



James C. "Big Jim" Fillback

October 20, 1936 - August 17, 2025

Cobb – James “Jim” Chab Fillback, age 88, of Cobb, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, August 17, 2025.

Jim was born October 20, 1936, in Richland Center, WI, to George and Romelle (Chab) Fillback. He was educated at St. Anthony’s Catholic School and Highland High School, later graduating from Platteville University in 1958. Jim also attended Creighton University Medical School in Omaha, NE.

After his studies, Jim worked alongside his father in the family implement business, farming operations, and at Fillback Ford. Following his father’s passing in 1971, Jim took over the family businesses with dedication and pride.

While in high school, Jim joined the National Army Reserves with the 44th General Division. He served faithfully for more than 20 years, retiring as a captain. He was also a proud member of the Highland Veterans Association.

On July 31, 1965, Jim married the love of his life, Judy (Hjort) of Lake Geneva, WI. Together they raised two children, Mark and Ann, and were longtime members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dodgeville. Jim was active in his community and faith, serving as County Chairman of the Republican Party, belonging to SWWSA (a snowmobile club), Ss. Anthony

and Philip Catholic Church, the Shelby American Automobile Club, North Woods Shelby Club and as a charter member of the Dodgeville Jaycees. He was also part of the Highland Historical Society and the Iowa County Cancer Coalition and was honored as a 50+ year member of the Highland Knights of Columbus.

Jim was known for his generosity throughout his life and was always there in any way he could be. If you asked him to bring something, you could be sure he'd arrive with far more than you needed. He loved sharing Diet Coke, cookies and donuts with the staff at the dealerships, a small gesture that showed his big heart. Family and friends will continue to cherish his "Big Jim" sayings and the countless stories that reflected his quiet humor and warmth.

Some of Jim's happiest times were spent at NASCAR races with Mark, where they not only cheered on their favorites but also built lasting friendships. At home, he and Judy loved watching the races together, sharing the excitement and joy side by side.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years, Judy; his children Mark (Tracy) Fillback and Ann (Mike) Fillback Watt; and his cherished grandchildren Ellie Fillback, Luke Fillback, and Isaac Watt. He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Sarah Christine; his parents, George and Romelle; his in-laws, Ollie and Esther Hjort; and many dear friends and relatives.

Jim had a profound love for his family and especially treasured his time with his grandchildren. Though he later faced the challenges of Frontal Temporal Dementia, his deep love for family and friends remained unchanged.

The family wishes to thank the staff at CrestRidge Memory Care and Agrace Hospice for the compassionate care they provided Jim. To honor his memory, memorials may be made to CrestRidge Senior Living, Agrace Hospice or a

charity of your choice.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at Ss. ANTHONY & PHILIP CATHOLIC CHURCH in Highland. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. on Saturday at Ss. ANTHONY & PHILIP CATHOLIC CHURCH in Highland. Burial will be held in Highland Cemetery with Military Graveside rites accorded by the Highland American Legion.

Following the church luncheon, the family invites everyone to a Celebration of Jim's Life at the Red Zone in Highland, starting at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials be made to CrestRidge Senior Living or Agrace Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Highland Cemetery

Main Street
Highland, WI 53543

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 23. 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

Ss. Anthony & Philip Catholic Church
726 Main Street
Highland, WI 53543

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 23. 11:30 AM (CT)

Ss. Anthony & Philip Catholic Church
726 Main Street
Highland, WI 53543

Celebration of Life

AUG 23. 2:00 PM (CT)

Red Zone
360 Main Street
Highland, WI 53543

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Mark and family, so sorry to learn of your father’s passing. You have our sincere condolences. Jim Sendecke and Karen Arkebauer.

Jim Sendecke - August 25, 2025 at 08:33 PM

BC

“ "Big Jim" was a very caring person that had his love of fast cars. Wishing Judy, Mark, Tracy as well other family members our thoughts and prayers.

Bruce Berndt / Berndt CPA - August 19, 2025 at 12:02 PM



Jim — thanks for being a friend and mentor. You will be missed— RIP



Dan Gentz - August 19, 2025 at 06:30 PM