



Judge James E. Sheridan

March 18, 1944 - November 12, 2015

ADRIAN – James E. Sheridan passed away Thursday, November 12, 2015, at the Hospice of Lenawee Home.

James Edward Sheridan was born May 18th, 1944 in Midland, Michigan to James Vincent Sheridan and Estelle (Azinger) Sheridan. He was little brother to Dennis and Marge, and was the youngest of the family. He grew up in Dearborn and went to college at University of Michigan. As he was earning his Bachelors and then Masters of Business Administration there, he met a lovely nursing student named Sharron Allen and quickly asked her on a date. Luckily she said yes and they were soon a couple, fitting in movie and pizza nights amongst their studies. As they were due to graduate, a wedding was planned for May of 1966. But unbeknownst to all except two close friends who shared their secret plan, they ran away to LaGrange, Indiana and eloped early. There they were married by a justice of the peace on January 3rd, 1966. They were married again in a proper wedding ceremony on May 7th, surely surprising their families with their lack of nerves. They kept this secret well, and it was one of many romantic moments in a long and happy marriage of 50 years. James went on to Law School at U of M as Sharron began work as a nurse. He earned his Juris Doctorate in 1969, graduating Cum Laude. He began his working life as a law clerk in the Michigan Court of Appeals with Judge T. John Lesinski for one year to complete his draft deferment, with plans to move to Bill Walker's firm in Adrian when the year was through. He knew Adrian was a county seat and needed a trial attorney, and Walker was willing to wait for him.

He and Sharron came to Adrian in 1970, a town they loved and where they put down roots for good. Jim worked in private practice for 7 years, during which time daughter Anita and son James Patrick were born. In 1979 he was elected to serve as District Court Judge, an office he would hold for the next 36 years.

His community work and passions are almost too many to list. He was a life-long member of Kiwanis in both Adrian and Hudson. He worked hard to extend services for the people suffering from domestic abuse that he saw from the bench. He also worked to get more directed help for alcoholics through a special drunk driving court. He felt that the root cause of many problems he saw was a lack of relationship skills, leading to broken families and children left without good partnership role models. He began to study and teach relationship skills in his spare time, and in the 1990s he started an additional career as an author and guest lecturer on marriage skills. He founded Marriages That Work, and was a regular speaker at the national Smart Marriage Conference and the National Association of Relationship and Marriage Educators (NARME) conference. He presented for couples retreats and Retrouvaille Regional Gatherings in many states, and he was a certified facilitator in several premarital inventories. Many couples have fond memories of the advice he gave them. He had a weekly column on marriage skills that appeared in the Daily Telegram (Adrian, MI), the News-Sentinel (Fort Wayne, IN) and the Huron Daily Tribune (Huron County, MI), and he is the author of "A Blessing for the Heart," a self-published book on the Biblical model of marriage, and he was a contributing author for the book "All-in-One Marriage Prep," compiled by Susanne M. Alexander. He also testified several times before Senate and House committees of the Michigan Legislature regarding the public policy aspects of marriage.

Many people remember Judge Sheridan as their tough but entertaining Professor of Criminal Law. He taught classes at Siena Heights and Jackson Community College for more than 40 years, giving those employed in the criminal justice system a crash course in the finer points of the law. He cared

immensely about his work as a teacher in both law and relationship skills. Jim and Sharron started attending Hope Lutheran Church in 1976, and it quickly became their church home. The church community became a big part of Jim's life. He sat on many boards there, was chairman of the congregation several times, taught adult bible study and worked hard to spread the good news to others. He was a well-known elder in the church, and his friendship with Pastor Paul Herter was an ongoing strength to him. He 'adopted' many people there as his unofficial siblings, kids and grandchildren. He had a gift for mentoring and these relationships meant a lot to him.

In December 2014 he retired from the bench, earning many accolades from local and state government. Friends and family gathered to wish him well as he started a new chapter in life. The courthouse staff was yet another family to him, and so he decided to still go in often to help out and cover small claims court. He affected many lives during his time on the bench, and some of his proudest moments were seeing former defendants who gained sobriety due to his intervention. He was given a number of A.A. sobriety coins as tokens of gratitude from these former defendants, and he greatly cherished them.

Although his retirement was short, he was never one to rest, and in the past year he taught more classes, worked on more writing projects, and dedicated more time to church matters. He and Sharron enjoyed time at home with son James Patrick, and they travelled as they did each year to see daughter Anita, son-in-law Shawn and their one and only grandson Sydney in Los Angeles, California. Jim was affectionately called "Ampo" by Syd, and they shared many laughs together.

And to the end, Jim continued to support the work of his father, James Vincent Sheridan, who had developed an alternative cancer treatment which has yet to be fully tested. Jim chose to take this Protocol treatment when he was given the terminal diagnosis of a GBM brain tumor in late August. His faith, many close friends, strong family connections, wonderful church support and the ceaseless care of his wife carried him through the last difficult month of

this fast-moving disease. He will be deeply missed.

He is survived by wife Sharron, son James P., daughter Anita Sheridan, son-in-law and grandson Shawn and Sydney Jimmerson, brother and sister-in-law Dennis and Nancy Sheridan of Wimauma, Florida, and sister and brother-in-law Marge and Tony Dubuque of Melbourne, Florida. The family will do a carnation spray to remember Jim's father who grew them in his greenhouse. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, charitable donations be made to one of the organizations important to Jim: Hope Lutheran Church, 5625 US-223, Adrian, MI 49221; Marriage Matters of Jackson, 536 N. Jackson St., Jackson, MI 49201; Care Pregnancy Center of Lenawee, 308 N. Broad St., PO Box 928, Adrian, MI 49221; DVSA (Domestic Violence Sexual Assault), c/o Catherine Cobb, 220 N. Main St., Adrian, MI 49221; Hospice of Lenawee, 1903 Wolf Creek Hwy, Adrian, MI 49221.

Funeral services for Judge Sheridan will take place at 11 a.m., Monday, November 16, 2015, at Hope Lutheran Church with Rev. Paul Herter officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday, November 15, at Wagley Funeral Home from 2 to 7 p.m. Online condolences may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope Lutheran Church
5625 WUS 223
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Judge James E. Sheridan*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Judge Jim, was a close Friend to mom and myself, a very caring and compassionate person, Yes we all Lost a friend, mentor, teacher. Thank You Judge Jim for Having mom and myself in your home on many Thanksgiving Dinners. Thank you for not turning your back on me when I was going through a rough time in my Life, Like my family did. Thanks again. Michael Duncan. Toledo,oh*

Michael R. Duncan, Toledo,oh. - November 21, 2015 at 03:37 PM



“ *Michael R. Duncan, Toledo,oh. lit a candle in memory of Judge James E. Sheridan*



Michael R. Duncan, Toledo,oh. - November 21, 2015 at 03:32 PM

JH

“ I was privileged to work with Judge Jim Sheridan during my 17 year tenure as Regional Administrator for the SCAO/Michigan Supreme Court. He embodied what is needed in a good judge-intelligence, compassion, hard work, tolerance, sensitivity, common sense , and a sense of humor. He was a serious guy who did not take himself too seriously. I thoroughly enjoyed working with him. I was stunned by news of his passing . My prayers for comfort go to his wife and family at this difficult time.

Jim Hughes, Retired Region 2 Administrator, State Court Administrative Office



Jim Hughes - November 17, 2015 at 01:33 PM

WM

“ Dear Sharron and family:

Our deepest condolences in your loss of Jim. I enjoyed working with Jim in Marriages That Work and my wife enjoyed taking a writing class with Jim. We also had Jim put on a couple of seminars at two of our churches.

Jim was one of a kind and he will be greatly missed.

Love

Rev. Walt & Sandy Miller

Walter Miller - November 16, 2015 at 01:00 PM

TS

“ Thomas Stringer lit a candle in memory of Judge James E. Sheridan



Thomas Stringer - November 16, 2015 at 10:26 AM

SM

“ Goodbye, old friend.
Steven Sherman, M.D.

Steven Sherman, M.D. - November 16, 2015 at 07:28 AM

KP

“ There is no way I can fully express the sadness I feel today. Sharron, Jimmy, and Anita, you know how loyal Jim could be. He helped in situations that no one else would. His integrity taught me so many lessons.



May your hearts feel the joy of having known Jim. His smile gives us hope.

May your minds recall all the good and bad times. Life brings its surprises.

Sending you all my sympathy and blessings.

Kathryn Perez

Kathryn Perez - November 14, 2015 at 12:42 PM

CF

“ Jim was one of my favorite people in the world. He was a great brother-in-law and uncle to my kids. Whenever I saw his impish grin, my irishness responded to his and I couldn't wait to see what fun was coming next, and he never let me down. I have thousands of happy memories of all the fun he brought with him, but we had some good heart to hearts on the front step of the folks house sometimes too. We'll all miss him, and know that my thoughts and prayers and spirit at with you all at this time. He was so special!!! Goodbye Jim, & give the folks a hug. Love, Cathy

Cathy La Forte - November 14, 2015 at 11:24 AM

EL

“ Judge Sheridan was an AMAZING man with that huge heart! He touched so many life's as HE touched mine.HE was like a father to me who I never had. We were so blessed to know him. I still can't believe it that he is gone too soon:(Continue prayers for the family in this very difficult time.



Erika O. Lewis - November 14, 2015 at 09:12 AM

RS

“ I heard the Judge speak to the audience at the Tecumseh Center for the Arts one time. Mostly to young people. It was a sincere and inspirational speech. I shouldn't say speech because when he was talking to you, he was speaking "To You, " Not "Down At You."

A friend told me once about being in his courtroom when several young people were talking and being smart during a trial of one of their friends. The judge turned to them and told them to shut up or your be in jail the next time I have to tell you. It stopped immediately. You could not hear this man speak without knowing that he meant what he said. Always. You did not dis-honor his court room. That's good.


We are all better people for having him with us. Will be missed.

Russ Smith - November 13, 2015 at 09:04 PM

DM

“ Sir it was a pleasure to have worked with you for so many years. I will look fondly on our conversations and I wish you and your family peace during this difficult time. Rest I'm Peace your Honor.

Deputy US Marshal - November 13, 2015 at 08:25 PM

 Donna
Bishop

“ The family of Judge Sheridan are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you all.



Donna Bishop - November 13, 2015 at 04:59 PM

Marti Mahler

“ I've had the opportunity to be in Judge Sheridan's courtroom several times, mostly as an observer but once fighting a traffic ticket. He was a little rough with me but I got over it. I will say this. When I heard he passed on, I was sad. God rest the soul of James Sheridan. His pastor is a pretty great guy too!!

Marti Mahler - November 13, 2015 at 12:32 PM

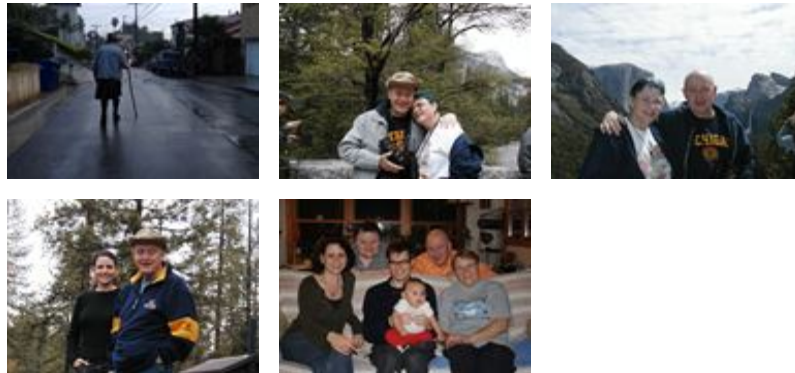
SS

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of Judge Jim Sheridan. I was privileged to know Jim the last 25 years as a fellow Judge and friend. He was always willing to be a mentor to the younger Judges, and had a wonderful sense of humor. May he rest in peace, and God's peace to his entire family. Sara J Smolenski 63rd District Court

Sara J. Smolenski - November 13, 2015 at 12:20 PM



“ 124 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wagley Funeral Home - November 13, 2015 at 12:11 PM

SH

“ Judge Sheridan was a wonderful man. I enjoyed his stories and sense of humor at MDJA executive board meetings and SCAO Region 2 judges' meetings. My condolences to his family and friends, and the staff at the 2A (Adrian) District Court.
Sandi Hartnell

Sandi Hartnell - November 13, 2015 at 12:06 PM

PA

“ Judge Sheridan touched so many people in so many ways, but what it all boils down to is his love of life and love of teaching. Every moment was an opportunity to him to teach. Whether it was from the bench (where some people didn't really appreciate the "lesson") or at church or speaking to a group or instructing a college class - it was all his enthusiasm at being able to share knowledge. I was blessed to have him as a "boss" for many years at the Court. He always made you feel like an equal, never any less and his trust in his staff never faltered. The Earth has lost a beautiful soul; but heaven has gained an exquisite angel. Love to Sharron, Anita & Shawn, Sydney and James Patrick. May your faith carry you through this time.

Pam Ames - November 13, 2015 at 11:41 AM

JE

“ I would like to add my words of admiration to the long list of those blessed by Jim's life. I have known Jim as a friend and colleague for the past 15 years. We met at a Smart Marriage Conference... he is impossible to miss! I remember Jim coming up to my booth and introducing himself in his gregarious and infectious way. We talked about his work and my No-jerks program, and he immediately took the posture of being my biggest fan. This is NOT because of anything related to me--this was Jim's MO... his character and heart. He personified humility in his interaction with peers even though his accomplishments far outweighed what others had even dreamed doing. For the years I attended that conference, Jim was an icon, a voice that would be heard down the hall and around the corner, but a voice that would be the welcoming mascot of the healthy marriage movement. What a legacy--to have been a just and fair judge for your long career, to teach and write books and programs to help couples grow in their marriage and family, and to be a real-life model of a loving husband and father. He is deeply loved and irreplaceable, and will be missed beyond any words.

But I know Jim's greatest love was his Lord Jesus. And this is our consolation--that he has joined his Savior, his faith has now become sight, and we will someday reunite with him in the presence of our Lord.



Our deepest sympathies,
John and Shirley Van Epp

John & Shirley Van Epp - November 13, 2015 at 10:43 AM



“ Judge Sheridan was a very caring person, He'll be sadly missed. God's comfort, peace and love to Sharron and their son James and family and friends. Love in Christ, Laurel Eding.



Laurel Eding - November 13, 2015 at 09:27 AM



“ Many humorous times over the decades, were spent with Jim, presenting at our marriage preparation programs for the Catholic community. Jim was always the top presenter on our evaluations. Everyone loved Jim, us especially. He will be very much missed in the marriage education community. Mark & Mary Murray, LPC, NCC

Mark Murray - November 13, 2015 at 09:18 AM



“ As a student, attending Judge Sheridan's Criminal Law class in the morning was the best way to start the day. Not only was I challenged so early in the day, but I was overwhelmed by Judge Sheridan's enthusiasm as he shared his knowledge and wisdom of the criminal justice system. However, his lessons reached beyond the academic level and will forever be remembered as very personable and humble lessons in life. It was an honor having Judge Sheridan as a professor and his lessons will continue to resonate through out my life as I move forward into the criminal justice field. For being the best professor, a great mentor, and a down to earth person to talk to, thank you, Judge Sheridan.

Samuel Schneider - November 13, 2015 at 09:06 AM

SR

“ Sharon Richmond lit a candle in memory of Judge James E. Sheridan



Sharon Richmond - November 13, 2015 at 08:22 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judge James E. Sheridan.



November 13, 2015 at 08:11 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of loss, Judge Jim Sheridan will be missed deeply. With much love, The Brevoort Family



Kathy Brevoort - November 13, 2015 at 06:40 AM

DG

“ David And Ann Guldin sent a virtual gift in memory of Judge James E. Sheridan



David and Ann Guldin - November 13, 2015 at 05:52 AM

DR

“ Dawn Reyes lit a candle in memory of Judge James E. Sheridan



dawn reyes - November 12, 2015 at 09:07 PM

AS

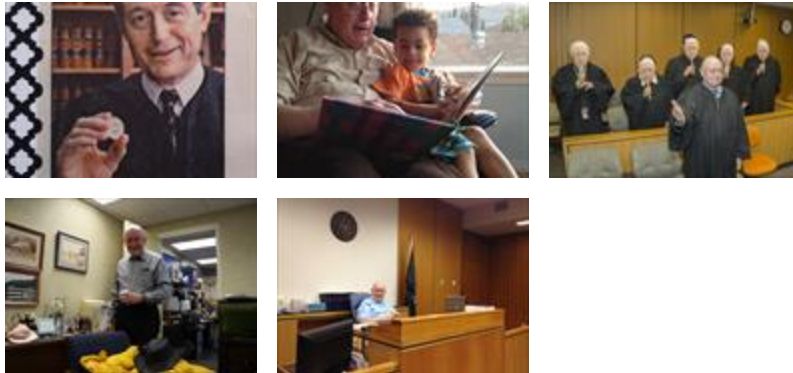
“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Anita Sheridan - November 12, 2015 at 08:34 PM

AS

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Anita Sheridan - November 12, 2015 at 08:31 PM

KS

“ He will be greatly missed. He was passionate about life and marriage. He was a mentor, and had a lot of faith in me. He lifted me up and helped build my self esteem, and he was there for me when life felt like it was falling apart. I will miss you Judgie. RIP



Kelly Sigler - November 12, 2015 at 08:20 PM

FK

“ I will forever be grateful for his wisdom, kindness and mentoring. His sense of humor was appreciated, especially given the topics he was usually working on! He left the place a little bit better than he found it, and for that and Jesus we can be thankful!
Pastor Fritz, North Rome Baptist Church

Fritz Kruse - November 12, 2015 at 07:57 PM

MR

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Michele [Mickey] Rawson - November 12, 2015 at 07:34 PM

KT

“ Judge Sheridan was a very kind, giving and loving individual. When life was giving me lemons he regularly took time out of his busy schedule and helped teach me how to make lemonade from those lemons. He will be greatly missed. Karen Tate

Karen Tate - November 12, 2015 at 07:08 PM

CS

“ Cindy Sloan lit a candle in memory of Judge James E. Sheridan



Cindy Sloan - November 12, 2015 at 06:25 PM

Jl

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sheridan family.
John & Sue Inhulsen



JOHN & SUE INHULSEN - November 12, 2015 at 06:18 PM

Tron Gauna

“ Just got the news. You sir, are one of the best human beings to ever walk this earth. I just seen you a little while ago and now you are gone, but will never be forgotten, Thank you for all you have done, all the lives you have touched and for your continued effort in helping families. May God comfort you by his love, and my condolences to your family who will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Tron Gauna - November 12, 2015 at 04:55 PM

MH

“ Thinking of you and the family Mrs Sheridan
may God comfort you!
Love,
Megan Hauch



Megan hauch - November 12, 2015 at 04:02 PM

MB

Sorry for your loss Sharon mike Griffith an Debbie Bogart

Mike Griffith an Debbie Bogart - November 12, 2015 at 06:10 PM

BG

“ What a wonderful time we had at the Alma Celtic festival this
summer! Jim looked great in his kilt and bonnet. I cherish the great
times we had at our family reunions. Sharron, Jimmy and Anita my
heartfelt prayers are with you all. Love and Prayers, Bonnie

Bonnie Guest - November 12, 2015 at 03:58 PM

MP

“ Jim and sharon adopted me into their family
jimmy being like a little brother jim would joke
with me and i with him. I want to tell him one
more time(when hes alone with sharon) jim
you are going to be alone with a married
woman you need a chaperone and jim would
say its ok she trust me



mike posten - November 12, 2015 at 02:33 PM

TM

“ *My thoughts and prayers with Judge Sheridan and his family.*

Todd M. Morgan

Todd M. Morgan - November 12, 2015 at 12:06 PM

FL

Best Judge in the county, may you rest in peace.

Flo - November 12, 2015 at 06:16 PM

MD

*Baby brother you were greatly loved and will be sorely missed. I know Mom and Dad met you at the gate and you are busy catching up with them. I expect you will be busy helping to run heaven in the near future. We will see you again one day.
Much love from Peg and Tony*

Marge Dubuque - November 13, 2015 at 12:30 PM

KA

Uncle Jim, they broke the mold when you were made! Thank you for shining a guiding light for so many of us.

We are in shock (and awe).

Sending love to Sharon, James, Anita & your vast extended family.

Kalah - November 18, 2015 at 01:08 AM