



James A. Vitale

October 24, 1942 - January 10, 2026

Jim “Sonny” Vitale, 83, of Manteno, passed away Saturday, January 10, 2026, at his home.

He was born October 24, 1942, in Joliet the son of James F. and Nona (Olsen) Vitale. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran and then a claims adjuster for State Farm for many years. On March 21, 1981, he married Sharon F. Terpstra in Harvey, Illinois. He claimed to be a simple person, but he definitely was not simple, he was the best. The best father, the best husband, best grandpa, the best he could be in just about anything. He loved to fish, hunt, and play golf. He also loved his music, westerns, and Hallmark movies. He was an avid Chicago Bears fan. Jim enjoyed woodworking, in which he was very talented.

Jim was the best at giving advice, loving those who he cared deeply about, being a good neighbor, friend, and he was so creative. He loved well...he loved his wife, children, grandchildren, bonus kids, son-in-law, and daughters-in-law.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon F. Vitale of Manteno; children, Jack (Laura) DeVine of Lowell, Shelby DeVine of Manteno, Vicki (Bob) Morse of St. Anne, Jamey Vitale of Manteno, and Chris (Stacy) Vitale of Minnetonka, MN; brother, Bill Vitale of Homewood; 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Charles Vitale.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 3pm to 6pm at Jensen Funeral Home, Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to River Valley Animal Rescue, Momence.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 west Hoff Rd
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 24. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall

MF

“ *Michelle Fanello purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James A. Vitale.*



Michelle Fanello - January 23 at 09:09 PM

MF

“ *Michelle Fanello planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James A. Vitale.*

Michelle Fanello - January 23 at 09:09 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James A. Vitale.*



January 21 at 04:03 PM

LU

“ *Love, Us planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James A. Vitale.*

Love, Us - January 21 at 04:03 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James A. Vitale.



January 20 at 03:12 PM



“ I met Jim when Chris and my daughter were married. Chris started hunting in 2003 at the insistence of Stacy. I guess she did not want me hunting alone. Chris shot a nice buck that year, so the next season Jim and Jack came to northern Minnesota to hunt. It was the coldest opening I can remember. 18 below the first morning. Chris would bring his yellow lab Charley with him. Chris and I were having a drink and playing cribbage. Thinking they were sleeping, we heard Jim call Charley to hop in bed with him because it was so cold in the bedroom. Had many good times at the deer shack. A good man and a true friend. Rest in peace, Jim.

Greg Mackley - January 18 at 11:56 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James A. Vitale.



January 17 at 04:35 PM



“ The Brophy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James A. Vitale.

The Brophy Family - January 17 at 04:35 PM

JM

“ Thanks for the many good times we had at the golf course. You will be missed my friend. Red in peace. 🇺🇸

John Mroz - January 15 at 07:41 PM

FF

“ From the Crescenzo family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James A. Vitale.



From the Crescenzo family - January 13 at 08:22 PM

FF

“ From the Crescenzo family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James A. Vitale.

From the Crescenzo family - January 13 at 08:22 PM

BT

“ I met Jim at my gym (no pun intended) and had a lot of similar hobbies. He loved to hunt and so do I. Come to find out he hunted literally just miles from where I do out of a small town in southern Illinois, proving if truly is a small world. Since he wasn't in hunting shape anymore I was able to harvest a couple deer for him so he could keep enjoying the results of the harvest at least. We exchanged many hunting stories and he showed me the nice buck that he had on his wall from down south. Jim was truly a very nice guy, and seemed like he would take the shirt off his back for anyone he knew, and probably didn't know. He disappeared from the gym some time ago and I miss seeing him there to tell more deer hunting lies. He was a great man, and heaven just gained an avid outdoorsman. He'll truly be missed. Rest easy brother..... go get in that deer stand in the sky and wait for the rest of us.

Bill Towler - January 13 at 02:00 PM