



## James "Jim" Hemmerle

April 16, 2026

James (Jim) Simpson Hemmerle, of Plum, PA, passed away at home surrounded by his family on April 16, 2026, at the age of 64. He was born on July 22, 1961, to Elmer and Betty Hemmerle. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a PH.D in mechanical engineering and worked as a software engineer for over 35 years. He married Margaret West in 1988, and together they shared 37 beautiful years. Jim enjoyed reading, cooking, hiking, and spending time with his wife and family. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his children, Michael (Catherine) Hemmerle, Sarah (Mark) Weifenbaugh, and Stephen (Rosio) Hemmerle; his grandchildren, Nathan, Sophia and one on the way; his siblings, Judy Roitz, John (Ann) Hemmerle, Janet (Pete) Radka, and Jeff (Janele) Hemmerle, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial visitation will take place on April 22, 2026, from 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. OF MONROEVILLE, 4335 Northern Pike (412-372-2100). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Family Parish - St. John the Baptist Church, 444 Holy Family Way, Plum, on April 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Everyone, please meet at church. Inurnment will follow at Good Shepherd Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Hillman Cancer Center, or the charity of your choice.



# Cemetery Details

## Good Shepherd Cemetery

733 Patton St.  
Monroeville, PA 15146

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

APR **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Memorial Visitation

APR **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gene H. Corl Funeral Chapel Inc.  
4335 Northern Pike  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
(412) 372-2100  
ghcorl@comcast.net  
<https://corlfuneralchapel.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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APR **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Family Parish - St. John the Baptist Church  
444 Holy Family Way  
Plum, PA 15239

# Tribute Wall

GL

“ Jim was one of the most important people in my career and in my life. I worked alongside him for twenty years and he made me better as both an engineer and a person.

Some of my favorite memories are our lunches at the 100 Business Center Drive pavilion. Every day a group of us would head out there and just talk. When Jim spoke, it mattered.

He mentored so many of us without ever making it feel like mentoring. He just quietly showed you the right way to do things, every single time. No shortcuts. No cutting corners. That was just how Jim operated, and it rubbed off on all of us. Gentle, brilliant, steady, and good.

I feel lucky to have known him.

Margie, thank you for sharing him with all of us. Your grandchildren are going to know what a great man he was.

With love, George

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**George Lucas** - April 24 at 04:34 PM

MF

“ Jim was a quiet and thoughtful person with a big heart. I am sure his family and friends will miss him.

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**Martha Freeman** - April 23 at 01:27 AM

DW

“ I have so many fond childhood (and beyond) memories of Jim. Growing up we cousins got together every summer for a couple of weeks of great family fun. My earliest memory was when he fell while we were filling our above ground pool (we kids were all running around in the pool) and he broke his leg - and the pool. He couldn't have been more than 3 that year. Lots of great fun followed over the years, swimming, baseball, snorkeling, camping, hiking the woods of the Adirondacks, shooting BB guns, hunting frogs, sailing, waterballooning our sisters. A wonderful time with a great kid. Then as we got older it became clear how brilliant he truly was. His straight A record at Carnegie Mellon was a family legend. He spent a summer at IBM working with my dad's group and they constantly told my dad how impressed they were by him. Our adult lives took us to opposite sides of the country so we didn't see each other much but when we did meet the old camaraderie was still there and it was obvious what a splendid fellow he had grown up to be. Sadly, he has been taken from us all far too soon. He will be missed. - His cousin David Simpson Walsh

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David Walsh - April 22 at 11:20 PM

KG

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*After PHT, Jim and I both joined Levent Gurzos' startup business Halosoft Inc. We were with Levent for a year and a half until Halosoft relocated to California. Jim and I stayed in Pittsburgh and shortly thereafter joined another good friend and CMU alumnus, Henry Thorne at his robotics startup company Aethon Inc.*

*At Aethon Jim and I continued to work closely, especially for the first ten years. Some interesting things were created but as Aethon grew and the business expanded, our work became more compartmentalized. Jim by virtue of his extraordinary abilities contributed significantly to virtually all parts of the software systems.*

*Jim was quiet and unassuming by nature but also very sociable. Any event, gathering or social event organized at work he gladly joined. Sharing lunch with co-workers was a fixed routine. Often a sizable group gathered at the lunch table and engaged in discussion.*

*Jim shared little of himself and his personal situation except for one topic. Jim was very proud of his and Margie's three children. Unasked, he would tell us how they were doing and what they were doing. We were eager to get news of them, and we were happy for Jim that his children were successful and leading interesting lives.*

*Jim was held in highest esteem by his co-workers for his great intelligence and unfailing logical thinking. Jim had what Bill Gates calls bandwidth. Jim immediately grasped and understood the full scope of a situation, what the interacting parts were and their dependencies.*

*Jim sought out and enjoyed taking on difficult problems others struggled with. In a fog of possible faults and errors, Jim, getting a description of the issue, quickly whittled possible culprits down to only those few compatible with the symptoms of the problem. Once analyzed, problems were quickly solved.*

*Jim left a lasting mark on Aethon. Many of his contributions remain essential parts of the Aethon software system. The example he set lives on with the people who collaborated with him. His work, name and imprint are everywhere.*

*Jim is gone, but he is still with us.*

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**Kris Gunnarsson** - April 22 at 02:52 PM

KG

“ Jim and I met at Carnegie Mellon University in the mid-1980's. I was part of a group of graduate students in robotics and Jim joined the group as a promising undergraduate. We formed a small, tight knit group. Those of us who remained in the Pittsburgh area after graduation stayed in touch. I, Jim, Henry Throne and Levent Gurzos met about once a year for dinner, often at The Elbowroom on Ellsworth Avenue.

*Jim, along with prof. Fritz Prinz and Mike Terk founded a company, PHT Inc., in the mid-nineties to commercialize their research at CMU. Looking for new employment around that time, I joined Jim in his new company. At PHT Jim and I worked on robotics task planning and simulation software products for customers, most notably Electric Boat, Connecticut and Daihen Corp. of Japan.*

*Jim and I worked together on the same projects, dividing up the work. We got along well. The offices of PHT Inc. were a drama-free zone. There were no fights or arguments. Suggestions were freely discussed pro and con. Consensus and agreement were reached quickly. I believe we complemented each other, and I had complete faith in Jim's judgment.*

*With only two full-time employees, life at PHT was simple and routine. We greeted each other in the morning then went to our separate offices. There were no distractions and minimal idle talk. Focus was on the work, but it wasn't all dour seriousness. Jim and I shared many a hearty laugh as he could let loose with a wickedly good sense of humor.*

*At noon we emerged from our offices to have lunch, sitting at a large conference table. We talked about the Steelers, Penguins and Pirates, and current events. On a large whiteboard we mapped out*

*our work ahead and interfaces between tasks, then returned to our offices.*

*Soon as one completed his task, it was handed over to the other for integration into the work product. Software was exchanged back and forth, tested, re-tested, and tested again as the deliverable was gradually built. The end result was a complete and error-free product.*

*The work Jim and I did at PHT was both interesting and enjoyable. It was satisfying to see our customers appreciate the work and see it in use. But the economics of the business were not there.*

*cont'd*

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**Kris Gunnarsson** - April 22 at 02:47 PM

DW

“ *Jim as a family man was very kind and helpful to his mother in law, treated my children kind and respectfully as their uncle and was a terrific spouse to my sister Margie. He will be sorely missed but leaves us with many great memories as we raised our children.*

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**David West** - April 22 at 01:40 PM

AZ

“ Jim was as precise in his character as he was in his engineering. He didn't just help lead the development of great technology; he built a standard of excellence. While his technical contributions at Aethon were significant, it was his role as a mentor and a true gentleman that left the deepest mark. He led with quiet strength, integrity, and treated every colleague with unwavering respect. My brother Mario, who worked through many early technical challenges with Jim, called him the most brilliant engineer he ever worked with... and I couldn't agree more. My prayers go out to his family... he will be missed. Aldo Zini

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Aldo Zini - April 18 at 07:11 PM

HT

“ I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was both a very very good man, and one of the very best robotics engineers I ever worked with. I knew him from his early days in college where he rolled through Carnegie-Mellon with straight A's, which was unprecedented at the time, and then had the luck to hire him twice! Both times into companies I'd newly started, first Probotics and then Aethon where he spent most of his career. We had an unusually high powered team at Aethon back then with half Phd's two of which were Rhodes Scholars but Jim quickly picked up the very dense code that drove the Tug robots around the hospitals and became indispensable. I'm so sorry we've lost him, and my condolences to the family.

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Henry Thorne - April 18 at 01:57 PM

DS

“ *Hemmerle Family*

*I am so sorry to hear the passing of Jim. He will be missed. My thoughts & prayers are with you all at this difficult time. Deb Steinert*



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**deb steinert** - April 17 at 04:39 PM