



## James "Jim" Joseph O'Brien

James "Jim" Joseph O'Brien, age 75, of Ocean Township, New Jersey passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his wife, daughter, and sister-in-law.

He is predeceased by his mother and father, Joseph and Frances O'Brien; and 6 siblings. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; his daughter, Deborah; his son, Timothy; his grandson and granddaughter, Nicholas and Gretchen; his sisters, Rosemarie and Frances; his brother, Daniel; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

The viewing will be held 4 to 8 PM on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712. Funeral mass will be offered at 10:30 AM on Monday, January 8, 2018 at Saint Jerome RC Church, 254 Wall Street, Long Branch, NJ 07764. Entombment will follow at Woodbine Cemetery and Mausoleum, Oceanport, NJ. Memorial donations may be made to Fulfill, the food bank of Monmouth and Ocean counties at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1437901>

Jim was an extremely humble man and did not want to be recognized through an obituary. He truly felt his only noteworthy accomplishments were his two children. However, that being said, he obliged his loving wife by writing a short autobiographical account to share with the world:

"As the eldest of Joseph and Frances' 10 children, Jim was the first of either side of the family to earn a college degree, diligently doing so while working full time to be self-supporting. At the same time, he began his lifelong romance with his beloved, joined and led a local fraternity as president, and continually sought ways to increase his income. His passion for music helped him through this time, and he and some friends created a rock-n-roll single that attracted attention and led to an ASCAP membership. Although not creating fame or fortune, that single is included in a music collection of 'oldies' called Back to Brooklyn.

Before marrying, Jim began his career in insurance. Most of the time since 1968, he worked in NYC, but lived in NJ. He married his love, and moved her around a number of times over the years through four states for his career; together, Jim and Peggy had five houses built, finishing with their last residence together in Ocean Township in 2004. Jim served in underwriting and product management roles for several large companies that service life, disability, accident, and health insurance. Additionally, he served as a broker, an agent, a consultant, and a human resources benefit manager. He co-founded the American Special Risks Association, authored a book regarding underwriting accident insurance for employer groups, and developed several unique forms of travel and health insurance throughout the years. His final position involved designing plans and setting premiums for disability, life, and health programs covering major groups of healthcare and legal professionals. Jim happily retired in 2008, but he was always willing to tell anyone, in detail, what it would take to fix the current healthcare crisis in the US.

Insurance wasn't everything in Jim's life, though. Jim continued to love most forms of music, especially those involving the guitar. He loved to travel, especially international cruising. He was a committed do-it-yourselfer, fixing things or making things work better just like his father had. As a devoted Catholic, Jim was a dedicated parishioner of St. Jerome in West Long Branch when in NJ, and St. Elizabeth Seton in Sun City when in Arizona.

In lieu of flowers, Jim has requested that donations be made to Fulfill, the foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean counties ( <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1437901> )  
Ultimately, his family would greatly appreciate honoring his abundant giving and caretaking constitution in this way.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodbine Cemetery and Mausoleum

1173 Eatontown Blvd  
Oceanport, NJ 07757  
<http://www.woodbinecemetery.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 7.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 918-6200

## Funeral Mass

**JAN 8.** 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Jerome's Catholic Church  
254 Wall Street  
West Long Branch, NJ

# Tribute Wall

Bongarzone

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Joseph O'Brien*



**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - January 05, 2018 at 10:53 AM

KS

“ *I brought Holy Communion to Jim in Sun City, Arizona after his surgery. What a kind and thoughtful guy. I enjoyed my short exposure to Jim and could see the light and peace of Christ in him every time I read him the day's gospel. I know Jim is now enjoying the promises of a life well-lived.*

*I wish your family peace and happy memories.*

*Kate Schmidt  
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church  
Sun City, AZ*

**Kate Schmidt** - February 04, 2018 at 07:41 PM

SG

“ *I cannot express how much it meant to me to attend the Jazz Classes with Jim that he so enjoyed. Spending those few hours with Jim each week and observing how he handled his situation with the style and grace that was so Jim. I will miss you dear friend. Rest in Peace. Hope you meet Stan in the hereafter.*

**Sheila Grundfest** - January 09, 2018 at 09:04 PM

MO

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



**Margaret O'Brien** - January 06, 2018 at 08:16 PM

RF

“ Roth and Aronson Families purchased the Garden of Serenity Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Joseph O'Brien.



Roth and Aronson Families - January 06, 2018 at 08:50 AM

KA

“ Kathy lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Joseph O'Brien



Kathy - January 05, 2018 at 09:50 PM

KA

*Always in our hearts. With love, Kathy and Phil*

Kathy - January 05, 2018 at 09:51 PM

AC

*I was Hired by Jim as an underwriter at AIG in 1981...he was always a kind and thoughtful man who was willing to share his knowledge with most who was willing to listen. I found him to be a great mentor and he actually picked my brain on how we were handling certain underwriting criteria, which he used in his book. He will be missed by one and all who had the pleasure to have known him.*

Al Caprara - June 18, 2020 at 05:34 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Kathy - January 05, 2018 at 08:48 PM

MO

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Margaret O'Brien - January 05, 2018 at 05:10 PM

JD

“ We are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Sending our deepest sympathies and prayers for all of you!  
Love, John & Jeanne



jeanne deluisi - January 04, 2018 at 04:18 PM

DR

“ Though we did not see Jim often, when we did we always found him charming and a lot of fun. He was a special man. This worlds loss is the angels gain. Our thoughts and prayers go to Jim's entire family and friends.  
Diana and Bruce Reed

Diana and Bruce Reed - January 04, 2018 at 02:01 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Joseph O'Brien



Bongarzone Funeral Home - January 04, 2018 at 12:17 AM

LP

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing, we are fellow St. Jerome parishioners. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim and his family at this most difficult time. Lynn & Frank Payer

Lynn & Frank Payer - January 03, 2018 at 08:45 AM

DF

“ Deepest sympathies to Jim's family from a fellow St. Jerome parishioner.

Dennis Flanagan - January 03, 2018 at 08:19 AM