



## James L. Schumburg

August 21, 1933 - September 7, 2025

James L. Schumburg, 92, long time funeral home owner and businessman of Rockford, died Sunday, September 7, 2025 at the Nora Springs Care Center.

James LeRoy Schumburg, 92, of Rockford, IA, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at the Nora Springs Care Center. Arrangements are with Fullerton Funeral Home. Per Jim's wishes, private family services will be held.

Jim was born on August 21, 1933, in Lake City, IA, to Herman August Schumburg and Helen Louise (Stever) Schumburg. He graduated from Lohrville High School and attended Central College, where he proudly lettered in football his freshman year. After serving in Korea, Jim attended Morningside College before graduating from Worsham College of Mortuary Science. On August 3, 1957, he married Helen Jo (Reuber) Schumburg at the Lohrville United Methodist Church. They had two children, Steven and Janet. In 1966, the family moved to Rockford, IA, where Jim and Helen owned and operated Schumburg Furniture and Funeral Home until retiring in 2000.

It takes a special person to become a funeral director. Jim cherished his profession and never took lightly the trust grieving families placed in him during times of deep sorrow and pain. In 1966, funeral homes were often paired with furniture stores, and when the Schumburgs purchased theirs, they accepted the retail challenge with dignity. Although "the store" was never Jim's greatest passion, he loved Christmas Eve most of all—delivering furniture that

day brought joy, surprise, and sometimes tears to families receiving gifts a day early. Those smiles meant everything to him.

Jim had a quirky, sometimes nerdy personality that took time to appreciate, but underneath was a deep commitment to service and community. He poured his time and energy into Iowa, Rockford, Scouts, Lions Club, Masons, Eastern Star, RAGBRAI, and to people in general. He reminded everyone that Iowa's farmland was the best in the nation, championed "buy local" long before it was common, and helped build a scout troop that has produced over 70 Eagle Scouts—an impressive achievement in a small town. He served as District Governor for the Lions Club, on the Barthell Eastern Star Nursing Home Board, and took pride in helping select local Masonic scholarship recipients. He organized early bus and bike clubs for RAGBRAI, donated more than 10 gallons of blood, delivered Meals on Wheels until age 89, and was always willing to give a ride to the airport or doctor.

As a funeral director, Jim often said funerals are for the living. In his own words:

"The love of my life, the woman I would marry ten times over, is dead. My kids grew up with funerals all around them—they don't need another. I'm so old there aren't many friends and family left to come. Therefore, don't have a funeral. Instead, spend the time making the world a better place: help a neighbor, teach a child to prepare for bad weather, or take a bike ride. Remember me with a smile, a piece of useless trivia, and the simple fact that we all have to die sometime."

Those left to cherish his memory include his children, Steve "Felix" Schumburg of Waterloo, IA, and Janet Schumburg of Rockford, IA; his sister-in-law, Grace; and a small, close-knit group of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, his sister Jane Ann Blann, his sister-in-law Dorothy Drucilla Higby, and his brother-in-law Warren Long. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church Window Fund, 21 Third St. NW, Rockford, IA 50468, or to a favorite local charity.

Private Graveside services will be held at a later date at the Evergreen Cemetery, Lohrville, Iowa.

# Cemetery Details

## Evergreen Cemetery

Lohrville, IA

# Events

Details are pending.

# Tribute Wall

RK

“ Janet, so sorry to hear about your dad. Jim was one of the first "non-farmer" people I met when we first moved to Rockford back in 1986. He was welcoming to Rockford, the Methodist Church and The Lions Club. Jim always was a 'gentleman', in his business and in his life. Rest in peace, old friend.

*Rick Kaduce  
Sioux Rapids, IA*

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**Rick Kaduce** - September 15, 2025 at 02:22 PM

LS

“ Janet...I am so sorry to hear about your dad's passing...you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time... take care..Lisa and Steve Swartwood

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**Lisa Swartwood** - September 14, 2025 at 10:46 PM

KS

“ To his family, I am so sorry for your loss. He had a life well lived. May he rest in peace.

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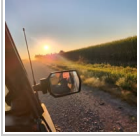
**Karen Christensen Saleh** - September 14, 2025 at 09:26 PM

DF

“ What a great man. He loved to joke with me. Always smiling. My thoughts and prayers for his family.

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**Deanna Kerchner Friederich** - September 13, 2025 at 09:23 AM



“ Sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I will always remember working for him at the furniture store and our conversations. He was full of kindness and his smile was contagious. He always brought my grandma flowers yearly on secretaries day long after the store closed. Our thoughts are with you all.

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**Brandi Jones** - September 12, 2025 at 09:59 PM

MF

“ Jim was not only my Scout Master, but one of my greatest mentors! Through Scouting and his life he emphasized God, Country, Family and Service. He did this by his example, council, and encouragement. He helped us to become young leaders and to seek excellence in our lives. He created many wonderful experiences, which otherwise would not have happened. He always had time to talk and guide me even after scouting as I changed my career. Always encouraging me, that I was capable and worthy of returning to college. Those memories I will always treasure and I would not be where I am today without Jim. Our sincere condolences go out to Janet, Steve and the family. Thank you for sharing your father! What a wonderful, patient, man!

*Martin and Lori Foxen (Eagle Scout 1982)*

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**Martin Foxen** - September 11, 2025 at 07:24 PM

JF

“ Jim was my scoutmaster and sometimes employer for furniture deliveries. He had a big impact, as a role model, during my teenage years. I have many fond memories of those times. My sincere condolences to the family. Jake Foxen

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**Jacob Foxen** - September 09, 2025 at 05:53 PM

JA

“ Jim served as my Boy Scout leader for many years. I have fond memories of camping with Jim in Mable Rock and Galena as well as a trip to the boundary waters canoe area. We also put many miles on bicycles together and completed a couple of Ragbrai rides across the state of Iowa. He was a wonderful mentor with unlimited patience. You don't come across many like him in a lifetime.

*Jon Allison*

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**Jon Allison** - September 09, 2025 at 03:02 PM

MG

“ I am Mary Beth Leonard Gute and a long time friend and classmate of 13 years to Jim. Please accept my deepest sympathy to his family as you celebrate his life!!

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**Mickey Leonard Gute** - September 09, 2025 at 01:20 PM