



## *James Warren Darrah*

September 20, 1930 - July 12, 2018

Born in Rochester, Minnesota

Resided in Waverly, Iowa

## Obituary

James W. Darrah (Jim) 87, of Waverly, Iowa, passed away peacefully Thursday morning, July 12, 2018, at his residence with his family by his side.

Jim was born on September 20, 1930, in Rochester, Minnesota, the son of Clarence and Aletta (Bronner) Darrah. Jim was the first and only son of this marriage. He started school in Rochester. When he was 7 years old his parents moved to a small inland town called Maple Leaf, Iowa. He attended grade school in a one room school house 1 mile from his home. He graduated from Elma High School in 1949. On August 31, 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served during the Korean War. On August 5, 1953, he was united in marriage to Zona Gale Stevens in Cresco, Iowa. Jim was honorably discharged from the Navy on June 1, 1954, in San Francisco, California. He served 18 months on the Island of Guam; and then came back to the states for Damage Control school for 4 months. On completion of his schooling he was assigned to the General J.C. Breckenridge TAP 176, where he finished his time in the Navy.

When Jim and Zona returned to Iowa, he followed in his father's footsteps, which being a creamery manager/butter maker. He managed 3 creameries before joining The Minnesota Chemical Company in St. Paul, Minnesota. Jim was a salesman for 35 years, selling dry cleaning chemicals and equipment, and was certainly a legend in this industry. He traveled Europe learning the equipment he was selling, along with what was being manufactured here in the U.S. Jim always would tell people he loved getting up in the morning and going to work. He loved not only his work, but he loved the people he serviced over the years. On March 5, 1986, he along with co-owner Charlie Dunlap and manager Sherri Dralle (Jim's daughter) opened Classic Cleaners on Main Street in Waverly. This was his pride and joy as he showcased it by bringing prospective dry-cleaning customers to see a working cleaning business.

In January of 1999, they sold the business to Sherri and Steve Dralle where they continued operating until the devastating fire on December 27, 2017. Jim retained his title of V.P. of Foreign Affairs (jokingly & lovingly title) until his passing as he continued to advise in decisions.

In 1998 his loving wife of 44 years, Zona, passed away. On January 23, 1999, he was united in marriage to Velda Mae (Lampe) Schaefer in Mesa, Arizona, at the Velda Rose Methodist Church. They traveled to Germany, Ireland, and many other places. Velda passed away 8 years after marriage. In 2008, Jim married Deanna W. Stuart at Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly.

Jim was a life member of Trinity United Methodist Church and a life member of American Legion, VFW, and Amvets. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge,

Eastern Star, El Kahir Shrine and Kiwanis Club of Waverly.

Jim is survived by his wife, Deanna of Waverly, children, Steven (Dawn) Darrah, Sherri (Steve) Dralle, and Sandi Renner all of Waverly. Step-sons, Alan (Val) Schaefer, Kevin (Shannon) Stuart; step-daughters, Becky (Gene) Severson, Elaine (Jeff) Rasmussen, Kathy (Scott) Hamilton. Seven grandchildren, Steve James Darrah, Kiersten (Aaron) Foster, Lauren (Jarod) Peters, Crystal (Brian) Mennenga, Nicole Schneider, Andy (Stacy) Barber and Mandy (Ryan) Brumm. Step-grandchildren, Chad Renner, Robert (Renae) Renner, Ryan and Morgan Kuhrt, Chris Severson, Patrick (Melissa) Severson, Jared Severson, Andrea (Schaefer) McFarlane, Matt and Ryan Rasmussen, Danielle (Tyler) Stoppelmoor, Jon Hamilton, Ben, Anne and Derek Stuart; 23 great grandchildren and 1 great great granddaughter, Hadley. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Zona, wife Velda, sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Francis Ott, brother-in-law, Gerald Stevens; grandchildren, Michael and John Darrah, Adam Schneider, and son-in-law, Rand E. Renner on August 7, 2017.

Celebration of Life Services will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly, with Pastor Carolyn Bowers officiating. The family will greet friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17th at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly, where there will be a Masonic Service at 7:00 p.m. conducted by the Waverly Tyrrell Masonic Lodge #116. Jim's body has been cremated and will be buried in Harlington Cemetery in Waverly, with Military Graveside Rites Conducted by the Waverly Area Veterans Honor Guard. Memorials may be directed to the Waverly Area Veterans Post, Cedar Valley Hospice, or Trinity United Methodist Church. Online condolences for Jim's family may be left at [www.kaisercorson.com](http://www.kaisercorson.com). Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly is assisting the family 319-352-1187.

## Guestbook



Joe & Sheryl Beenken  
Created : Aug 03, 2018

Jim was a new friend to me when I joined Kiwanis. He was great. Sorry for your lost. Know that you will have him again. Once, at a Kiwanis scholarship banquet at Wartburg, after I gave the opening prayer (a little long) Jim as MC thanked me for the prayer and the program! He was a great friend. Joe and Sheryl Beenken



Marilyn Jean Schoonover  
Created : Jul 18, 2018

Sherri, I am so very sorry for you in the passing of your father. May God comfort your hurting heart and give you His peace. You have my deepest sympathy. Marilyn (Leisinger) Schoonover



Jon Day  
Created : Jul 17, 2018

When Uncle Jim was coming to visit, it was always a special time. We would get so excited that he was coming and couldn't wait for him to arrive. When he got there he would call me Tiger and rub my hair and tease me! When we went to visit Uncle Jim and Aunt Zona it was a really big deal. The house full of kids in the big city of Waverly and all the excitement, those were special times. When I was 5 or 6 years

old I didn't know that Uncle Jim wasn't really my uncle, but rather one of my dad's best friends from the Navy. I didn't matter to me, he was and is still my Uncle Jim. Heaven got a good man today!!!



Roger & Beth Swyter  
Created : Jul 17, 2018

We send our sincere sympathy to Deanna and all of Jim's family. He was such a wonderful friend and all of the Busy Bees camping club enjoyed his company. He is missed already. May God bless Deanna and all of Jim's family abundantly.



Lois amundson  
Created : Jul 17, 2018

Jim was always fun to be around and had such a positive attitude. Glad the Stevens family could gather with him in Lime Springs recently. He will certainly be missed by many.



Kathy Strike  
Created : Jul 16, 2018

Sorry for your loss. Am glad I got to see him at the Florenceville, IA Church service last month.



Curt and Kelly Henrichs  
Created : Jul 16, 2018

We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We thought so much of him. He was a kind and special man. You are all in our thoughts & prayers.



Bob and Malissa Cousin  
Created : Jul 16, 2018

So very sorry for your loss.â,â



Bruce E. Spurrier  
Created : Jul 15, 2018

We were so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was such an influence in my life and had a tremendous effect on the last 51 years of my life. I was never able to thank him enough for his interest in me. You will be missed. Thank you !!!



Jim and Dorothy Rose --- Roy Stuart  
Created : Jul 15, 2018

Deanna and all of the Darrah family, we are sorry to hear of your loss. We enjoyed seeing and visiting with Jim at our Stuart reunions. Also on face book. Prayers for all of you.

David MacMillan, MD  
Created : Jul 15, 2018



Dear family, I have fond memories of Jim and all of your family. I always appreciated Jim's positive attitude no matter what the problem was. He was a good man. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.



Mike Byl

Created : Jul 15, 2018

My thoughts are with Jim's family. I appreciated the conversations I had with Jim over the years. He will be missed.



Mark & Jean Schloemer

Created : Jul 15, 2018

So sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed our political discussions. Rest in peace Jim, you have closed your final deal.



Dan and Paulett Norton

Created : Jul 15, 2018

Thoughts and prayers to the entire Darrah family at this very difficult time. Jim loved life as life loved him and his memory will live in our hearts forever. We will be out of town and will not be able to attend the Celebration of life but will be with you in spirit. With deepest sympathy, Dan and Paulette Norton



J.D. Francis

Created : Jul 14, 2018

I've known Jim since I was a young teen. I realized it then- he was a man with class and an elevated standard. Jim had a way of making you feel you were something more than what you considered yourself to be. He knew that love was not something you keep, it was something you give away and to that extent and beyond, Jim was a generous man.....

## Photos



## Services

## Family Greeting

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### **Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes, Inc.-Waverly**

218 2nd Street SE P.O. Box 215  
Waverly, IA US 50677-0215



[Map / Directions](#)



Tuesday, July 17, 2018  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

## Celebration of Life

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### **Trinity United Methodist Church**

1400 West Bremer Avenue  
Waverly, IA US 50677



[Map / Directions](#)



Wednesday, July 18, 2018  
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

## Burial

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### **Harlington Cemetery**

1001 1st Street S.W.  
Waverly, IA US 50677



[Map / Directions](#)



Wednesday, July 18, 2018  
11:30 AM - 11:45 AM