



James Leon "Jim" McNeal

June 25, 1949 - September 9, 2025

James Leon "Jim" McNeal of Chestertown, MD passed away on September 9, 2025, at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center of Chestertown. He was 76 years old.

Jim was born on June 25, 1949, in Wilmington, DE, the son of the late James H. and Myrtle (Custin) McNeal. He attended John Dickinson High School, graduating with the class of 1967. Soon after graduating, he enlisted in the Air National Guard for 12 years. He began his 35-year career with General Motors as a forklift operator, eventually becoming Supervisor of Final Paint before his retirement in 2005.

He was an avid boater since childhood, and in 1992 met his wife, Diane, through their mutual love of boating. In 1994 they were married.

In addition to boating, Jim loved model trains. In recent winters he and Diane would pack up in their RV and drive to Florida from November to April, where Jim would work at Zitnik Trains in St. Petersburg, FL repairing model trains. His knowledge and repair skills of model trains gave him the reputation of an expert in that field and one of the best to his customers. The owners and employees became a close family to Jim and Diane both, spending all the holidays together.

Jim was also a car enthusiast, winning many awards at car shows with the 1938 Chevy that he loved so much. He was well-loved and leaves behind his beloved family and many, many friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Frances Baldwin.

He is survived by his wife of over 30 years, Diane McNeal; son, Jimmy McNeal, Jr. and his wife Susie; grandson, Jackson McNeal; sister, Darlene Corran; as well as his two cats, Mittens and Maggie.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Jim's name to the Animal Care Shelter of Kent County at 10168 Worton Rd. Chestertown, MD21620.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held at a date to be announced.

Tribute Wall

TF

“ Condolences to Jim's family from the family of his first cousin, the late Susan McNeal (Harman).

the Harman family - November 18, 2025 at 09:41 AM

RD

“ Jim was my partner in the Paint Department for a long time. We worked the old paint shop , the new paint shop and then Final paint shop. What a great tour at GM.
RIP my friend,
Richard Davis & Family.

Richard Davis - September 21, 2025 at 03:19 PM

GC

“ Was a great guy to work with

Gene Crew - September 12, 2025 at 01:17 PM

DC

My condolences to the family. Jim was one of the good guys in my life. He will be missed by Jeanette and I.

Dan Ciccaglione - September 12, 2025 at 04:13 PM

"C

So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Worked in h is group when I first hired in General Motors. Rest in peace and condolences to family and friends 💔

"Irish" Cella - September 12, 2025 at 06:41 PM

BB

Jim always had a smile on his face.

Brenda Batzel - September 21, 2025 at 12:05 PM