



Jim "Goat" Goatley

JUN 20, 1949 - OCT 2, 2025



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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Jim "Goat" Goatley

JUN 20, 1949 - OCT 2, 2025

Jim Wesley Goatley, 76, of Decatur, IL, known affectionately as “Goat” since 3rd grade, passed away peacefully in his home on October 2, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Jim was born June 20, 1949, in Vandalia, IL, the son of Melvin “Squirrel” Goatley and Doris Jean Goatley.

He graduated from Southern Illinois University and began his career as a Parole Agent for the IL Department of Corrections. He then had a successful banking career beginning at Mutual Home and Savings and ending as Vice President of Regions Bank, retiring in 2008.

Jim will be remembered as a giver of thoughtful advice, someone whose words could steady, guide, and inspire those who knew him. A lifelong learner, he was an avid reader with a deep love for history, always eager to share a story from the past or a lesson it offered. He cherished traveling with family and friends and enjoyed many rounds of golf along the way. He also had a deep appreciation for music — especially the timeless songs of Willie Nelson and Barbara Streisand — which brought him great comfort and joy. Known for his sense of humor, he could make people laugh in the funniest ways. He found deep happiness in his involvement with Special Olympics Illinois Region I and the athletes which held a special place in his heart.

Jim is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jill, daughter Julia (Matt) Danbury, and grandsons Brayden and Elijah. He also leaves niece Melanie (Rob) Wolf, nephews Jason (Bethany) Rogers and Chad (Brook) Craig, grand-dog Oliver, and many other family members and friends who will sadly miss him.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to South Side Country Club’s Dogwood Society or Special Olympics, IL, Region I.



Obituary

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A family graveside service at Mt. Gilead Cemetery will be held at 1:00 P.M. Wednesday (October 15, 2025)

Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home is handling arrangements.


Condolences may be made online at <https://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>.

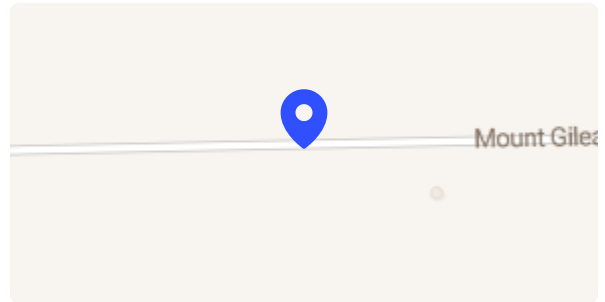


Events

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Cemetery Details

 **Mt. Gilead Cemetery**
Mt. Gilead Rd., Decatur IL 62521





Tribute Wall

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Laurie & Steve sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Goatley family.

October 13 at 11:39 AM



J, J, J, J, J, J, S, & K sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Goatley family.

October 6 at 7:40 PM



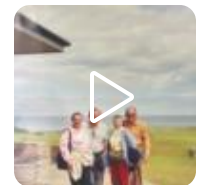
J, J, J, J, J, J, S, & K planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jim.

October 6 at 7:40 PM



Julia Danbury shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 4 at 9:52 AM



Joyce McQueen posted:

I remember ,couples golf ,Goatz ,looked after Art Binder,no matter which way Art hit the ball ,Goatz handled it. He was a fun,kind guy! Sorry ,I know Jill ,Julia and family will miss him.

October 4 at 8:30 AM



Julia Danbury shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 4 at 9:52 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jim by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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