



James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq.

October 3, 2025

James L. Heidecker, Jr.

James L. Heidecker, Jr., Esq., 78, of Lower Macungie Twp., passed away on October 3, 2025 at Lehigh Valley Hospital. He was the husband of Maureen (Reilly) Heidecker. Jim was a treasured husband, father and grandfather, as well as an Army veteran, long-time Lehigh Valley attorney, and a dedicated member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Born in Bethlehem, Jim was the son of the late James L. Heidecker, Sr. and the late Anne E. (Zoltanich) Heidecker. He attended Liberty High School, where he excelled at a number of sports, before going on to play football and basketball at Muhlenberg College. Jim then attended Duquesne Law School, where he had to pause his education after being drafted in the army during the Vietnam War. After serving his time, Jim graduated from law school and began a long and storied law practice in the Lehigh Valley. Jim served thousands of clients over the years, earning NFG verdicts for six decades, and solidifying his status as a legal giant in the Valley. Jim ended his career practicing at Karoly Law Firm, working with colleagues that became family and mentoring the next generation of local lawyers. He always had a story, joke, and plenty of advice for everyone who stopped by his office.

Jim's love of all sports was unparalleled. He cherished watching his children

and grandchildren compete in all types of events, and he never stopped following local sports teams. He also loved all things Pittsburgh – especially the Steelers. It didn't need to be a game day to find him dressed in black and yellow. He loved Saturday morning workouts with close friends at Iron Run Fitness, and Sunday mornings with the Breakfast Club at the Knights. Jim also enjoyed traveling and he had an uncanny ability to find the best food wherever he went.

Jim made friends in every room he entered. He treasured his family and never missed a milestone, always ready to celebrate the ones he loved. He was a father figure not only to his own children, but also to their friends and many others along the way. He was passionate about social issues and quick to offer his two cents on the news of the day. Jim was beloved by family and friends for his quick wit, sharp intellect, and kind heart.

Jim is survived by his wife, Maureen; three daughters, Reilly Heidecker and her partner David, Regina Barczynski, wife of Tony, and Laura Posch, wife of Michael; and son James Heidecker, husband of Jaime. Jim leaves behind five grandchildren: Allison, Lauren, Andrew, Anthony, and Sarah; and two great-grandchildren: Luca and Jackson. Jim is also survived by his sister, Jane Barthold, wife of Ralph, and brother Charles "Buzzy" Heidecker, husband of Sharon.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 11 A.M. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown. Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. at the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, 1601 Hamilton Street, Allentown, and on Thursday, October 9th, from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. at the Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be sent to the Cardiovascular program at Penn Medicine (<https://www.pennmedicine.org/givi>)

ng/fund-for-penn-medicine/where-to-give). Credit card donations can be made at [Where To Give At Penn Medicine | Penn Medicine \(https://www.pennmedicine.org/giving/fund-for-penn-medicine/where-to-give\)](https://www.pennmedicine.org/giving/fund-for-penn-medicine/where-to-give). For checks, please make payable to “Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania,” noting “in memory of James Heidecker” and mail to Penn Medicine Development, Attn: Jessie McCulley, 3535 Market St., Ste. 750, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Calling Hours

OCT 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Thomas More Church
1040 Flexer Ave
Allentown, PA 18103-5597
(610) 433-7413

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Thomas More Church
1040 Flexer Ave
Allentown, PA 18103-5597
(610) 433-7413

Military Honors Service

OCT **9**. 12:15 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *My condolences to the family. I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.* ”



SS - October 09, 2025 at 09:08 AM

CL

“ *Love me some Big Jim Heidecker. As colleague and mentor I learned a lot from him professional and personally. By my account, he lived a very full life with lots of great memories. While I've listened to him tell many stories over the years I'm sure there are hundreds more I never got to hear. My heart goes out to Jim's wonderful family whom he loved so much. Jim, we will all miss you.* ”

Charles Laputka - October 08, 2025 at 11:51 AM

AS

“ *He was the best he will be missed by many* ”

Audrey Sam - October 08, 2025 at 09:49 AM

JL

“ *So sorry to hear of this loss. Jimmy and your family, my thoughts and prayers to you. Big Jim was the absolute best! He will be greatly missed.* ”

Jennifer Long - October 07, 2025 at 11:16 PM

JH

“ So sorry for everyone who knew 'Big Jim". He will be missed; but his legacy lives on through his beautiful family . Our friendship dates back many years but the last year had special meaning. We had a lot of time on the phone to commiserate about our crappy 'illness' and what cures were out there. Dave will try to find comfort knowing he will see you again in Heaven but he will be wearing Blue & White. Rest in Peace good buddy. forever friends, Jane and Dave Halteman



Jane L and David Halteman - October 07, 2025 at 08:35 PM

GM

Without a doubt, the best man I have ever known.
Glenn McGogney

Glenn McGogney - October 08, 2025 at 09:08 AM

LM

Says it all

linda Miller - October 08, 2025 at 02:49 PM

PF

I am crushed for jim's family . He was indeed a truly great guy,he helped me alot and I will be forever grateful. My condolences to Maureen & his family. He will be deeply missed.

Patricia Farkas - October 30, 2025 at 02:56 AM

JL

“ Jane L. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..



Jane L. - October 07, 2025 at 07:53 PM

PK

“ We are so very sorry to learn of the loss of your father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, family member, colleague, Big Jim Heidecker, as we all knew him for so so many years. He will be missed. His humor, generosity, friendly nature and wit, not to mention his sports acumen, will be remembered fondly. May those who knew and loved Big Jim find comfort in your fond memories.

Sincerely Paulette Keifer and Sheila Lamkin

paulette keifer - October 07, 2025 at 07:20 PM

GW

“ I'm very sorry for your loss.

George Whary - October 07, 2025 at 04:30 PM

KE

“ Jimmy had such a profound impact on me and everyone who knew him. He had a one of a kind personality and a unique ability to make every person around him feel like family. He always treated me and all of Reilly's friends as if we were his own kids. I will miss hearing his random singing and whistling around the house. He holds such a special place in my heart and I feel so grateful and honored that I was able to call him family.



Kelsie - October 07, 2025 at 03:53 PM

DA

“ Farewell Your Eminence
David



David - October 07, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..



October 07, 2025 at 10:55 AM



“ A [Memorial
Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..

October 07, 2025 at 10:55 AM

MK

“ Big Jim’s love for Reilly, Pittsburgh, and football goes unmatched. He welcomed everyone in with open arms and him and Maureen hosted the best tailgates. When I think of my favorite college experiences, I think of Jim and Maureen’s tailgates. Reilly and I would play card games, stuff our faces with Jimmy John’s, and drink Bold Rock ciders ... and Big Jim would always ask if we wanted more to eat/drink. He is the most generous and loving man you’ll ever meet... who loved hosting his daughter’s friends and family. I’ll think of him every time Pitt plays a football game.



Madison Kelly - October 07, 2025 at 10:47 AM

KJ

“ KAROLY LAW FIRM, JP Josh Jayann Joanne purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..



KAROLY LAW FIRM, JP Josh Jayann Joanne - October 07, 2025 at 10:45 AM

KJ

“ KAROLY LAW FIRM, JP Josh Jayann Joanne planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..

KAROLY LAW FIRM, JP Josh Jayann Joanne - October 07, 2025 at 10:45 AM

MK

“ You’ll never meet a man as selfless as Big Jim! He had the biggest heart and a burning passion to help people. He is the dictionary definition of kindness, compassion, and warmth. I wanted to put this picture of Jim here because it makes me laugh every time I look at it he always brought the best hot dogs to Pittsburgh whenever he visited. So much love to Reilly and Maureen, I love you both so much. -Madison



Madison Kelly - October 07, 2025 at 10:39 AM

EM

“ I have never met someone more passionate about his family, Pittsburgh, and helping others. There wasn’t a time where I left an interaction with him where I hadn’t been laughing or had learned something new. I am so thankful for the time I was lucky enough to spend with him, Reilly, and Maureen over the past few years 🧡 ❤️



emma - October 06, 2025 at 08:23 PM

LA

“ Love, Pitt Law Women’s Assoc. purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..



Love, Pitt Law Women’s Assoc. - October 06, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..



October 06, 2025 at 07:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..

October 06, 2025 at 07:21 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..



October 06, 2025 at 07:21 PM

SH

“ *SHK purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James L. Heidecker Jr., Esq..*



SHK - October 06, 2025 at 11:42 AM