



## Gerald "Jake" McJames

August 14, 1942 - September 27, 2025

Gerald "Jake" McJames, age 83 of Clare, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at the MyMichigan Medical Center of Midland, surrounded by his loving family. On August 14, 1942, Jake was born the son of Leonard and Norma (Bergey) McJames in Clare, where Jake would remain a lifelong resident and become a graduate of the CHS class of '61. On February 18, 1985, Jake was united in marriage to Jane Coe, and together they shared forty wonderful years. During his working years, Jake wore multiple hats (literally and figuratively), serving for over thirty-two years as an operator for the Isabella County Road Commission, as well as the lead farmhand for the Walt and Fran Bolle Farm for thirty-plus years—a job he continued right up to his passing. Jake loved both bow and rifle hunting for deer, tinkering on anything mechanical, playing euchre with his family, watching NASCAR races, and racing antique snowmobiles in his younger years. However, those that knew Jake best will tell his biggest passion was that for collecting and restoring all type of antique tractors...along with holding court at the Whitehouse Restaurant of Clare every morning.

Jake is survived by his wife Jane McJames of Clare, his children Melanie McJames-Bell, Brian (Wendy) McJames, Avery (Cori) McJames, and Aubrey (Caleb Parish) McJames, all of whom reside in Clare, and his grandchildren Aaron (Stacey Miller) Bell, Amber (Lucas Small) Bell, and baby McJames on the way. Other survivors include his great-grandchildren Kennedy and Karter Bell, his siblings Florence Merillat, Glen (Bertha) McJames, Marilyn (Mark)

Bassage, Ellouise (Jeff Johnson) Herkel, and Carla (Mike) Jones, his mother-in-law Paula Coe and many nieces and nephews. Jake was preceded in death by his father Leonard McJames and his mother and stepfather Norma and Carl Buchhage, his brother and sister-in-law Leonard and Lois McJames, his brother-in-law Bill Merillat, his son-in-law Chris Walkiewicz and father-in-law Bill Coe Sr.

A funeral service in honor of Jake will take place on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home with Pastor Scott Hayes officiating. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday, September 30th from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Memorial contributions in honor of Jake may be directed to Coleman Wesleyan Church or a charity of your choice. For those unable to attend services, online condolences may be shared on Jakes tribute page at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Wise Township Cemetery

10101 Loomis St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)  
1005 North McEwan St.  
Clare, MI 48617  
(989) 386-7451  
wymanhf@chartermi.net  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Visitation

OCT 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)  
1005 North McEwan St.  
Clare, MI 48617  
(989) 386-7451  
wymanhf@chartermi.net  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Service

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OCT 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)

1005 North McEwan St.

Clare, MI 48617

(989) 386-7451

wymanfh@chartermi.net

<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ So sorry to hear about Jake. Sending Prayers to the family!

Barb and Bernard Longstreth - September 30, 2025 at 03:14 PM

JP

“ Jeanne P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jake" McJames.

Jeanne P. - September 30, 2025 at 02:13 PM

AS

“ Jane & Family,  
I am so sorry for your family's loss.  
You are all in my thoughts and prayers  
Angie Spaeth

Angie Spaeth - September 30, 2025 at 12:18 PM

JH

“ We met Jake many years ago when we began to farm for Fran Bolle. Fran and I enjoyed many conversations over the years as he would stop in often when I was there. Jake was always stopping by to check on the fields and offering help when Sam was broke down. We have great memories of Jake and appreciate all he did. Praying for your family.

Julie Hostetler - September 30, 2025 at 09:42 AM

BB

“ Bobby Mona Sarah Rebecca and Lisa Bergey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jake" McJames.

Bobby Mona Sarah Rebecca and Lisa Bergey - September 30, 2025 at 12:40 AM

BB

“ Bobby Mona Sarah Rebecca and Lisa Bergey purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Gerald "Jake" McJames.



Bobby Mona Sarah Rebecca and Lisa Bergey - September 30, 2025 at 12:40 AM

GB

“ my heartfelt condolences to Jane, Brian, Melanie, Aubrey and Avery and families during this difficult time. Jake was a wonderful cousin who brought so much fun and love into all our lives. I will cherish all the memories.  
Hugs to you all. Gayla

Gayla Bergey - September 29, 2025 at 10:56 PM

NB

“ Nancy & Bruce Bauer lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jake" McJames



Nancy & Bruce Bauer - September 29, 2025 at 10:14 PM

AF

“ Angela, Amy, Jenni and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jake" McJames.

Angela, Amy, Jenni and families - September 29, 2025 at 04:29 PM

AF

“ Angela, Amy, Jenni and families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gerald "Jake" McJames.



Angela, Amy, Jenni and families - September 29, 2025 at 04:29 PM

JH

“ Jennifer Hopp lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Jake" McJames



Jennifer Hopp - September 29, 2025 at 12:51 PM

JH

So very sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jennifer Hopp - September 29, 2025 at 12:52 PM

AR

“ Jane and family , so sorry for your loss!

Arlene Robison - September 29, 2025 at 10:36 AM

BL

*So sorry to hear about Jake. prayers for the Family.  
Bernard and Barb Longstreth*

**Barb and Bernard Longstreth** - September 29, 2025 at 08:33 PM



“ *Patti Speir lit a candle in memory of Gerald  
"Jake" McJames*



**Patti Speir** - September 29, 2025 at 09:49 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the  
family of Gerald "Jake" McJames.*



September 29, 2025 at 09:00 AM

BL

“ *Brian and Kathy Larsen purchased the Country B  
asket Blooms for the family of Gerald "Jake"  
McJames.*



**Brian and Kathy Larsen** - September 29, 2025 at 08:49 AM