



James Marlin was born September 14, 1956, in Osage, Iowa, the son of Jerald and Adeline (Smolik) Michels. In 1962 his family moved to Faribault, MN and in summer of 1966 the family moved to Pelican Rapids, MN. After the loss of his mother, they lived in Detroit Lakes, MN for one year. Then back to Pelican Rapids where Jim graduated from Pelican Rapids High School in 1975. On August 9, 1980, Jim was united in marriage to Melanie Soberg.

Jim started his love of farming while working for Trosvik Brothers when he was young. He worked as an EMT for Ringdahl Ambulance Service on nights and weekends. Jim was a union bricklayer and retired from that in 2018 having worked on projects including the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, ND, the Fargo Dome, the Paper Plant in International Falls, the Veteran's Memorial Monument in Pelican Rapids, and the Pelican Rapids School. Jim was involved in many community activities including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Big Brother program, and 4-H. He had many interests from training springer spaniels, hunting, fishing, trapping, playing on the local softball teams, avidly reading history, and enjoyed sharing with his 'book club.' He enjoyed life with his family in all sporting events, and the family fishing and hunting trips were very important to him. In 2011 his US Patent was documented. Jim took great pride in the growth of the first-generation farm that he helped create for his family and their future.

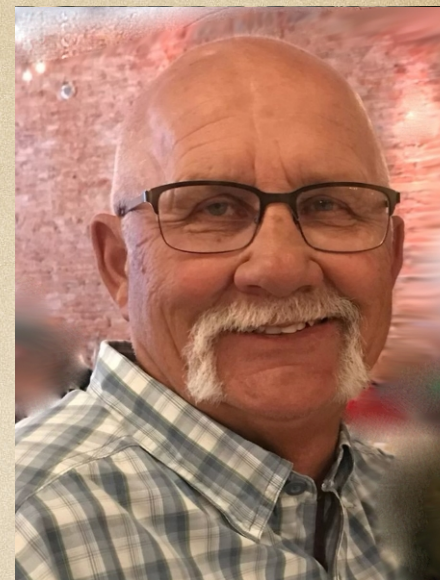
James "Jim" Michels, 66, passed peacefully on Friday, January 20, 2023, at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls, MN, surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Melanie, son Travis (Kim) with their children, Emma, Ellie, and Wyatt of Ham Lake, MN, son, Trenton of Pelican Rapids, son Tayler (Stephanie) with son Dax of Bismarck, ND: siblings: Darrel (Sandy) Michels, Anne (Paul) Stegmeier, Cinda Michels, Mark (Barb) Michels, Tom (Joyce) Michels, Bob (Glenda) Michels, Jon (Karen) Michels, and Maureen Leary; mother-in-law Dottie Soberg; brothers and sisters-in-law Tom (Nancy) Soberg, Kevin (Wendey) Soberg, and Dawn Johnson; and many nieces and nephews.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, stepmother Clara Michels, father-in-law Ivan Soberg, stepbrother Myron Engbretson, brothers-in-law Jim Roach and Greg Johnson, and nephew Tom Roach.

Jim has a very large extended family, so numerous, but including foreign exchange student Jesper Lehmann, Jake, Don, Gary, Dave, Craig, Mike, Jon, Nate and Daniel.

Blessed Be The Memory Of James "Jim" Marlin Michels



In Memory Of
James "Jim" Marlin Michels

September 14, 1956 - January 20, 2023





IN LOVING MEMORY OF

James “Jim” Marlin Michels

MEMORIAL MASS

Saturday, January 28, 2023-12:30 p.m.
St. Leonard Catholic Church, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

VISITATION

Saturday, January 28, 2023
Following the service till 5:30 p.m.
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pelican Rapids, Minnesota

CLERGY

Father Alan Wielinski
Allen Westby, S.A.M.

REMEMBRANCES

Paul Stegmeier

MUSIC

Organist –Greta Johnson
St. Leonard Catholic Church Choir

– Congregational Hymns –

“Shall We Gather At The River ”

“Shepherd Me, Oh God”

“Celtic Alleluia”

“God Be With You”

Soloist –Ann Michels

“On Eagle’s Wings”

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

URN BEARERS

Jim’s Grandchildren

Emma Michels, Ellie Michels
Wyatt Michels, Dax Michels

Jim’s family gratefully acknowledges your attendance and many kind expressions of sympathy during their time of loss and invite you to join them at Faith Evangelical Church for a light lunch and fellowship following the service.

Fish’n With Jim

How many of us’ve gone fish’n with Jim;
Just sit-in in the boat, o’er the fishes that swim;
Lov’n lakes and skies, and all of God’s glories;
Sittin’ and fish’n, listen’n to Jim’s stories.
He’d tell us about his hunt’n and trap’n;
And anything else that could possibly happen;
If it got quiet he would think awhile;
And then say somethin’ that would make us smile.
It could be a tale about a cow or a chicken;
With anticipation we’d hear the plot thicken;
Some times the tales were rough and raw;
Others were such that it made our hearts thaw.
Jim was loved by his sisters and brothers;
And sure enough by many others;
They cut a wide swath as they learned and grew;
They came a long way from that motley crew.
Jim had a lot of guns and old toys;
He raised up a Trey of wonderful boys;
They grew to be eagle scouts, and then;
They all turned out to be fine young men.
Now as I relate, it would be quite a felony;
If I didn’t say somethin’ about Good St. Melanie;
She backed him up, as a mother and wife;
His partner in parenthood, farming and life.;
Together they forged a safe place shelter;
For many whose lives had gone a-skelter;
A place where all were welcomed to;
Where all found caring, no matter who.
Nieces, nephews, grandkids, in addition;
Got to learn the distinctive Jim tradition;
Homespun wisdom, wit and charm;
Helped minds expand and learn to be warm.
No one had immunity;
From what Jim did in his community;
His spirit lingers in the air;
His building blocks are everywhere.
Now Jim has gone a-fish’n up There;
He’s telling his tales to all who’ll care;
And perhaps someday, we’ll sit and float;
Fish’n with Jim in his Heavenly boat.