



James V. Amato

July 31, 1935 - January 5, 2026

James V. "Jim" Amato, age 90, of Clarion, passed away peacefully early Monday morning, January 5, 2026, in the comfort of his own home.

He was born on July 31, 1935, at home in Clarion to the late Sam and Rose Barranco Amato.

Jim married the love of his life and best friend, Susanne Kurtzhals, on September 6, 1969, who survives. They shared over fifty-six wonderful years together.

He was a proud co-owner and buyer of S. Amato & Sons Wholesale Fruits & Produce and was known for his dedicated work ethic. Jim always faced every challenge head-on and was a committed man.

He was a lifelong member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion. Jim always enjoyed visiting with people and being outdoors, especially doing yard work around his house or cleaning his truck.

Above all, Jim's family meant everything to him. Affectionately known as Poppy, he adored his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his legacy will live on through them.

In addition to his loving wife, Jim is survived by his three children, James C. Amato of Pittsburgh, Melissa Kerle and her husband, Lee, and Michael Amato, all of Clarion; three grandchildren, Cody Kerle and his wife, Macie, of Clarion, Leah Neiswonger and her husband, Giorgio, of Shipperville, and Kyle Kerle of Clarion; and three great-grandchildren, Amelia, Avery, and Grayson Neiswonger, with a great-grandson arriving in April 2026.

He is also survived by his brother, Joseph Amato, and his wife, Sandy, of Summerville, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his brother, Salvatore Amato; two sisters, Josephine Amato and Sally Amato; and his sister-in-law, Jean Amato.

Family and friends will be received from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Jason Feigh presiding. Inurnment will take place in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jim's honor to a charity of one's choice.

Cemetery Details

Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery

Clarion, PA

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
715 East Main Street
Clarion, PA 16214

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
715 East Main Street
Clarion, PA 16214

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Jim displayed himself as a man of dedicated faith. His son enjoyed sharing photos of the grandchildren who called him Poppy and will carry fond memories of those favorite moments. My condolences to Sue and the family. ~Jennifer*

Jennifer - January 16 at 09:29 PM

RW

“ *SENDING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS WIFE 2 SONS & DAUGHTER & GRANDCHILDREN & BROTHER & FAMILIES! WE WILL KEEP EVERYONE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS! MAY HE REST IN PEACE!!*



Regis & Pat Walters - January 09 at 09:26 AM

JR

“ *So sorry for your loss you will be missed by many. You were one of the nicest man i ever knew.*



Joyce Renninger - January 08 at 06:35 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James V. Amato.*



January 08 at 01:35 PM

TF

“ *The Greenawalt Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James V. Amato.*



The Greenawalt Family - January 08 at 08:38 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James V. Amato.*



January 07 at 05:28 PM

TF

“ *Tom and Elaine Fesenmyer & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James V. Amato.*

Tom and Elaine Fesenmyer & Family - January 07 at 05:28 PM

YF

“ *I'm,so sorry for this heartfelt loss,their is nothing in grief that is imageable.What a golden true ...He was,Blessings ...and lost*

Yvonne Foringer - January 07 at 10:35 AM

SK

“ Dear Jim’s family, I am a privileged person to have Jim call me a friend. Jim was a really kind and generous man. He always cared about others and was friendly to everyone. He knew my dad and it always made me feel good when Jim talked about his relationship with dad. Jim made sure every year that I had delicious peaches. I’m praying for you, his family, that the peace that only Jesus gives will cover you today and every day in the future. I love you all because Jim loved you and told me stories about how much joy you gave him. Sue Kahle

Sue Kahle - January 06 at 07:50 PM

CJ

“ Rest in peace



Chad Johnston - January 06 at 03:39 PM



“ im sorry i knew him from me being in fd service bizz/sorry to whole family /mike my friend sorry jeff atkinson

Jeff Atkinson - January 06 at 02:52 PM

KH

“ Kathryn H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James V. Amato.

Kathryn H. - January 06 at 02:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James V. Amato.*



January 06 at 01:39 PM



“ *Michael Martin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James V. Amato.*

Michael Martin - January 06 at 01:39 PM



“ *I am very sad to hear of the passing of Mr. Amato. I have many fond memories of his store - one of Clarion's treasures - and of his wonderful family. My thoughts are with his loved ones.*

Michael Martin - January 06 at 01:31 PM