



James Woestman

December 11, 1935 - July 19, 2025

Mayor James Gallagher Woestman, 89, passed away at home on Saturday, July 19, 2025. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Patricia Lou Hill Woestman, in 2010. His parents, William Henry and Marie Susan Gallagher Woestman, moved to Carthage when Mr. Kent Steadley hired his father to be the plant manager at the Steadley Company. Before moving down the street, they lived next door to Mark Twain Elementary School and Jim was always a proud Mark Twain Indian.

Jim followed in his father's footsteps and eventually became an independent salesman in the bedding and furniture industry and driving 50,000 miles a year to see customers as far away as New Mexico, South Dakota, and west Texas. Santa Fe was one of his favorite places. Jim loved to travel and took his family numerous times to meet their Woestman Kuhlman relatives in Germany. He and Pat were asked to join several of his customers' trips to Europe because they knew everyone on the trip would have a good time if Jim and Pat joined them. Jim attended Benedictine College and Kansas State College of Pittsburg.

Jim was a man of service and enjoyed giving back. Many in the area have fond memories of his being "Coach" of the Broadview Swim Team, building on his lifelong love of swimming. He swam for Kansas State College of Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University). He served with the Knights of Columbus in

both Joplin and Carthage, most recently at Marian Days. He was most proud of being elected to the City Council and then serving as Mayor of Carthage. He was always surprised at the number of friendly waves he received when he rode in Pat's Oldsmobile Cutlass 442 in the Maple Leaf Parade. Jim He also served as a surveyor in the US Army between the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He completed basic training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and then served as a surveyor stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Always an avid car enthusiast, his proudest purchase was a Morgan in his retirement. When he started working, he noticed that the successful salesmen drove Oldsmobiles, just like his father did, partly because they were the only sedan tall enough for his father to wear his hat while driving. He drove an Austin-Healey until his daughter was born since, as he said, sports cars and little children don't mix, but recaptured that fun when he purchased another one in retirement.

In 1969, Jim purchased a converted red Ford van to take his family camping before minivans were cool. Until the very end, he owned a motor home of various types. His last was a 1973 FMC just like Charles Kuralt drove. He loved to get caught in blizzards in western Kansas so that he could park the motor home, turn on the generator, and work on his model trains.

When Jim's train collection outgrew his basement, he purchased the "Sam Hill" Building across from the post office. He loved greeting people who stopped by and had plenty of room to store not only his trains and cars but also his "stuff." He also enjoyed spending time at the cabin he and Pat built at the Lake of the Ozarks. He loved to fish and also went on numerous fishing trips all over with his buddies from Carthage and beyond.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 pm Wednesday at Ulmer Funeral Home and his Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 am on Thursday, 24 July at St. Ann's Catholic

Church with burial at Park Cemetery immediately after. Pall bearers will be Carthage Fire Chief Jason Martin, Carthage Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Carl Junction Detective Greg Dagnan, Jasper County Sheriff Randee Kaiser, Newton County Sheriff Matt Stewart, and retired Carthage Fire Chief Roger Williams. Honorary pall bearers are Gary Gillum and Mayor Dan Rife.

Any contributions can be made to the Children's Center of Southwest Missouri in care of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Jim was born 11 December 1935 and married Patricia Lou Hill in Kansas City, MO, on 17 August 1963. He is survived by his daughter, Dr. Kelly Alicia Woestman, Carl Junction, MO; Samuel Scott Woestman, Rogersville, MO; and grandson Macallan Lawrence Woestman (Jessica Brundridge). His oldest brother, Father William H. Woestman, preceded him in death in 2023. He is also survived by four brothers and sisters: Mary Susan Woestman Mathews, Burlington, KY; Patricia Irene Woestman (Ed) Corich, Creve Coeur, MO; Eugene Thomas Woestman, Lexington, KY; and Richard Frances (Daphne) Woestman, Williamsburg, Virginia; and sixteen nieces and nephews who loved their "Uncle Jim." The family would like to give special thanks to family friends Gary Gillum, Hector Gonzalez, and Glenita Browning, and the staff of Visiting Angels and Gentiva Hospice Care.

Cemetery Details

Park Cemetery

801 South Baker
Carthage, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2222
ulmerfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ulmerfh.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUL **24.** 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
Carthage, MO

Tribute Wall

RW

“ Jim sherry an apartment near the college and it was a wonderful time, even though he got up before daylight and went for swimming. When he was traveling in this part of the country, he would always stop in and have dinner and work on his trains and my kids were thrilled to watch him work. My mother was still alive and lived in Carthage and I would visit her and then she would come every summer to be in a colorful, colorful Colorado, and where it was much cooler and low humidity.i i'm still alive at 93 and enjoying my life and so enjoyed the life in Carthage when I was growing up, especially when my teacher made me take a tapping typing class because I was the only guy in the class and when I joined the Navy, I always moved up because no man were typing . I'm still writing but I didn't translate to the Apple and they make a lot of mistakes but I can easily collect those and I think I'm a page for her or L4 180 My kid says that's not right and I said name of the story is my life as I remember it. Kelly, I've always been catching up on what you're doing and I'd like to call me sometime bluebirdbob@gmail.com

Robert W Wilson - January 13 at 09:35 PM

WS

“ Always a generous and kind soul, remember the pizza party on the front porch and under the beautiful willow in the front yard, rest in peace my friend

wayne schauer - July 23, 2025 at 06:25 PM

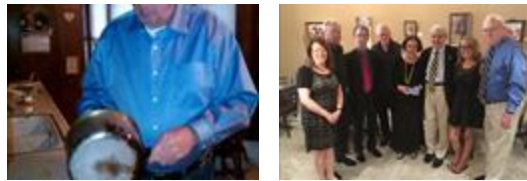
RS

“ My father Major Andy Stutzman was a great friend and admirer of the Mayor. They had many good times together eating together weekly at the steakhouse. My wife and I are sorry for your loss.
Richard and Betty Stutzman

Richard Stutzman - July 23, 2025 at 05:38 PM

KW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Kelly Woestman - July 23, 2025 at 12:41 PM

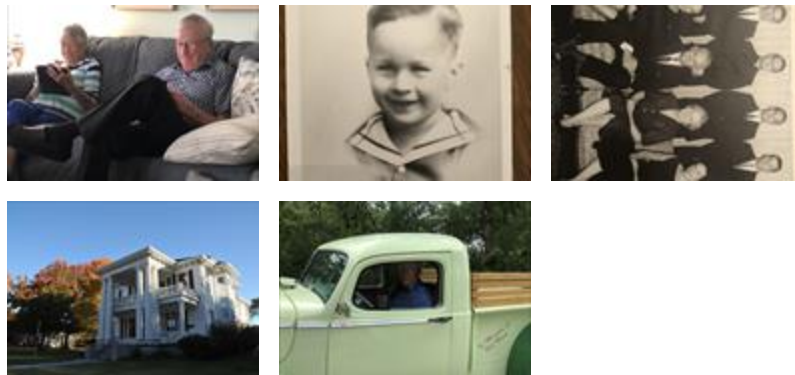
MA

“ I remember your Dad Coaching the Broadview Swim Team and your Mom's Beautiful Voice at St. Ann's. Our thoughts and Prayers are with You.

Marcella(Glauber)Montgomery - July 23, 2025 at 10:39 AM

KW

“ 9 files added to the album jgw



Kelly Woestman - July 22, 2025 at 04:51 PM

SK

“ So many memories we shared. Jim would be at the Lake House and he always found time to visit. We spent many a time setting on the porch, gazing at the Lake, discussing Life. A memory just popped up of the time 5 friends and I were on a road trip. I called him in advance and he invited us to stop by. He welcomed us. And, as only Jim could do in his courtly way....he presented us each with a beautiful pin which is remindful of a maple leaf, color and all. He definitely went above and beyond.

Sharon King - July 21, 2025 at 04:45 PM

DM

Just loved Jim! His daughter and my sister are great friends! I so respected him and how kind he always was to me!

Diana Moffett - July 22, 2025 at 11:08 PM

DP

Jim and Pat were one of the first couples we were introduced to upon arriving in Carthage, 1983. Pat shared an invitation to a ladies' stock club and Jim immediately began talking the British Car Club activities with Wayne. They were always the established successful Carthage family. We were lucky to spend a brief May afternoon with Jim while he was receiving care in Springfield He made time for us and was gracious and witty. His quick smile and positive nature will always be remembered.

Dr. Wayne and Miriam Putnam - July 23, 2025 at 05:01 PM

SH

To the Woestman Family, my sincere condolences on Jim's passing. Have known the Woestman Family all my life it seem's. I worker for Leggett and Jim for Steadley's, Excellent competitor. A very fair man. I can not say enough about Jim. Godspeed on the next portion of your life's Journey.

Sid Hiatt - July 23, 2025 at 10:02 PM