



James "Jim" F. Bickel

September 30, 1935 - August 7, 2023

James F. "Jim" Bickel, 87, of Akron, Indiana passed at 8:36 pm, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 at Woodlawn Hospital of Rochester, Indiana.

Jim was born on Sept. 30, 1935 in Miami County, Indiana to the late Palmer O. and Maxine Ruth (Needham) Bickel. He married on Nov. 5, 1953 in Oswego, Indiana to Shirley J. Wentzel, she survives.

He attended school in Gilead. Jim later served his country in the U.S. Army. After his military service, he and his wife moved back to Akron in 1960 to raise their family. Jim had been a truck driver for many years starting in the late 50's, beginning as a milk truck driver. In 1965 he became an owner/operator of his own truck. He hauled for numerous trucking companies through the years.

Jim was a present member of the Lincoln Masonic Lodge #523, where he had been a member for over 50 years. He also was a member of the Laketon American Legion and served the community for 4 years on the Akron Town Council. Jim attended the Akron Church of God for many years. He had been a motorcycle enthusiast, Jim and Shirley rode the Goldwing many places. In 1979, he drove the Liberty Belle, a 1976 modified Kenworth owned by Metzger Trucking. He raced in Texas, California, and Arizona. He won the California race on the 2.5 mile track, qualifying there at 110.3 mph.

Throughout all of Jim's driving years, he estimated well over 5 million miles on the road. His last role was a daily route, hauling scrap metal, for Rochester Iron & Metal. He drove 300 miles a day until January of 2023.

He is survived by his wife Shirley Bickel of Akron; children Fred and wife Michele Bickel of Warsaw, Jeni Adams of Akron, Jeff and wife Laura Bickel of Akron; grandchildren Colby (Jasmin) Bickel, Jamie (Andrew) Murphy, Nathaniel Bickel, Kala (Justin) Hughes, Ryan (Chaitra) Adams; 6 Great Grandchildren; a sister Ruth Ann Funk of Akron.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Jerry Bickel and Robert Eugene Bickel, and son-in-law Gary Adams.

The funeral service for Mr. Bickel will take place at 10:00 am, Friday, Aug. 11, 2023 at Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana with Pastor Kathy Nelson and Pastor Mandy Nellans officiating.

Burial will be in the Akron Cemetery, Akron, Indiana with graveside military rites being performed by the Fulton County Honor Guard.

Visitation hours will be held from 4 pm to 8 pm, Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Indiana with a Masonic Service at 8:00 pm.

Cemetery Details

Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E
Akron, IN 46910

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home
305 West Rochester Street
P.O. Box 856
Akron, IN 46910
(574) 893-4423
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home
305 West Rochester Street
P.O. Box 856
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Tribute Wall



“ *Mark Edward Hoffman lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" F. Bickel*



mark edward hoffman - August 11, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*



August 10, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*

August 10, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*



August 10, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" F. Bickel.

August 10, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.



August 09, 2023 at 08:44 PM



“ Prayers of comfort being offered to the family. Even though we do not attend church together anymore does not mean I do not think about or care about you. Sending love to all.

Jeffery Gelbaugh - August 09, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" F. Bickel



Judy Walgamuth - August 09, 2023 at 08:02 PM



“ Sorry to hear of your loss. May you know God's comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Rose Berger - August 09, 2023 at 05:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*



August 09, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" F. Bickel.

August 09, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy and prayers for the family.*



Shirley Gray - August 09, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ *Thinking of you and your Family Fred. Always
Chris and Tess Smalley*



tess smalley - August 09, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*



August 09, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" F. Bickel.

August 09, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*



August 09, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ *Rest in Peace Jim, will miss seeing you around town and giving you a hard time, see you again some day*



mary Saner - August 09, 2023 at 10:07 AM

BS

“ Beth Ann Straley lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" F. Bickel



Beth Ann Straley - August 09, 2023 at 06:32 AM

TS

“ I am so sorry for your loss Shirley. Wrap yourself in the good memories. Know that you are in the hearts of many and we are thinking of you and your family. Tanya and Shawn Sriver.

Tanya Sriver - August 08, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.



August 08, 2023 at 09:52 PM

WM

“ Wendell And Georgia Moudy lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" F. Bickel



Wendell and Georgia Moudy - August 08, 2023 at 09:38 PM

PS

“ *Sending Love and Prayers*



Peggy Sellers - August 08, 2023 at 08:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" F. Bickel.*



August 08, 2023 at 07:58 PM

DM

“ *Shirley, I don't even know what to say. Jim holds a special place in my heart. You both do. My every thought is with you and the family. May your faith hold you up and keep you strong while you cherish all those wonderful memories that you and Jim created. Sending you so much love. Denise Swick Murray*

Denise Swick Murray - August 08, 2023 at 05:51 PM

MR

Prayers for his family and friends.

Miriam Ruppel - August 08, 2023 at 08:16 PM

WM

May the memories you hold, help find you peace in the days ahead. Thinking of the entire Bickel family.

Wendell and Georgia Moudy - August 08, 2023 at 09:37 PM



May you find comfort and strength in the coming days. Prayers for the Bickel family.

Cindy Walker - August 09, 2023 at 08:27 AM