



## James Robert "JR" Purpura

May 2, 1965 - April 12, 2025

James Robert "JR" Purpura, 59, of Wheeling, WV, passed away on April 12, 2025, at WVU Wheeling Hospital. Born May 2, 1965, in Wheeling, he was the son of the late Steven "Steve" and Marguerite "Marge" Purpura.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Steve and infant brother Donald Purpura.

JR is survived by his wife, Marsha Miller-Purpura; son, Joseph "Joey" Purpura and wife Chelsey; sister, Mary Louis Maxwell and husband Gary "Max"; sisters-in-law, Lori Purpura; Mary Ann Workman, Peggy Jo Schrack; and many nieces and nephews.

A U.S. Army Reserve veteran, JR worked as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist in local hospitals and later as an Environmental Resources Specialist for the Department of Environmental Protection.

Known for his quick wit, love of practical jokes, and generous spirit, JR enjoyed home improvement projects, cooking, and helping others. He was known as a family man, devoted father and friend.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate JR's life on Tuesday, April 15, at Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 1 Ridgecrest Rd., Bethlehem, WV, from 2–

4 PM and 6–8 PM. A funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, April 16, at 10 AM at St. Joseph Cathedral, 1300 Eoff St., Wheeling

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Calvary Cemetery

Wheeling, WV

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory- Wheeling/Bethlehem  
1 Ridgecrest Road  
Bethlehem/Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 232-0400  
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

APR 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory- Wheeling/Bethlehem  
1 Ridgecrest Road  
Bethlehem/Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 232-0400  
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Liturgy with Mass

APR **16**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph's Cathedral  
1300 Eoff Street  
Wheeling, WV

# Tribute Wall

PP

“ Marsha, Joey and family, we were sorry to hear of JR's passing. We had so much fun during our Scouting days with Troop 78. I remember him frying up French fries at the Scout picnic. He reached out to me when Larry died a few years ago. Which was very kind. We will keep him in our prayers as well as you.

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**Paula Phillips** - April 18, 2025 at 12:21 AM

DB

“ Diane Burgess purchased the "God Has You" 21" Sonnet Chime for the family of James Robert "JR" Purpura.



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**Diane Burgess** - April 15, 2025 at 08:47 AM

DB

“ Diane Burgess planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert "JR" Purpura.

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**Diane Burgess** - April 15, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of James Robert Purpura, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten...*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Army Reserve Veteran, James Robert Purpura, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - April 15, 2025 at 02:31 AM



“ *Remembering JR from grade school days ..  
you have my deepest condolences.*



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**Andrea Obrien-Graham** - April 14, 2025 at 09:52 PM

YQ

“ Your friends from WVDEP Air Quality purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Robert "JR" Purpura.



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**Your friends from WVDEP Air Quality** - April 14, 2025 at 11:15 AM

TR

“ The Kilvers: Fred, Carol and Robbie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Robert "JR" Purpura.



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**The Kilvers: Fred, Carol and Robbie** - April 13, 2025 at 03:08 PM

CH

“ Chantal purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James Robert "JR" Purpura.



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**Chantal** - April 13, 2025 at 02:51 PM

TS

“ Mary and family, I am so sorry for your loss, I know what it feels like to lose a loving brother. My heart breaks for all of you, sincerely,  
Terri McCausland Stead.

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**Terri Stead** - April 13, 2025 at 01:40 PM

TM

“JR To the Rescue”  
My daughter Maria called my wife and I  
Distressed on being locked out of her house.  
It was on a weekend, and Nobody was open.  
Except JR that is!! He came right away to my daughter’s house with  
his tools at hand and saved the day!!  
Didn’t charge us anything, and told us to  
Pass it on.... A Memory our family will never forget.  
Thanks J.R. May you rest in Peace my friend.  
Condolences to Marsha and family.

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**Todd Miller** - April 13, 2025 at 01:03 PM

JB

“ Jim and Beth purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet  
for the family of James Robert "JR" Purpura.



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**Jim and Beth** - April 13, 2025 at 12:48 PM

JB

“ Jim and Beth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert "JR"  
Purpura.

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**Jim and Beth** - April 13, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ Vicki Frye Keiffer lit a candle in memory of James Robert "JR" Purpura



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**Vicki Frye Keiffer** - April 13, 2025 at 09:43 AM

FK

*Your family continues to be lifted up in prayer. We are sorry that we cannot be there in person, but we are there in spirit. Love, Fred and Carol Kilver*

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**Fred & Caroll Kilver** - April 15, 2025 at 11:39 AM