

SHERMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Wall of Fame

JAMES VAN VOLKENBURG

Inducted 2014



Jim was born July 21, 1947, the only child of the late Frank and Catherine (Voigt) Van Volkenburg. Jim has resided in Sherman his entire life.

Jim graduated from Sherman Central School in 1965. During his high school years, he participated in various sports, earning 16 letters. After graduation, Jim continued his education at Jamestown Business College majoring in accounting and graduated in 1967.

In September 1967, Jim was drafted into the U.S. Army. As a U.S. Second Division 8th Army Specialist 4th Class, he served 14 months in South Korea in the DMZ as Communications-Radio Teletype Specialist and was honorably discharged in June 1969.

After his discharge from the U.S. Army, Jim returned to Sherman and was employed at the Chautauqua County Department of Public Facilities for 33 years until his retirement in September 2002. During this tenure as a Road Construction Supervisor, Jim had the opportunity to work closely with local municipalities such as the Town and Village of Sherman.

In 1970, Jim married Rose Vanderkooi. They have one daughter, Amy Norton (1971), and a son, Andrew Van Volkenburg (1980), and four grandchildren. Jim and Rose purchased their home at 157 Miller Street in 1972 where they continue to reside. Jim became a member of the Sherman Community Church in 1960 and has remained active in serving his church.

In November 1985, Jim was elected as a justice for the Town of Sherman where he continues to serve in this capacity. Town Justice is more than being elected every four years, it requires a real commitment to the office and the community. The New York State Unified Court System requires annual college attendance to earn compulsory educational credits and to pass state examinations. Jim is a member of both the Chautauqua County Magistrates and the New York State Magistrates Associations.

The Sherman Community helped prepare Jim for his many achievements and serving as our devoted Town Justice is his way of giving back to his community.