



James A. Goolsby Jr.

January 27, 2025

Goolsby, James A., Jr., passed away on Monday, January 27, 2025, at age 84 after battling several severe medical conditions. He was a resident of Huntington for 29 years and prior to that resided in Bayville and Roslyn Heights. He loved life and never lost hope for his recovery.

Jim was predeceased by his first wife Karin and his daughter Elizabeth. He is survived by his present wife, Molly, son James, III twin sister Jane of Seattle, Washington, nieces Nancy & Betsy, brother Peter of Lillington, NC, and nephews Tom and Alex.

Jim honorably served in the US Army as a member of the Infantry and Berlin Honor Guard.

In his capacity as a licensed general contractor, Jim was the owner of Towne Carpentry of Roslyn Heights for many years. In 1970 he joined the Roslyn Highlands Fire Department, rising to the rank of Chief and later a Trustee of the Company and Trustee of the Exempts Association. During his tenure with the fire department, Jim was on scene at several major fires in the area and was one of the participants at the Avianca plane crash 35 years ago. Over the years Jim became known as “larger than life” and was often addressed as “The Legend” by other members of the department.

In 1994 Jim accepted the position of Building Inspector and New York State Code Enforcement Officer for the Incorporated Village of Bayville, a position he held for over 20 years. He was well-respected by the residents and staff alike and always did his utmost to resolve the issues that came before him.

Jim was an avid fly fisherman, enjoying annual trips to Roscoe, New York to fish the Beaver Kill and the Willowemoc Creek, believing in catch and release. He enjoyed tying his own flies and became quite accomplished. In the winter he often went turkey hunting in upstate New York. It was not unusual to see Jim out and about on his 1991 candy apple red Harley Low Rider going up to Bear Mountain, Rhode Island or Maryland with his special group of biker buddies.

A celebration of Jim’s life will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 2pm to 6pm at Roslyn Highlands Fire Department, 270 Warner Avenue, Roslyn Heights, NY. In lieu of flowers, it was Jim’s request that a donation be made to one of the following: Wounded

Warrior Project at P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516, Tunnel to Towers, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306 or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Arrangements made by Roslyn Heights Funeral Home, Roslyn Heights, NY.

Previous Events

Memorial

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Roslyn Highlands Fire Department
270 Warner Ave.
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

Tribute Wall

VB

“ Dear Molly , Jim grew up in my neighborhood . We had many friends back then; did everything in a group. I remember Richie Roe , his wife Tommy, Bruno P. his army buddy who married a sister of Tommy Russo. Later, Jim was at St. John's University in Jamaica Estates and we kept in touch. I lost track of Jim , as it always goes, but did have good memories of times shared with all of our friends. This must be hard for you and your son. Peace to you , always. With sympathy,
Virginia Ellis Beech Newton , MA

Virginia Beech - July 19, 2025 at 08:29 PM

BP

“ Jimmy spent 3years in the service with his friends Richard Roe and Bruno Pittelli.They served in Germany and when they came home they remained friends.Jimmy was my sister and brother in law Richie best man.My husband Bruno met Jimmy again when he was an inspector.Both Richie and Bruno are both gone now and I know they are probably causing havoc in heaven.God bless all of them. 🙏🙏🙏

Betty Pittelli - May 18, 2025 at 04:33 PM

JL

“ Condolences to the family and the Company on the loss of a good man and a good firefighter and officer who I respected and was privileged to have known all be it many years ago. He will be missed!

John Lorentz - February 28, 2025 at 07:44 AM

EM

“ We always thought "larger than life" was just an expression until we met Jim. Friends like Jim and Molly are all too rare, which makes Jim's passing all the more painful for us all. He will be missed...
With love,
Liz and Dave

Elizabeth Mahler - February 08, 2025 at 06:38 PM

MD

“ *Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leave a memory no one can steal.*

You will forever be in my heart. Good bye for now, my love.

Your loving wife.

Molly Deichler - January 29, 2025 at 11:19 PM

JP

“ *Our hearts are broken! We are so thankful for our friendship and all the beautiful memories we've shared for many years! We miss you! 💔*

Love Joan and Steve

Joan Perrone - January 29, 2025 at 05:14 PM

RK

Jim was the best!

I was the bartender at the old dock inn in Kings park!

He would come in a few times a week! Loved him! Such a gentleman and so respectful! I am so sorry to hear of his passing, RIP Jim, I will remember the great times we had at the bar! God bless💔💔💔💔🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏😊😊

Ree King - February 13 at 06:46 PM