



Jim Freire

October 23, 1944 - April 3, 2026

Jim's favorite joke to tell was: "Hey guys. I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that there is baseball in Heaven (because Genesis starts with 'In the Big Inning'). The bad news is that I'm tonight's starting pitcher!" Coach walked to the mound with Jesus on Friday, April 3rd, 2026, after a tough battle with cancer.

James Joseph Freire was born on October 23, 1944, in Spanish Harlem, New York City, NY. He lived in NYC until 1983, before moving to Kentucky to spend the rest of his years.

Jim loved the game of baseball and grew up watching the Yankees from behind the stadium walls.

Jim served in the Vietnam War for two years and saw much combat before he contracted malaria and had to spend the rest of his military service in a hospital in Japan.

Once he moved to Kentucky, Jim worked/retired from the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet as a Section Supervisor.

Jim's true loves were his Lord and Savior, his family and, of course, baseball! And he always managed to intertwine these three priorities into his daily life.

Jim's desire was to teach the game of baseball to as many youths as possible, making sure they knew, not just the mechanics of the game, but also how to be men/women of good character. His favorite nicknames to be called were "Papaw" and "Coach".

Jim is survived by his wife of 38 years, Laura (the "Child Bride!"); his sons

Matthew (Ashley) Freire, Chase (Katie) Nichols, and Corey (Mary) Nichols.

Jim's heart was most filled with joy when he was around his four grandchildren: Isabelle, Emerson, Mia and Frankie.

Jim is also survived by his sister Peggy Fleming, as well as very special cousins and nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Rourke, his father, Joseph Freire, and two sisters, Patsy Rodenas and Joann Fiel.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of LeCompte Johnson Taylor Funeral Home. Services will be held Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 am at Graefenburg Baptist Church, followed by burial with military honors at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be Friday, April 10 from 5-8 pm at Graefenburg Baptist Church and beginning again at 9:30 am Saturday morning prior to the service.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Gardens

3250 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Visitation

APR 10. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Graefenburg Baptist Church
11288 Frankfort Rd
Waddy, KY 40076

Celebration of Life Visitation

APR 11. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Graefenburg Baptist Church
11288 Frankfort Rd
Waddy, KY 40076-6031
(502) 829-5324

Funeral Service

APR 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

Graefenburg Baptist Church
11288 Frankfort Rd
Waddy, KY 40076

Tribute Wall

JA

“ *My favorite quote Jim told me...It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.* ”

Jason - April 10 at 12:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jim Freire.* ”



April 10 at 10:55 AM

TF

“ *The Tracy Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jim Freire.* ”



The Tracy Family - April 10 at 10:52 AM

TC

“ *The Caldwell's purchased the Full Heart for the family of Jim Freire.* ”



The Caldwell's - April 09 at 08:31 PM

TC

“ *The Caldwell's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Freire.*

The Caldwell's - April 09 at 08:31 PM

BC

“ *Burk Crancer-Hughes & Hayden Crancer purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Jim Freire.*



Burk Crancer-Hughes & Hayden Crancer - April 09 at 04:14 PM

VE

“ *Laura, you and I were in a BTG Christmas play together. I just want to offer my condolences.*

Vicki Easterly - April 08 at 06:53 PM

BW

“ *Jim was a very active member of the Frankfort YMCA. He would come several days a week for his workouts and conversations of baseball with members and staff. He was always a pleasure to be around and he'll be greatly missed by his YMCA family!*

Brent Wallace - April 08 at 12:17 PM

RF

“ I remember Jim in many ways but especially appreciate his help in leading 1994 Teen Retreat for our Frankfort teens when I was lay youth pastor. A great friend and ‘older brother’ during my young adult years.

Laura, our hearts go out to you! Love you! God comfort you! Would love to see you in August as we come through ... coordinate details through Doug & Ann if you are interested. Maybe more ready to think about it in a couple months.

Reg Finger - April 08 at 12:16 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jim Freire.



April 08 at 09:06 AM



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

April 08 at 09:06 AM

TF

“ The Purvis Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jim Freire.



The Purvis Family - April 08 at 08:38 AM

TF

“ *The Purvis Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Freire.*

The Purvis Family - April 08 at 08:38 AM

MB

“ *Good man, I worked with Jim*

Mike Barlow - April 07 at 05:08 PM

BC

Jim was a spark to us all at the Frankfort YMCA. Always smiling, joking and brought joy to so many. Prayers for all the family.

Bonnie Aboud Clements - April 07 at 06:23 PM