



Passing of Jim Ferguson

December 23, 2025

James Lawrence Ferguson, 88, of San Tan Valley, Arizona passed away on December 23, 2025 in Mesa, Arizona. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri on June 1, 1937 and was Arizona resident for 21 years.

James is survived by his wife of 64 years, Agatha, his daughters, Janelle Plichta and Stephanie Giel, his son, Rodney Ferguson, as well as seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents, Jay and Betty Ferguson and his sister, Sharon Leathers.

Jim had a 37 year career with the JCPenney Company beginning on January 1, 1963 in Kansas City, Missouri where he worked for James Cash Penney's nephew and where he met J.C. Penney himself. Jim was promoted to Wichita, Kansas and soon after to Denver, Colorado where he was responsible for the district marketing program. Jim's major change came when he was promoted to Anchorage, Alaska and then to Fairbanks, Alaska. During Jim's seven years in Alaska he experienced the opening of the Alaska oil pipeline which increased sales at JCPenney exponentially during the "big boom!" While in Alaska, Jim's stores were part of three different company regions! Jim's career advanced when he was transferred to warmer Tucson, Arizona and then Tempe, Arizona where he once again managed the district marketing program. Jim managed his first store in San Mateo, California (near San Francisco) and then Santa Cruz, California where he opened a new store. And yes, Jim and Agatha were in California when the "big" earthquake of 1989 took place! Jim was promoted to manage a large store in Irving, Texas (Dallas area) and then to Denton, Texas where Jim retired on July 1, 1997.

Jim and Agatha relocated to Colorado Springs, Colorado after retirement until 2004 when they returned to Arizona to settle in San Tan Valley southeast of Phoenix to be close to their children.

Jim and Agatha enjoyed being with their family and travelling. They had memorable trips around Colorado, Alaska, Hawaii (seven times) and enjoyed cruising multiple times.

Jim joined the JCPenney National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club in 1998 as a member of the Valley of the Sun (Arizona) Regional Meeting Group. Jim received his 50 year pin for combined JCPenney and H.C.S.C. service in 2013.

Jim loved his wife, Agatha, and his children and extended family and was a dedicated and proud associate of the JCPenney Company over 14 relocations during his 37 year career. He was also a proud member of the JCPenney National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club for over 22 years.

A graveside service will be held on January 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, 2929 East Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, Arizona. The family asks if anyone would like to pay tribute to James, they may do so with a gift to the Arizona Humane Society.

[*https://www.azhumane.org/memorial-tribute-gifts*](https://www.azhumane.org/memorial-tribute-gifts)