James "Jim" VanDee died Jan. 21 surrounded by his loving wife, Jan and daughters.

James was born Oct. 4, 1937 in Deep River. He worked for the Rock Island Railroad and Iowa Interstate for 33 years. He kept many of his fellow railroaders near and dear to his heart, attending monthly lunches with many of them. Jim worked the 3 to 11 p.m. shift and volunteered for school playground duty so he could spend time with his children.

Jim was a devout catholic and attended St. John and Paul Catholic Church in Altoona. He was a member of the St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus for several years. His faith had an impact on his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, kneeling beside them at night to teach them their first prayers.

Jim's sense of humor, his over use of duct tape and countless generous acts of kindness will be sorely missed. Jim could hold a crying baby and quiet it in no time at all! He loved kids!

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Verla VanDee, brother Marion (Hook) VanDee, son Steven VanDee and grandson...