB

“ Dear Steven , Glenn and family

Your dad was a wonderful human being. He was my 7th grade English teacher at Kemble School in the 1970's . I enjoyed his class very much. Later in life and met my dad while he was working security. My dad always mentioned what a really nice guy he was ! And when they started talking, your dad mentioned he was a teacher at Kemble. So dad asked if he remembered me as a student, and your dad's face lit up ! “Oh yes , I do remember Rosemary”! with a warm smile. I will always remember Mr Griffin as one of the very best . My thoughts are with you all. Rosemary Chambrone-Brown

Rosemary Brown - August 22, 2024 at 03:25 PM



“ 123 files added to the album LifeTributes



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - August 22, 2024 at 03:24 PM