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James Wickstrom, infamous white supremacist and Nazi sympathizer, dies at 75

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LINWOOD, MI -- Once one of the nation's most prominent hatemongers, noted Bay County white supremacist and Nazi ally James Paul Wickstrom has died at the age of 75.

Most recently, Wickstrom lived in an apartment in Linwood, according to property records. Staff at Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home confirmed they handled arrangements for Wickstrom. Saginaw County Clerk Michael Hanley confirmed that a death certificate was making its way to his office.

The Southern Poverty Law Center on Monday, March 26, [published a piece](#) announcing Wickstrom's death, citing sources within the white supremacist movement. An hour-long [YouTube video](#) published on March 25 entitled "Dr. James P. Wickstrom's eulogy" features a narrator stating Wickstrom "was taken by Yahweh God and died yesterday at 5 p.m."

Wickstrom, the subject of an award-winning 2003 Bay City Times series titled "The Racist Next Door," was a prominent figure in the anti-government Posse Comitatus and anti-Semitic Christian Identity movements. He led a branch of the latter, Yahweh's Truth in

Linwood, preaching that Jews are the descendants of the biblical Eve and the Devil.

"Wickstrom was one of the biggest promoters of hate and violence against Jews and blacks Bay County has ever seen," said Sandra Rogers, executive director of the Temple Beth Israel in Bay City. "It was really bad. He wanted Jews and blacks killed. He would actually say that.

"It was unbelievable he lived so close," she continued. "He was one of the worst in the United States."

Wickstrom was born in Munising in the Upper Peninsula. He was recruited into the Posse Comitatus movement in 1975, at which time he worked as a salesman for Snap-On Tools. By the early 1980s, he was spreading the movement's doctrine across the Midwest and the Great Plains, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"An effective and bombastic speaker, Wickstrom raged against Jews, the U.S. government, banks, the Trilateral Commission and other nefarious forces that he believed were bent on destroying the livelihood of farmers," the SPLC reported. "Although many rejected Wickstrom's hateful ideology, thousands of frustrated farmers, their friends and family members accepted the idea their financial problems were caused by greater powers beyond their control."

In February 1984, Wickstrom appeared on "[The Phil Donahue Show](#)," spouting Posse Comitatus rhetoric and defending then-fugitive Gordon Kahl, who murdered two U.S. marshals in 1983.

Wickstrom served two prison stints. In 1984, he was sentenced to 13.5 years on two convictions of impersonating a public official. In 1990, he was convicted of counterfeiting currency and illegally

possessing firearms and received a 38-month sentence.

In the early 2000s, Wickstrom routinely held hate group meetings in Marquiss Quality Furniture store in Hampton Township. The building was destroyed by an arson fire in 2004.

Later that year, Wickstrom took a national leadership role with an Aryan Nations group based in Pennsylvania.



Law enforcement personnel from the Hampton Township Police Department and the Michigan State Police gather in front of Marquiss Quality Furniture, where James Wickstrom preached white supremacy at the store.

Rogers said that despite Wickstrom's death, his legacy of hate lives on.

"Even though one piece of evil has died, there are 20 more to take his place," she said.