



## James D. Bird

December 28, 1936 - December 15, 2025

James Douglass Bird, age 88, of Cleveland, Ohio, passed away quietly at home on Monday, December 15, 2025.

Born on December 28, 1936, in Toledo, Ohio, James was the son of the late Thomas and Mattie (nee Cooper) Bird and brother to Richard Bird (deceased). He graduated from Rhodes High School in 1955.

In August of 1957, James married his first wife, Beverly (nee Neumann), in Cleveland, Ohio. Together they raised five children: Lisa (deceased), Derek (Lucinda), Aaron (Judy), Alicia, and Kelly (Dino). He was a devoted grandfather to Matthew, Sarah, Rebecca, Lindsey, and Kira, and a proud great-grandfather to Olivia, Quinn, and Hayes. In April of 1992, James married his second wife, Kay (nee Klecka), children (Todd and Patty) who preceded him in death in November 2016.

James worked as a truck driver for Air Products, delivering bulk cryogenics. His dedication and professionalism earned him numerous nominations for Driver of the Year, and he accumulated well over two million miles of safe drive time throughout his career.

Beyond his work, James was an avid motorcycle enthusiast. He spent many weekends attending Moto Guzzi National Owners Club rallies, where he was cherished by the MGNOC community. He found joy in restoring vintage motorcycles of many different brands and was equally passionate about collecting classic cars, often attending car meets on weekends.

James will be remembered for having a very charismatic personality. He had

an uncanny ability to make new friends wherever he went. His legacy lives on in the hearts of his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the many friends he made along the way.

Please join family and friends in a celebration of life event on Saturday, January 3rd 2026 from 4-7 pm at The Union House bar and restaurant 2713 Brookpark Road, Parma, Ohio.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

JAN 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Union House Bar & Restaurant  
2713 Brookpark Rd  
Parma, OH 44134  
(216) 635-0809

# Tribute Wall

WD

“ William and Melinda DeMarco planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James D. Bird.

William and Melinda DeMarco - January 03 at 11:07 AM

WD

“ With love, Lori Adams and Tony Diorio purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James D. Bird.



With love, Lori Adams and Tony Diorio - January 02 at 05:21 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of James D. Bird.



January 02 at 11:11 AM

WF

“ With love to all, The Robey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James D. Bird.

With love to all, The Robey Family - January 02 at 11:11 AM

AA

“ My dad was something special i have been running so many memories through my mind since he left to be with god its been very difficult and with tears in my eyes i will share this memory. It was 1981 and out of shock to most i joined the army and of all the paths that were afforded to me i scored well on my entrance exam and decided to be Infantry ! My dad and Kay came down to Fort Knox Kentucky to attend my basic training graduation and we sat down and talked heart to heart over pitchers of Blatz beer to this day i can remember how proud he was of me serving. It was a very nervous time in my life and was not sure i made the right choice at that time. Stick with it you will be ok was what i remember him telling me. My dad had a unique way of communicating that just sticks and why it was so effortless to love him the world lost a big soul in he will forever live in our hearts.

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**Aaron** - December 26, 2025 at 09:18 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album family pics



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**derek bird** - December 24, 2025 at 01:08 PM

TC

“ I first met Jim Bird in the late 70's at Dempsey's Oasis tavern in Cleveland's south side. Shortly after that, I bought his old Guzzi from a friend of his at work. Then, Karen and I started going to rallies; West Virginia, Finger Lakes wine tour, and Sportbike in Parry Sound. Often, his kids and grandkids would join us. These rallies were the best times of my life. He had many bikes and even more friends. Some people say the Dos Equis man was the most interesting man in the world, I think Jim Bird was a close second. He will be missed by me and many others; however, I think his kids, Derek, Aron. Alecia, and Kelly will carry on his legacy. Tom Crawford He knew a lot of barmaids. A LOT!

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**tom crawford** - December 22, 2025 at 12:14 PM

TS

“ On a group cycle ride to Harry Paul's party, we noticed Jim was not with us so we all pulled over to wait. Not long after stopping a policeman pulled up and stopped. Upon getting out of his car he informed us that " The ELDERLY GENTLEMAN on the side of the road was fine and would be along shortly." I don't know what year that was, but Jim continued to ride for many more decades. I will never forget my elderly gentleman friend. R.I.P. Jim.

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**Tom Stricker** - December 19, 2025 at 09:38 AM

CV

“ When bartending, you meet so many people every day. If you work at the same place long enough, regulars begin to feel like family. You see them often, learn about their lives, their families, and the things that bring them joy.

*I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bird on my very first shift at Union House in 2016. His wife had just passed, and he spent hours telling me about her and all the wonderful moments they shared together. He had stories for days, and there wasn't a single shift I worked where we didn't have something to talk about.*

*He had a true passion for riding motorcycles, and he loved showing off his pictures and telling me about each bike and every trip. When I started riding myself and told him about it, I think it brought him even more joy. He offered tips, shared advice, and suggested what I should wear while riding. He would sit at the bar, sipping his wine, telling story after story.*

*One of the hardest parts of bartending is losing customers you grow to love like family. Mr. Bird, thank you for always being so kind to me, for sharing your life and your motorcycle stories, and for making even my slow days meaningful. Thank you for all the advice along the way. You were truly one of a kind, and you will be deeply missed.*

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**Crystal Vidmar** - December 18, 2025 at 01:54 PM

DO

*I met Jimmy this year when I helped his daughter Alicia back to Ohio . Alicia became one of my best friends a few years back . After meeting Mr Bird I now know where she got her personality and kind heart. Jim and I talked for 2 hours laughing and talking about his love for motorcycles and cars. His job took home through Canada where I'm from Ontario he would name a little town he went to I said I know that place he'd laugh and say no way it's just a little town Then I would say a place he'd say went there too we'd both laugh again best night I had brought back memories Of my Dad who also drove trucks and fished all over that area. Thanks Jimmy for that night hoped we would have another . Let the lord greet you at the gates and you get to ride that bike you loved again.?*

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**Donna Ortner** - December 18, 2025 at 06:46 PM