



James I Holmes

May 26, 1947 - March 10, 2025

James “Jim” I. Holmes, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away on March 10, 2025, at the age of 77. Born in Warren, Ohio, to the late Clyde and Verna Holmes, Jim was a 1965 graduate of Warren G. Harding H.S. He attended The Ohio State University and Franklin University, and was a proud member of the Ohio State Marching Band. Jim also was a longtime football official for the OHSAA. Jim was an accountant and retired from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in 2017.

Jim is survived by his wife, Marjorie, children Leanne (Michael) Colton, of Columbus, Ohio, and Jay (Stephanie) Holmes of Granger, Indiana, grandchildren Michael Holmes and Elizabeth Holmes, brother William (Toni) Holmes, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to Lifeline of Ohio, www.lifelineofohio.org, in Jim’s memory.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Our thoughts and prayers to Marje, Leanne and Michael, Jay and Stephanie, Michael and Elizabeth on the passing of our dear Angel Jim. We have many great memories of the family for over 40 years and know Angel Jim is at peace, coaching and refereeing Heavenly games as well as playing in "The Heavenly Marching Band". May God wrap his warm embracing arms around all of the family, as Angel Jim watches over you from his now Heavenly home. Love, Linda and Rick

Linda and Rick Cherry - March 22, 2025 at 10:46 AM

DH

“ I really enjoyed getting together with Jim and Marge at Molly Wu's Restaurant in the Polaris Mall. My wife and I would meet them there and eat and then talk for a couple of hours. We would get caught up on our lives and our families and the things going on around us. The conversation was great and flowed freely. Jim had his health issues over the years but always seemed to maintain a positive outlook. He sure could remember everything both past and present about the Buckeyes. My deepest condolences to Marge and their family.

Dave Holmes - March 20, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James I Holmes.

March 20, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James I Holmes.*



March 20, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *During our junior year at Ohio State, Jim was enjoying another season in the Marching Band, also known as “TBDBITL”. I was preparing to enter tryouts for the position of Drum Major. As we walked across campus one day, Jim asked how my training was going. He then remarked that he had heard that I was going to have some serious competition from a fellow from a local high school in Columbus. He went on to say that the guy was taller than 6’2”, strong and could twirl our unique, heavy all-metal batons well and was already known by the director of the band.*

This really made me mad, fuming mad. How dare he not encourage and support me! How could one of my good friends from clear back to high school “rain on my parade”. I questioned Jim’s friendship and loyalty. I became so mad that I hardly talked to him for a long time. What Jim did, however, was to totally change my mindset.

Whereas before I had looked at myself as contending for the position of Drum Major, I now was the only person (in my mind) who was trying out for that position. Everyone else was competing against each other for the position of Assistant Drum Major.

Unknown to himself, Jim had given me the drive, determination, confidence, skill and mindset that I needed to win the competition and to become the next Drum Major to lead TBDBITL. Thanks Jim!

Jack Swinehart - March 16, 2025 at 11:36 PM

JS

“ When Jim and I were seniors in high school, I talked Jim into driving up to Geneva on the Lake. I was a new driver, and Jim was a willing passenger. What I didn't know was that the road there was a narrow two-lane road that had no gradual side to it. Big trucks, delivery trucks, semi trucks, cement trucks, all coming from the opposite direction very fast. I remember going slightly off the right side of the road, trying to give room for monster truck bearing down on us. Jim yelled something at me, and so I masterfully steered us back onto the road. Unfortunately, I over-corrected and found myself face-to-face with a horn-bellowing cement truck. Since I was already was aiming to the left, I jerked the steering wheel further that direction, going off the road on the left side. Again, in an attempt to get back onto the right side of the road, I over-corrected again and shot across the highway again, in front of another horn-blaring truck. We landed next to a farmer's field, both of us only barely aware that we were still alive. Jim had a few kindly words in admiration of my stunt driving skills, while I checked to make sure that we were still alive and that the car was in one piece and that our seats were clean. About a half hour later, after our hearts slowed enough to be sure that we had not suffered cardiac arrests, I suggested that perhaps Jim would like to drive the rest of the way. After a few more kind words of encouragement, Jim took the wheel.

Jack Swinehart - March 16, 2025 at 11:04 PM