



James Gavin

April 15, 1941 - January 19, 2026

James “Jimmy” Gavin, age 84, of Cairo, New York, passed away on January 19, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime of love, laughter, and kindness.

Jimmy was born on April 15, 1941, in Galway, Ireland, a place he always carried in his heart. After coming to the United States, he lived in Astoria, then the Bronx, before settling in Leeds, New York, and later making his home in Cairo, where he was known, loved, and warmly welcomed by many.

A hardworking plumber by trade, Jimmy was a man who truly enjoyed life. He loved playing cards with his friends, visiting the casino, and could never pass up a good garage sale—whether hosting one or attending one. He also enjoyed reading old World War books and watching classic cowboy movies. A huge jokester, Jimmy loved to make people laugh and was almost always smiling. Above all else, he loved helping people in

any way he possibly could. His generous heart, upbeat spirit, and sense of humor brought joy to everyone around him.

Jimmy is survived by Eithne, his beloved companion of 34 years, along with his children James, Elizabeth, Denis, and Kevin (Doris), and was predeceased by his son Michael. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, along with his stepchildren Pamela, Patrick (Roseann), and Fiona (Glenn). His son Kevin's children are Dr. Jack Gavin, Briana, and Sean. Jimmy was a devoted grandfather to Tristyn (Nicky), Devin (Stephanie), Hayley, Tierney (Brendan), Reilly, Patrick, and Charlotte, and a proud great-grandfather to Sadie, Colt, and Brody. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of Jimmy's life will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.—Friday the 13th, chosen in his honor as a true gambling man who never shied away from taking a chance. Family and friends are invited to gather to share stories, laughter, and memories of a life well lived.

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

In true Jimmy fashion, he'd tell us not to be sad—just shuffle the cards, place your bets,
share a laugh, and keep smiling.

To leave condolences for the family please visit the tribute wall above.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Richard's Funeral Home in Cairo.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 13. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Richards Funeral Home
29 Bross Street
Cairo, NY 12413

Tribute Wall

HE

“ Thinking of Auntie Eithne today as Jimmys memorial service takes place.
Rest in Peace Jimmy.
In our thoughts today & always.

Liam, Heather, Sadie, Seanie & Rosie x



Heather - February 13 at 11:26 AM

DF

“ Denis Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Gavin.



Denis Family - February 12 at 08:49 AM

DF

“ Denis Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Gavin.

Denis Family - February 12 at 08:49 AM

LO

“ Te amaré siempre lives en nuestros corazones
Dios bendiga tu memoria mi querido Jimmy
La familia Olaya desde Corona Queens New
York Luis Wendy y Dieguito



luis Olaya - February 12 at 08:40 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Gavin.*



February 11 at 03:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Gavin.

February 11 at 03:48 PM



“ *With love. Nadia purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Gavin.*



With love. Nadia - February 11 at 10:23 AM



“ *With love. Nadia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Gavin.*

With love. Nadia - February 11 at 10:23 AM



“ *Caroline O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Gavin.*

Caroline O. - February 10 at 07:54 PM

CC

“ Carmel C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Gavin.

Carmel C. - February 04 at 06:22 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of James Gavin.



February 04 at 12:30 PM

TF

“ The Spataro Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Gavin.

The Spataro Family - February 04 at 12:30 PM

BL

“ To Eithne .
My deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of Jimmy .
Also to the extended Gavin Family my thoughts are with ye .
Jimmy was a wonderful person and we will always have great memories of him.
It was great to have him seen him over the last number of years when himself and Eithne came home to visit.
Eithne, I am thinking of you during this sad and lonely time .
God bless.
Breda laheen . BANOGUES .

Breda laheen - February 01 at 06:29 AM

OL

“ To Eithne and Family and all the extended Gavin Family, it was with sadness I learned of Jimmy’s passing and I want to offer you all my deepest sympathies. Since I was a child along with my siblings I can recall the sense of excitement and fun during the summer months when Jimmy and the “Gavin’s” came home to Ashfield on holidays. There was always a great buzz during this time. Three years ago Jimmy was home and I had the pleasure of spending some time with him, as we drove around in my jeep for hrs, re tracing his youth and memories of the local area, old ruins of houses and fields where there were once houses when he was a boy. The precise memories he had was astounding and how he recalled events, work, tragedies and various other stories from those times over sixty years ago. We stood at one gate deep in a field at an old ruin and in the silence as we leaned on the gate, I glanced at him and I could see he was re living those memories, and it was magical and sad simultaneously to witness. His fondness for Ireland and Ashfield never weaned one bit. I’m glad for this time with him and all the stories he shared. May Jimmy Rest Easy. Oliver Laheen and Family.

Oliver Laheen - January 30 at 02:58 PM

LM

“ Linda Mannion lit a candle in memory of James Gavin



Linda Mannion - January 29 at 05:09 PM

LM

“ To Eithne, Gavin Family and Extended Family on the passing of Jimmy. We send our Sympathy to you all. Dad has told us about Jimmy that he and a group of his Friends used to play here at The Mill. And the devilment they used to get up to. He went to School with Paddy dads brother he knew Sonny also another brother. We used to hear so many times that Jimmy was home on Holidays. It must had been two or maybe three years ago Jimmy called here to visit. He was going back early the next morning. From The Mannion Family. The Mill. Gerry, Nancy, Linda, James And Liam.

Linda Mannion - January 29 at 05:07 PM

TL

“ Tracey L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Gavin.

Tracey L. - January 27 at 06:28 PM

TL

“ Jimmy with his homestead behind him wrapped in trees . He always held a special place in his heart for Ashfield. .❤️



Tracey laheen - January 27 at 10:27 AM

TL

“ Remembering jimmy . 💔 . As I write this the greatest link and possibly the last of the great memories of Banogues and Ashfield and the Gavin household belonged to Mick and Kathleen has left us . Jimmy was my dad's best friend growing up , the late paddy joe laheen of Banogues.. dad passed away in 1975 . Jimmy was in America at the time , but he returned home at times with his parents in the late 70's and early 80's. It was the greatest times of our youth when the Gavins came home during the summer months. From Rodger the dog to the apple and goose berry trees it was summers like no other and yet only 100 yards from our home.

Jimmy came back Into our lives in the early 2000's and ever since we have kept in touch

Over the last no of years when Jimmy and Eithne would could home to Ireland to visit, Banogues and Ashfield were always on his Radar. We had great times, from walking the bog where his family cut turf to taking drives around to talk about growing up and the mischief himself and dad got up to as kids.

His favourite place of all was the double ditch behind his house and only few years ago myself and Jimmy revisited it again, . We sat and he told me amazing stories.

To Eithne, the love of his life, thank you for been such a beautiful person, you were everything to Jimmy. I know that.

I cant even Imagine what you are going through. Im heartbroken for you but I will always stay in touch. Im glad to have met a wonderful person in you .

Jimmy will forever be in my heart . Any time I walk the double ditch or look at the photos I will smile. Jimmy I hope you met Laheen at the pearly gates . Rest easy . 💔 . Love and miss you. Tracey.

Tracey laheen - January 27 at 09:26 AM

CM

“ Dear Eithne and all the Gillen Clan who loved Jimmy so much.. my heartfelt sympathies to you all. He was so proud of each and everyone of you and spoke with such love when talking about you. Eithne Im so sorry you have lost your best friend. I want to also extend my sympathies to all the Gavin's on their sad loss. I've known Jimmy since I was a young child. He was a dear friend of our late father and always referred to him as Laheen. Jimmy would come to Ireland some Summers with his mother Kathleen and Father Mick and boy did we have fun then as children being spoiled rotten. I was delighted that he met my kids in Galway and then we had a fantastic visit in the Catskills. Thank you Jimmy for all the wonderful memories, for always caring about us and for introducing us to the wonderful Eithne and her family whom we now call friends. Rest peacefully Jimmy x

Caroline Mannion - January 27 at 08:50 AM

DS

“ My friend, my extended family, my weekly poker buddy, and at times co-worker for over 35 years. Jimmy was a person I could always count on if I had a problem day or night he would be there and you could always be sure there would be plenty of stories from Ireland and here always entertaining and very funny. Jimmy will be missed but he will live on in my heart forever. Those we love don't go away they walk beside us everyday. Until we meet again Brother, Prayers, love and hugs, Doug

Douglas Swenson - January 21 at 09:38 AM

DG

Survived also by his son Denis (Barbara)

Their seven children

Denis Jr

Brian

James

Kelly

Amber

Michael

Daniel

Also Great Grandchildren

Allura

Leo

Cashton

Thomas

Abigail

James Jr

Gavin

Lily

Denis Gavin - January 23 at 05:00 PM

KW

Jimmy, I heard of your passing and my heart breaks for your family.

The years you were our neighbor on Willowbrook , the smiles and laughter. The way you and Eithne looked out for myself and the boys. Your kindness, your hugs and love, will never be forgotten and always cherished.

The world has lost an angel on earth but gained another in heaven.

Sending love,

Love Kara, the boys and family

Kara wager - January 24 at 09:04 AM

KG

*Hi Dad, working with someone every day builds a strong bond (especially when in Hunts Point in the mid 80's as a 16-17 year old and his tough dad). You taught me about hard work and how to be a man- that's a Dads job and you did it well. You were always the coolest guy I knew, you had a presence like the "Duke" even now when I see John Wayne I think of you (your cooler). Making you proud was always something I looked for and you made it clear you were - that's another Dad job and you did it well. I miss them days and as I grew into manhood I realized how great it was to spend all that time pulling wrenches, hanging pipe and working with My Dad- May you rest in peace Pop,
Love You ~ Kevin*

Kevin Gavin - January 24 at 03:05 PM

ST

It has been one of the greatest highlights of my life to have met and known Jimmy Gavin, may God rest his kind and gentle soul.

Above all, Jimmy was a man amongst men and he stood head and shoulders above most men I have ever come across in the field of honour and integrity and it has always been one of my greatest pleasures to have known and befriended a straight Ace such as Jimmy Gavin.

Jimmy never turned his back on his own kind and I have no complaints.

Jimmy, I will miss you something terrible and you will always be in my thoughts and in my prayers.

What a wonderful character Jimmy has always been and one thing is for sure, any day that I spent with Jimmy Gavin, the day wasn't very long drifting by and there was never a dull moment.

I do believe it's the hardest thing that I will get to say again, "Goodbye Old Pal."

Seán Taniane - January 25 at 01:05 PM