



James "Jim" D. Cochran

November 9, 1934 - August 15, 2025

James "Jim" Cochran, affectionately known as "Bugs," passed away on August 15, 2025, at the age of 90. A pillar of Marshall County, Jim dedicated over seven decades to journalism, community service, and chronicling the life of the Ohio Valley, leaving a lasting legacy in the region he loved.

Born in 1934 to Ezra and Alberta Cochran in Moundsville, West Virginia, Jim was the youngest of three siblings. He attended Moundsville Senior High School (class of 1952) while also working part-time at The Echo newspaper. This early experience launched a remarkable career, leading to his inclusion on the John Marshall Wall of Fame. In the early 1950s, he joined The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register as a copy boy under Editor Harry Hamm, who hired him after a phone interview. Jim quickly transitioned to reporting, covering hard news, local events, and sports. His versatility led to his presidency of the West Virginia Sportswriters Association, though he never saw himself solely as a sportswriter.

Stationed at the Journal Office in Moundsville, Jim became a trusted voice, covering events across Marshall County, and goings-on at the Moundsville City Council, Marshall County Commission, Marshall County Board of Education, and other local institutions. His weekly column, The Marshall Memo, published in the Wheeling News-Register, was a community staple, offering insights into local events and history. Even after retiring from full-time reporting in 2016 at age 81, Jim continued writing The Marshall Memo, with his final column published posthumously in the Wheeling News-Register on

August 16, 2025.

Jim's reporting captured the heart of Marshall County. His coverage of the former West Virginia Penitentiary included its community role, like public baseball games, and dramatic events, such as the prisoners' tunnel escape under the greenhouse, which he and photographer Scott McCloskey documented first. The 2009 Marshall County Fairbook was dedicated to Jim for his tireless promotion of the event. He also appeared as a minor extra in the 1971 film *Fools' Parade*, filmed in Moundsville, and vividly recalled dining with Jimmy Stewart during production.

Beyond journalism, Jim served 32 years in the West Virginia National Guard, was a 50-year member of the Moundsville Lions Club – holding the longest tenure as secretary – and contributed to the local planning commission and historical endeavors. He was honored as Grand Marshal for the 2022 Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. An avid baseball fan, particularly devoted to the Pittsburgh Pirates, Jim traveled with his wife, Linda, to every Major League Baseball stadium through Uniglobe Travel, sharing these adventures in his columns. He was present at Forbes Field on October 13, 1960, when Bill Mazeroski hit his iconic World Series home run, a moment especially cherished by the lifelong Pirates fan.

He is survived by his daughter, Melinda, and son-in-law, Kenneth, and granddaughter, Lillian of Hurricane, WV, step-grandchildren Kaitlin and Jonathan, and his older brother, E. Howard Cochran. He is also survived by nieces Jane Cooper and Sue Thomas, nephew Gary Huddlestun, and their families. He was predeceased by his beloved wife and his cherished sister, Melba Huddlestun.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 400 Jefferson Ave., Moundsville. Funeral services will take place on Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the funeral home, officiated by Wesley Howsare, with interment to follow at Northview Cemetery, New Martinsville, West Virginia. Donations may be made in Jim's honor to the Moundsville Lions Club or the Marshall County Animal Rescue League, PO Box 13, Glen

Dale, WV 26038. His final Marshall Memo column, published in the Wheeling News-Register on August 16, 2025, stands as a testament to his lifelong dedication to Marshall County.

Jim Cochran's legacy of service, connection, and storytelling will forever resonate in the Ohio Valley. He will be deeply missed but always remembered.

Cemetery Details

Northview Cemetery

219 N. State Rt. 2
New Martinsville, WV 26155

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home
400 Jefferson Ave.
Moundsville, WV 26041

Visitation

AUG 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home
400 Jefferson Ave.
Moundsville, WV 26041

Funeral Service

AUG 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home
400 Jefferson Ave.
Moundsville, WV 26041

Tribute Wall

DG

“ I can remember Bugs as far back as 1958 when I was 10 years old and delivered the Intelligencer in Glen Dale. I would have to go to the Journal office on Court Avenue to turn in my collection money every week and he would usually be there. Then, during my four years at MHS, from 1962 to 1966, I remember seeing Bugs at every sporting event and major gathering in Moundsville. He, along with Sam and Alexandria, kept the Marshall county community connected for many years. RIP Bugs, you did a great job.

David Mullen - Atlanta, Georgia - August 20, 2025 at 12:53 PM

JM

“ Melinda I was so sorry to hear about your Dad. I worked with your Mom at Mound View for many years. I was acquainted with your Dad but your Mom was my dear friend. Prayers and love to your family. Julie McCartney

Julie McCartney - August 19, 2025 at 11:54 PM

JH

“ PLEASURE TO KNOW YOU FOR 65 YEARS-----JACK HOWE

JACK HOWE - August 17, 2025 at 05:55 PM

JK

“ Sorry to hear about Bugs. One of Marshall Counties' iconic figures who for generations was known by just one name. I'll long remember and be thankful for his coverage of local sports including Men's Fast and Slow Pitch softball and youth baseball during the days of The Journal. In later years, it was always interesting to follow his coverage of his of his friend Sonny Allen, the most accomplished sports figure who ever came out of Marshall County (Sorry, George Brett you left at 2 years old). Before the internet, Bugs and the late Sam Shaw were two people which every small community needed. Thanks for the memories. My thoughts are with all who knew him.

Jay Knapp - August 17, 2025 at 12:30 PM

JF

“ John Kerns Family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of James "Jim" D. Cochran.



John Kerns Family - August 16, 2025 at 07:42 PM