



James L. Corsaro

June 3, 1943 - May 25, 2025

A gentle man has passed to his eternal reward. Jim Corsaro passed away at home on May 25, 2025. He lived a life devoted to his family, his God, and to improving the coal industry. He was a loving, honest, ethical and loyal husband, father, son, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor, but his favorite role was 'Pops' to his six grandchildren.

He was born on June 3, 1943 in a mining camp in Stickney, WV to immigrant parents from southern Italy. His father and both grandfathers were coal miners. After graduating from DuPont High School, he received a scholarship to study Mining Engineering at West Virginia University. He earned a BS in Mining Engineering in 1966, and a MS Degree in Mining Engineering in 1968. He was a registered professional engineer.

He went to work for Eastern Associated Coal Corp. in 1968 and moved through the ranks. He was the youngest superintendent in the company's history. He served as vice president for safety and training for Eastern Coal. During that period, as a result of the improvement achieved at Eastern Coal, he provided expert testimony before the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Underground Mine Safety regarding the development and implementation of effective safety programs and reduction of mine injuries and accidents at the Eastern Coal mines. In 1986, he was appointed vice president of corporate engineering at Eastern Coal.

Furthering his career, he accepted the position of vice president of development for Carbon Industries and was appointed president in 1990. The assets of Carbon Industries were purchased by Penn Virginia Operating Co. in 1999 and Jim served as vice president until his retirement in 2012 after 54 years in the coal industry.

He served as president of the WV Coal Mining Institute, president of the WV Land and Mineral Owners Association, chairman of Careers in Coal, president of the WV College of Mineral and Energy Resources Alumni Council, and as a member of the WVU Department of Mining Engineering Visiting and Advisory Committee. He was appointed by Gov. Rockefeller to the WV Board of Miner Training, Education, and Certification in 1984. He also served 10 years as president of the Kanawha Valley Mining Institute. KVMI supports the education community and West Virginia by raising and distributing annual scholarships to deserving students each year. In 2019 Jim was inducted into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame which recognizes leaders in the coal industry.

Jim often mentioned his appreciation for the mentors and friends that guided and encouraged him throughout his career, and he took pride in those individuals whom he mentored in the development of their careers and their contributions to the coal industry, the coal community, West Virginia, and the many lives they touched.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michelangelo and Palma Corsaro; sister, Mary Angeles; and brother, Larry Corsaro.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Betty; and sons: Michael (Misty), David (Stephanie) of Hurricane, WV and Matthew (Jia) of Carmel, IN. The lights of his life were his grandchildren who include: Holly, Lauren,

Christopher, Zachary, Mia, Haley Corsaro, and Brayden Pauley.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 12:00 noon June 6, 2025 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Nitro, WV.

Friends may pay their respects from 10:00 am until noon prior to the Mass of Christian Burial, to be officiated by Fr. Chapin. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Scott Depot, WV and will be limited to family due to parking constraints.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: Holy Trinity Catholic Church, P.O. Box 339, Nitro, WV 25143 or Kanawha Valley Mining Institute, P.O. Box 2005, Charleston, WV 25301.

Anyone wishing to leave an online memory may do so by visiting Jim's tribute page at: www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane, WV is honored to serve the Corsaro family.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery

Joyce Road
Scott Depot, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
2219 22nd Street
Nitro, WV 25143

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
2219 22nd Street
Nitro, WV 25143

Tribute Wall

BH

“ So very sorry to hear the passing of James corsaro. He was my former brother-in-law and I didn't know of his passing until late August. You are very wonderful man Jim. Bob Holepit, Morgantown

Bob Holepit - August 24, 2025 at 03:22 PM

GS

“ Jim was a great mentor and friend. Terri and I have enjoyed traveling with Jim and Betty on CI Coal group functions as well as personal travel. Jim was always kind and sharing his wisdom and experiences. He will be missed.
Gary & Terri Stover

Gary Stover - June 06, 2025 at 06:15 AM



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

June 04, 2025 at 06:01 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of James L. Corsaro.



June 04, 2025 at 06:01 PM

KF

“ Kerns family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Corsaro.

Kerns family - June 03, 2025 at 08:46 PM

KF

“ Kerns family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James L. Corsaro.



Kerns family - June 03, 2025 at 08:46 PM



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

June 02, 2025 at 09:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James L. Corsaro.



June 02, 2025 at 09:32 PM

MH

“ Words fail to convey how much Jim meant to me and the whole family. He, and you, were so good to Mom and he was always so proud and supportive of our shared heritage. It was so great working with him to try to archive all the old family photos. I will miss his kindness and love.

Michael Holstine - June 02, 2025 at 09:12 PM

PD

“ Peace & Love, Tim and Sheree Dorsch purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James L. Corsaro.



Peace & Love, Tim and Sheree Dorsch - June 02, 2025 at 01:31 PM

RB

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Jim's passing. He was a great gentlemen and offer sincere condolences as well as crocodile tears for his loved ones.

Richard Begley - June 02, 2025 at 09:51 AM

UG

“ He was one of the nicest neighbors that my family had when living in Hurricane, WV

Ursula Gmerek - June 01, 2025 at 04:10 PM

MM

“ Michael, Carla, & Emily Miller purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James L. Corsaro.



Michael, Carla, & Emily Miller - May 31, 2025 at 10:24 AM

JB

“ Michael, sorry for your loss. May God be with you and your family.

Jerry Bulford - May 29, 2025 at 03:04 PM

AM

“ Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. May God give you peace and comfort during this difficult time. I worked for Jim back in our early days in Eastern. He was one of the most knowledgeable men I ever knew. I was proud to say we maintained our friendship throughout the years. Al & Jenny Moore

Allen Moore - May 29, 2025 at 06:08 AM

TF

“ Tonya Persinger and Family lit a candle in memory of James Corsaro



Tonya Persinger and Family - May 28, 2025 at 01:33 PM

SS

“ Jim and I were classmates at DuPont High and WVU. We were good friends, and although we went our separate ways as adults and saw each other only at occasional high school reunions, I feel sorrow for his passing and know that the world is a dimmer place without him here. Deepest sympathy for his family, and rest in peace, Jimmy. Sandy Wilson Shuman

Sandra W Shuman - May 28, 2025 at 10:26 AM

RH

“ Jim and I both graduated with B.S. degrees from the West Virginia University School of Mines in 1966. He in mining engineering and I in petroleum engineering. I have very warm memories of Jim walking as the lone student down the hall of the Mineral Industries building with one of his professors to a class. He probably already knew as much as the professor! Jim was well liked and admired by the faculty as well as the students. Although we were pursuing careers in rival natural resources Industries, we worked together in representing other graduates when officers of the School's alumni council. Jim was certainly considered by all as an authority of the coal mining processes. He excelled in everything he attempted and his professional leadership was a model for all mining engineers. I much appreciated his friendship through the years.

Bob Hart

Robert Hart - May 27, 2025 at 07:28 PM

KF

Sadden by Jimmy's passing. I will always call him Jimmy as I knew him in grade school and High School. He was a gently man and person and will be missed very much at our high school reunions. We used to talk about the coal industry in that I had worked for a coal company. My heart goes out to Betty and his family. I know he will be greatly missed.

Kay J. Foley - May 28, 2025 at 10:41 AM

AM

Dear Betty,

Joe and I extend our deepest condolences to you and your family. May you know that the love of Our Heavenly Father will be with you always. May the memories you and your family have comfort you in the days ahead.

In His love, Anne Muto

Anne Muto - May 28, 2025 at 11:11 PM

EM

Betty and family,

Emil and I are so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was so kind. I know you will miss this sweet man. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Emil and Margaret Martin

Emil And Margaret Martin - May 31, 2025 at 09:11 AM