



James Edward Gray

JUL 14, 1938 - FEB 24, 2019



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James Edward Gray

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James "Jim" Edward Gray, 80, Pinellas Park, Florida, passed away on February 24, 2019. Jim was born in Ellenville, New York on July 14, 1938, son of Frank Jonathan and Helen Freer Gray. The family moved from Kerhonkson, New York when Jim was 14 where he jumped into racing as soon as he arrived in St. Petersburg. Even before he was in the first graduating class of Northeast High School he was manning the back gate and selling pit passes at Tri City. Jim also worked for his dad at Sinclair Grays Service Center and joined the Army. After the Army Jim went to work for General Telephone Company as a cable splicer retiring after 30 years.

Jim's passion was to build and maintain race cars out of his garage sitting in the back yard of his home. Jim's garage was his pride and joy that he and many of his friends built from the ground up. A place where all were welcome to work on their cars or just sit and spend hours talking about racing. Jim raced at Tampa Fairgrounds, Golden Gate Speedway and Sunshine Speedway. Throughout his 30+ years at Sunshine Speedway not only did he race he had jobs such as Flagger, Pace Car Driver and Race Director. After retiring from racing he became involved with SVRA- Sportscar Vintage Racing Association traveling with the series and working many jobs within the organization. Jim also loved to travel in his RV around the country or just staying on property in Weeki Wachee or on the banks of the Suwannee River.

Jim is survived by longtime girlfriend and caregiver Gayle Brown; daughter Barbara (Lee) Mitton; stepchildren Curt Brown, Keith Brown and Craig Brown; granddaughter Shayna (Andy) Reid; brother Tom (Johann) Gray; brother in law John (Carol) Smith; nieces Joanne (Kevin) Browne and their sons Austin and Cody, Tracy (Jessie) Reynolds and their sons Hunter and Will; nephew Randall (Denise) Gray. He was preceded in death by his nephew Steven Gray.

Jim will be greatly missed by his family and friends.




Events

James Edward Gray

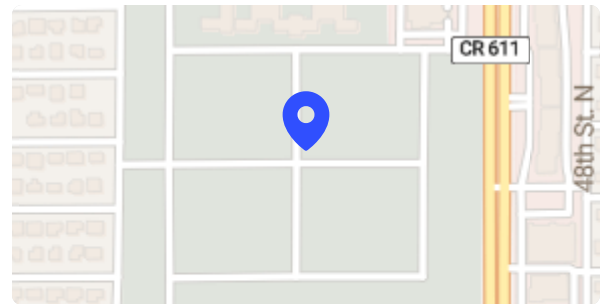
JUL 14, 1938 - FEB 24, 2019

Gathering

 **Saturday**, March 2, 2019

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory**
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709

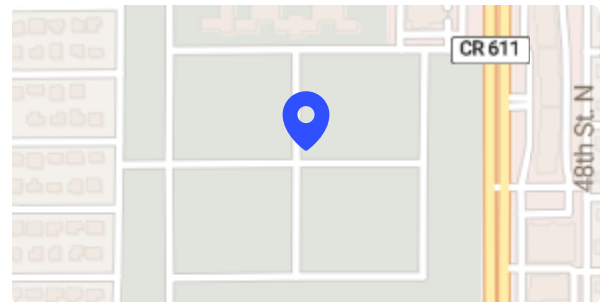


Memorial Service


 **Saturday**, March 2, 2019

 2:00 PM ET


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory**
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709

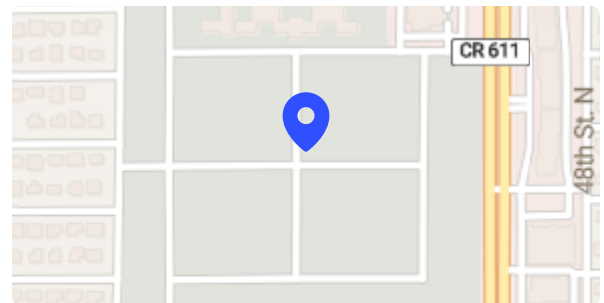


Reception

 **Saturday**, March 2, 2019

 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory**
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709





Tribute Wall

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Jim, Linda And Jc sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gray family.

March 1 at 8:05 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gray family.

February 28 at 5:00 PM



Faircloth/Peterson Families sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Gray family.

February 28 at 6:48 AM



Joann Benoit lit a candle in honor of James.

So sorry to hear a very long time friend and racing buddy has passed. I am sure he will truly be missed. Prayers to the family.

February 28 at 4:06 AM



Kim Thomas posted:

Barbara, Gayle and family. You are all in my prayers at this time of loss. I loved Jim. He was the kindest and most generous person, and was loved and respected by so many. He was especially important to me, and am so thankful that I was blessed to know him. He always had time for me, listened to my troubles and scolded my smart mouth when I needed it. I cherish every memory.
Kim (Hathaway) Thomas

February 28 at 2:50 AM



Sallie And John Strome sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gray family.

February 27 at 4:18 PM





Tribute Wall

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Ronny & Chris Gill sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Gray family.



February 27 at 2:36 PM



Anonymous sent a Large Basket Garden to the Gray family.



February 27 at 1:34 PM



Sandy Hennebohle posted:

Barbara, Lee, Gail and Family. I am so sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I have a lot of wonderful memories that I will cherish the rest of my life. Jim was one of the kindest and most loving people who was there for whom ever needed him. Know that JIM is in a better place and our Lord will look after him and he is no longer in pain. I love you all so much and you will always be in my prayers. with sympathy and Love. Sandy Hennebohle

February 27 at 5:48 AM



Brenda Hennebohle posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Your father was a great person. We are blessed to have known him. We are here for you and the family. Love, Jimmy, Brenda, Katelyn, Cameron and Aislyn

February 27 at 5:30 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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