



James William Smudzinski

February 10, 1940 – August 16, 2025

James William Smudzinski, known lovingly as “Jim” to his family and friends, passed away peacefully on August 16, 2025, in St. Augustine, Florida, at the age of 85.

Born on February 10, 1940, in LaSalle, Illinois, Jim was the son of the late Julius and Sophie Smudzinski. He spent most of his life in Chicago Heights, Illinois, where he built deep roots in both the Deaf community and his Catholic faith. He graduated from the Illinois School for the Deaf, **Class of 1959**, where he proudly played football—a passion that sparked a lifelong love of the sport. He remained an avid NFL fan throughout his life.

After high school, Jim briefly lived in Colorado Springs, where he developed a love for skiing and the mountains. That spirit of adventure stayed with him throughout his life, as did his passion for travel.

Jim worked as a printer for over 30 years at the *Gary Post-Tribune* in Indiana, a career he took pride in. He was actively involved in the Chicago Club for the Deaf (CCD) and was a dedicated member of the Catholic Deaf community in Chicago. A man of faith, he was a longtime parishioner of St. Francis Borgia Church.

In his later years, Jim relocated to St. Augustine, Florida, where he spent the last five years of his life enjoying the sunshine and retirement.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret “Peggy” Smudzinski (née Barrett); his daughter, MaryAnn Antal; and his grandchildren: Joshua Antal, Jason Antal, and Jamie Antal. He is also survived by his sister, Marlene Tidaback, and many dear friends and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Julius and Sophie Smudzinski.

Jim will be remembered for his kind heart, deep faith, sense of humor, love of travel and adventure, and unwavering support for his family and community.