



## James R. Zeleny

October 12, 1968 - September 16, 2020

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held for Jim on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Exeter, Nebraska with Fr. Brendan Kelly & Fr. Kenneth Borowiak presiding.

Praying of the Rosary will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Exeter, Nebraska.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. with family present from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home - Kotas Chapel in Milligan, Nebraska.

Graveside Services will be conducted at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Milligan, Nebraska following the Funeral Mass.

In Lieu of Flowers - Memorials are to be directed to the family to be designated at a later date.

A Livestream Video of the Funeral Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m. To view the Livestream Video you can go to Farmer & Son Funeral Home's Facebook Page or in your search engine type @friendlyfuneraldirectors and click the link to Farmer & Son Funeral Home's Facebook Page. You do not have to have Facebook to view the Livestream Video.

St. Stephen Catholic Church will also have a Livestream Video as another avenue for folks who are unable to attend the Funeral Mass for Jim. You can copy and paste this link in your web browser and type in the Meeting ID and Passcode to view the livestream.

To Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/637208501?pwd=cXB5NkRZL2g0M2NOdGpnbVNaYnM5QT09>

Meeting ID: 637 208 501

Passcode: 022071

Due to the COVID-19 Directed Health Measure Phase IV, we are limited to 75% occupancy for the Funeral Service and we will be practicing social distancing as indicated by the measure. Per the family's request, masks are encouraged to be worn at the Funeral Service.

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James Robert Zeleny, a Fillmore County father and farmer, died on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020.

He was born at Warren Memorial Hospital in Friend on Oct. 12, 1968 to Robert and Diane (Yeck) Zeleny. He graduated from Exeter High School in 1987, where he was a letter winner in football, basketball and track. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated with an agricultural business degree from Southeast Community College in Beatrice.

After college, Jim worked at Fleischer Manufacturing in Columbus. He traveled across Nebraska, the Midwest and South, setting up trade shows for Buffalo farm equipment.

He later returned home to work on the family farm near Burress, raising hogs and cattle, corn and soybeans. He loved the freedom of the farm and learning from the best, his father.

He married Liz Allen in 1994 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Exeter. Their three children, Logan, Sam and Max, were a source of great pride and joy. A shared passion was sports, from countless hours of weekend basketball practice to softball tournaments to watching Nebraska or NFL games together.

From an early age, all three children inherited their father's love of the game.

While only Sam may have shared Jim's admiration for the Dallas Cowboys, Logan and Max also enjoyed every sport with him, whether playing together, being coached by him or cheered on from the sidelines. They loved traveling to games of all kinds, including a memorable trip to Lambeau Field to watch the Packers and Cowboys.

Jim's smile and warm personality lit up any room, as he shared his kindness, generosity and friendship with people from many walks of life. To Jim, or "Z-Bart" as he was known in the early years, few people were strangers, only new friends yet to meet.

For years, he was a dedicated member of his community, serving on the Exeter-Milligan Board of Education, as a member of Sons of the Legion in Milligan and the Young Farmers Organization of Fillmore County.

His life was complicated, and ultimately cut short, by a long struggle with alcoholism.

In his final days at Bryan West Hospital in Lincoln, he was surrounded with love by his children, his mother, his Godmother, his brothers and Liz, as well as unwavering support from legions of lifelong friends.

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James was preceded in death by his father, Robert, along with his grandparents, Mike and Frances Zeleny and Frank and Libbie Yeck, as well as many aunts and uncles.

He is survived by Liz and their beloved children, Logan, Sam and Max; mother, Diane; brother and sister-in-law Mike and Amy; brother Jeff; nieces, Claire, Katherine, Lauren; and nephew, John. Survivors also include, devoted aunt and Godmother, Judith Yeck; uncle, Bernard Zeleny along with many cousins.

# Cemetery Details

## Bohemian National Cemetery

Milligan, NE 68406

# Previous Events

## Family Present for Visitation

SEP 20. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home-Kotas Chapel  
Main Street  
Milligan, NE 68406  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

SEP 20. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home-Kotas Chapel  
Main Street  
Milligan, NE 68406  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## **Rosary**

SEP **20**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Saint Stephen Catholic Church  
207 N Union Ave  
Exeter, NE 68351  
(402) 266-5581

## **Funeral Mass**

SEP **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Saint Stephen Catholic Church  
207 N Union Ave  
Exeter, NE 68351  
(402) 266-5581

# Tribute Wall



“ Farmer & Son Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James R. Zeleny



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**Farmer & Son Funeral Home** - September 17, 2020 at 05:25 PM

RT

“ Diane, I am sadden to hear of your heartbreak and loss. May God lift you up, give you strength and know that Jim is now at Peace.

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**Reba Toothman** - September 21, 2020 at 09:16 PM



“ 106 files added to the album Flower Arrangements



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**Farmer & Son Funeral Home** - September 21, 2020 at 02:13 PM

KW

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. My prayers and love are with you all.*

Kathleen J Wilcox - September 21, 2020 at 02:09 PM

HF

“ *Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer - September 21, 2020 at 08:20 AM

JA

“ *Janell lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



Janell - September 20, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James R. Zeleny.*



September 20, 2020 at 09:13 PM

ME

“ I'm so sorry and saddened about the loss of Jim. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this most difficult time. May our Lord hold you in the palm of His hand and bring you comfort and peace.

*Marilyn Ericksen*

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**Marilyn Ericksen** - September 20, 2020 at 12:23 AM

DD

“ Diane and family, please accept our sincere sympathy and loving thoughts on your loss. Please know we are keeping you in our prayers during this difficult time.

*Sincerely, Mike and Darcy (Fisher) Davis*

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**Darcy Fisher Davis** - September 19, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James R. Zeleny.



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September 19, 2020 at 10:24 AM

BK

“ Bill K. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James R. Zeleny.



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**Bill K.** - September 19, 2020 at 09:22 AM

AF

“ *Aarik, Zach, Kyle and the Jensen family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James R. Zeleny.*



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**Aarik, Zach, Kyle and the Jensen family** - September 18, 2020 at 11:47 PM

TG

“ *Tom & Kathy Gillmore lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Tom & Kathy Gillmore** - September 18, 2020 at 10:36 PM

KT

“ *My thought and prayers are with the family at this difficult time. May God bring you peace*

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**Kim Thomas** - September 18, 2020 at 09:22 PM

NL

“ *I never met Jim but I do know and have met with his Mom when I from time to time visited my in-laws near Exeter. I cannot begin to comprehend the loss of any child to a Mother. I pray that God watch over and protect Jim's Family, and that Mr. Zeleny is now at peace with the Lord Jesus.*

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**Neil Leipzig** - September 18, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James R. Zeleny.*



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September 18, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ *Caleb Rippe lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Caleb Rippe** - September 18, 2020 at 06:59 PM



“ *Prayers for your family. I was Jimmy's third grade teacher in Exeter. He was a joy to have in my room. I also enjoyed his mom and dad when I saw them at conferences. I did not have the opportunity to teach his siblings but I remember his family to be Very special. Prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Diane Ziemer** - September 18, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James R. Zeleny.*



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September 18, 2020 at 05:17 PM

LR

“ *Luther & Hilary Roit lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Luther & Hilary Roit** - September 18, 2020 at 05:05 PM

JO

“ *We are so sorry for your loss and the sadness you are dealing with. May you feel the peace of knowing Jim no longer has to suffer at the hands of disease, and the pain of this world, and he is now with his Savior.*

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**Jill O** - September 18, 2020 at 04:28 PM

JL

“ *Prayers for Jim and the family*

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**Jerry and Tess Lentfer** - September 18, 2020 at 11:26 AM

MB

“ *Mary And Bart Brinkman lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Mary and Bart Brinkman** - September 18, 2020 at 09:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James R. Zeleny.*



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September 18, 2020 at 09:08 AM



“ *Dear Diane & Judy - So sorry to hear of your loss of Jim. Keeping You & Your Family close to my Heart. Got bless him, his wife & His Family.*  
*lou suda*

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**LJ Suda** - September 18, 2020 at 08:29 AM



“ *Prayers to the family.*

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**Scott Bahe** - September 18, 2020 at 08:09 AM



“ *Jennifer Manning lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Jennifer Manning** - September 17, 2020 at 11:16 PM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Kent & Rose Theobald** - September 17, 2020 at 08:45 PM

JU

“ *Janine Uldrich lit a candle in memory of James R. Zeleny*



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**Janine Uldrich** - September 17, 2020 at 07:21 PM