

James Jochems, 49, Sully

James Jochems, 49, of Sully passed away June 15, 2006. Funeral services were held June 19, at the Peoria Christian Reformed Church. Interment was held at Peoria Cemetery.



Memorials may be designated for the Peoria Christian Grade School or the Pella Christian High School.

James Alan Jochems, the son of Peter Richard and Betty Jeanne Roose Jochems, was born on May 25, 1957, at the Mahaska County Hospital in Oskaloosa. His parents were living near Peoria, Iowa where Jim attended the Peoria Christian Grade School and he graduated from Pella Christian High School in Pella with the Class of 1975. Following his graduation he attended Indian Hills Community College at Ottumwa for two years where he studied farm mechanics. Jim then began working at Vermeer Sales and Service of Iowa in Pella as a mechanic in the shop.

In the fall of 1985, Jim met Barbara Wynne Geerdes at a single young adults Bible study retreat in northwest Iowa. Barb was working at Dordt College in Sioux Center. They had an unusual courtship and pursued a long distance relationship with many miles of travel, telephone calls (no e-mail) and letters. They were united in marriage on Oct. 10, 1987, at the Faith Christian

Reformed Church in Sioux Center. Jim and Barb were blessed with 2 daughters: Rachel and Valerie. He continued working at Vermeer of Iowa where he eventually became the service manager. On May 11, 2006, Jim underwent surgery for an aortic aneurysm and subsequent to that remained hospitalized.

Those who will cherish these memories are his wife, Barb; their daughters, Rachel, who will be a Junior at Pella Christian High School and Valerie, who will be in 6th grade at Peoria Christian School at Pella; his parents: Pete and Betty Jochems of rural Pella; his older brother, Gary John Jochems and his wife, Carol (Kelderman) and their 3 children: Scott, Emily and Erin of Sully; his younger sister, Beverly LuAnn and her husband, Larry Rossow and her daughter, Anne Barker of Newton. Jim leaves his mother-in-law, Claralene (Harold G.) Geerdes of Chula Vista, California; a brother-in-law Harley Geerdes and his wife, Debbie, and their 3 children: Abigail, Elizabeth and David of Sammamish, Washington; a brother-in-law, Kevin Geerdes and his wife, Alison and their 3 children: Caitlin, Tyler and Daniel of Parker, Colorado; and a sister-in-law, Evonne Thomas and her 4 children: Courtney, Megan, David and Rebecca of Chula Vista, California.

Jim was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents; John and Ella Nieuwsma Roose; and his paternal grandparents, Gerrit and Emma Van Wyk Jochems.

OF JUN 21 2006