



## James A. Atkinson, Jr.

April 14, 1940 - December 1, 2020

James “Roach” Atkinson, Jr., 80, of Bethlehem, slid into home, on Monday, December 1, 2020. He was born in Luzerne County, PA; son of the late James A. and Anna Atkinson. Jim is survived by his devoted wife of 60 years, MaryAnn (Barboza) Atkinson; the two were a great team.

Jim will be remembered for his kindness and generosity as well as his love for sports. He could often be found at a youth sporting event as a coach, mentor, and fan. In his prime, Jim was a fantastic 3rd baseman, eventually traveling the country playing fast pitch softball for the Ski Bros. and Rising Sun teams. Jim loved his time coaching for Bankos Legion Baseball and Liberty High School Softball. He equally enjoyed his time working in the Bethlehem Catholic Athletic Department. Sports not only gave Jim a great sense of purpose but it also provided him with a tremendous opportunity to make great friends.

Ackey, as he was affectionately known to some, was a member of the Wanderers A.A., Heights A.A. and the Jeffs.

Jim retired as a pipe insulator and was a member of the Insulators Local 23.

He was a wonderful family man and he will be dearly missed by his wife, MaryAnn; daughter, Michele Atkinson (Michael “Poncho” Donchez); son, Michael C. Atkinson; grandchildren, Mark Atkinson (Shannon), Michael Donchez, and Darrienne Atkinson, and great grandchildren, Quintin, Maya, and Aubrey Atkinson. He was preceded in death by his brother, Ralph.

The family will receive guests on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Connell Funeral Home, 245 E. Broad St. Bethlehem, PA 18018. Services and burial following the visitation will be private. Due to current restrictions the number of guests permitted in the building at one time will be limited. Guests must wear a mask and practice social distancing upon entry.

# Events

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<b>DEC</b>	<b>Visitation</b>	09:00AM - 12:00PM
<b>5</b>	<hr/>	
	Connell Funeral Home, Inc.	
	245 East Broad St., Bethlehem, PA, US, 18018	

# Comments

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“ I always enjoyed the times I would bump into Jim & Maryann. My heart was full of sadness when I heard of Jim's passing. Jim's memory is a loving treasure to hold in our hearts forever. My deepest sympathy to the Atkinson family.



**Bonnie Barron** - December 09, 2020 at 06:49 PM

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“ The Atkinson Family,  
God Bless your Family and stay strong.  
Love you all and take care.  
Hilda Dougherty

**Hilda Dougherty** - December 05, 2020 at 07:37 PM

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“ Mrs Atkinson, Michelle, Mike and Family,  
Our sincerest condolences. Mr Ackey was an incredible fan of all sports! May he  
Rest In Peace.

**Marie Capuano Kresge** - December 05, 2020 at 03:27 PM

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“ Dear Maryann and Family, The Pitsilos family send our deepest sympathy to the passing of Jim. He was beloved by all who came in contact with him. Sincerely,  
George and Andy Pitsilos

**George Pitsilos** - December 05, 2020 at 11:56 AM

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“ Dear Atkinson family,  
I'm extremely sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Ack was the best neighbor while I was growing up. He always had a great way of sharing life lessons in a sports story. He made an impact on my life in a positive way and I'm glad that I had the honor of being your neighbor. He was still helping coach Liberty softball with my daughter.

**Josh Compos** - December 05, 2020 at 08:47 AM

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“ Mary Ann and family,  
Sorry sorry to hear about the loss of your beloved husband, father.and grandfather.Jim always greeted you with a friendly hello. He loved to watch the kids play baseball. He was a great sports fan and was always there to support the team. He will be greatly missed.  
Connie and Mario D'Angelo

**Connie and Mario D'Angelo** - December 04, 2020 at 10:28 PM

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“ What a guy! He loved the kids in Beca athletics and they loved him back. He was a treasure to them and the school. I appreciated all he did for my kids when they went through. Peace to Mary Ann, Mike, Michelle and your entire extended family. I loved catching up with your husband and Dad at sporting events... and just by chance I was at the post office yesterday and the guy in front of me played softball with him.. he told me Achey was a heck of a third baseman. All the best to you, Frank Scattene

**Frank Scattene** - December 04, 2020 at 09:45 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James A. Atkinson, Jr..



December 04, 2020 at 09:06 AM

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“ My prayers go out to Mike,Michelle, and the rest of the family. May the memories keep you all strong. Dianne Miller

Dianne Miller - December 04, 2020 at 06:50 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James A. Atkinson, Jr..



December 04, 2020 at 12:42 AM

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“ Dear Atkinson Family,  
I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Atkinson's passing. My thoughts are with you during this time. Having him around the baseball field, cheering us on, and offering words of advice and coaching is a cherished memory. Thanks Coach Ackey. Rest In Peace.  
-Mike Kephart

Michael Kephart - December 03, 2020 at 09:32 PM

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“ Dear Atkinson Family,

We are so sorry to hear of Mr. Atkinson's passing. What a fun loving person who delightfully enjoyed volunteering during lunch at St. Anne School with his beloved MaryAnn! Loved talking NCAA basketball with him and he knew to always say something about the Kentucky Wildcats . He also loved talking proudly about his dear children and grandchildren. May our precious Lord comfort you during this sad time. With our deepest sympathy, love, and prayers, Emilie and Peter Heesen



Peter Heesen - December 03, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ RIP coach!  
Ross Rich

**ross rich** - December 03, 2020 at 02:40 PM

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“ To Mary Ann and Family,

Our deepest sympathy. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ann and Joe Zubia

**Gina Bennett** - December 03, 2020 at 02:07 PM

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“ Lorie Olexson lit a candle in memory of James A. Atkinson, Jr.



**Lorie Olexson** - December 03, 2020 at 12:38 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James A. Atkinson, Jr..



December 03, 2020 at 08:27 AM

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“ To the Atkinson family from the Hengstenberger's... Huntsy and I send our deepest sympathies to Jimmy's family . MaryAnn, was always great to see you two and catch up . Our love and prayers to all. Susie

**susie hengstenberger** - December 03, 2020 at 07:54 AM

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“ Dear MaryAnn, Michele, Mark and Family,  
I was deeply saddened to hear about Jim's passing yesterday. I first met him as a teenager playing fast pitch softball and found him to be not only a very fine player, but one of the grittiest most determined players I've ever come across. He earned my respect for that. Running into him occasionally over the years was always a treat, because he not only represented a fond part of my life on softball fields, he was always nice to me and conversational. I am very sorry for your loss and the sadness you undoubtedly are feeling, and I wish each of you deep peace. My deepest sympathy to you.  
Dana

**Dana Grubb** - December 03, 2020 at 07:36 AM

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“ Our deepest condolences on your loss. Mr Ack was a true gentleman and such an awesome family man. So many memories of him attending our ball games throughout the years no matter where we were playing. He will be missed by all who knew him. God Bless and RIP Ackey.

**Ed Langer/Chrissy Schaffer** - December 03, 2020 at 07:24 AM

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“ My sincere condolences go out to MaryAnn, Michele, Mike, Mark, Michael, and his entire family. Ackey was always looking out for everyone, he loved his sports teams and the kids he came in contact with, he always had great advice for me during my years at Beca. He surely will be missed . May you find strength in the next days and weeks as you say farewell. May you find joy in the memories of good times shared . Peace be with all of you.

**Karen Redding** - December 03, 2020 at 06:54 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to the entire Atkinson family. Ackey was a sweet gentlemen, always smiling and laughing. May the beautiful memories you share forever live on in your hearts. May he rest easy in peace and love.

**Kirra Rice** - December 03, 2020 at 12:21 AM

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“ My deepest sympathies to the whole family ...many great memories. One heck of a great guy. May he rest in peace. Carl Duser

**Carl Duser** - December 02, 2020 at 06:32 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James A. Atkinson, Jr..



December 02, 2020 at 05:22 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James A. Atkinson, Jr..



December 02, 2020 at 05:12 PM