



James Thomas Abston

September 21, 1939 - September 28, 2019

James Thomas Abston, Age 80, of Ada-Valley, AR died on Saturday, September 28, 2019. After 80 years, life, sweet tea, and cigarettes finally kicked his rear.

Visitation will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2019 at Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. A graveside service will be held at 10 am, Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at the Ada-Valley Cemetery with Jason Kendrick and Berry Marshall presiding, burial to follow.

J.T. made his last inappropriate comment on September 28, 2019. If you are wondering if you had ever met him, you didn't—because you WOULD remember. For those of you that did meet him, we apologize, as we're sure he probably offended you. He was renowned for not holding back and always telling it as he saw it.

J.T. was born to James Columbus and Dezzie Hammonds Abston on September 21, 1939. He was the 2nd of six kids and was the self-appointed leader of his younger siblings. J.T. spent his childhood and teen years ordering them around and, in general, tormenting them. He used his siblings as a buffer to avoid trouble. A great example is when he forced George (Turkey), Eula, Peggy, and Betty to drink some of his homemade moonshine that he had concocted as a young teen and by encouraging them to partake, they couldn't tell on him. His older sister, Alfretta (Polly) had already moved out or she would have been in on the shenanigans as well. He always had something to say, wisdom to share, and he would get in the last word, every

time.

J.T.'s leadership was reshaped when he joined the U.S. Navy at the young age of 17. This provided for world travels that resulted in bravery, acts of heroism and many interesting stories, but also a few detentions for holding onto his country boy leadership qualities.

J.T. dedicated 34 years of his life to the Papermill (Green Bay Packaging) as a Boiler Operator and master liar. He worked with many friends and "a bunch of idiots" – his words not ours. Well, not exactly his words, because that would have included a bunch of swear words.

He leaves behind a heck of a lot of stuff that his family doesn't know what to do with. So, if you're looking for something relating to sawmills or machinery or things unknown, just ask his family. No need to wait the "customary amount of time," tomorrow will be just fine.

In addition to his stuff, J.T. Abston leaves behind two brilliant children who he was extremely proud of, James "Pug" (Tonia) Abston and Connie (Tim) Cates, both of Ada-Valley. He will be missed by his grandkids that he adored and taught to tell inappropriate jokes: Josh Cates of Perryville, Lindsey Cates (Matt) Hall, Evan Cates, and Katie Abston, all of Ada-Valley. He also had three great-grand girls, Kamdyn, Kentley, and Kollyns that he doted over and fed too much candy hidden in the pocket of his overalls.

To his siblings amazement, he was actually able to snag a good woman and hold on to her. He spotted Betty Lacy Abston as she was crossing the road in Plainview, AR in 1963 and they were married a short time later. She was knock dead gorgeous and he was smitten. She was caught up in his crystal-blue eyes and smooth talking. The rest of their love story is history.

J.T. will be having a reunion with his mother and father and many aunts, uncles, and cousins that passed before him. Again, being the leader, he beat all his siblings to the punch and left them here on earth, but he will probably be standing at the doors of Heaven waiting to tell them some big stories when they arrive.

J.T. never found a rule he couldn't break, a boundary he couldn't push, a line

he couldn't cross, a story he couldn't stretch, or a person that he couldn't embarrass. He was an expert at anything he attempted, especially at machinery, and he had an ear for music. His quick wit, smart mouth, and big smile carried on in his children, grandchildren, and great-grand girls. Despite his crusty exterior, foul-mouth and stubbornness, he was truly a loving, giving, and caring person. That is evident in the deep sorrow and pain felt in our hearts from his passing. J.T. led a good life full of adventure and had a peaceful death while surrounded by those he loved. He was such a great storyteller, but more so than that, he WAS the story, and man, was he a heck of a story.

Cemetery Details

Ada Valley Cemetery

475 Blue Point Rd.
Adona, AR 72001

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton
1325 Oak St
Morrilton, AR 72110
(501) 354-4575

Graveside Service

OCT 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ada Valley Cemetery
475 Blue Point Rd.
Adona, AR 72001

Tribute Wall



“ *James Thomas Abston*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *James was a sweet talker and sure knew how to make a person feel welcomed into the family! In a short time it was obvious he LOVED his family and all they held dear. I always looked forward to seeing him because I knew smiles were forthcoming. A GREAT MAN!*

kay hall - September 30, 2019 at 07:13 PM



“ *First Sunday in June, Homecoming in Ada Valley certainly won't be the same! My sincere thanks to Mr. J.T.'s work and leadership in making sure the cemetery was taken care of for many years. He will be missed! Prayers for his family in the days, weeks, and years to come.*

Mary Patterson - September 30, 2019 at 02:36 PM



So true Mary that homecoming will be different. He was a very interesting man and seemed to strive to ensure cemetery was taken care of. I remember as a young lad he would put his sister under a hot wash tub and put a rock on it! RIP.

John Emmons - September 30, 2019 at 03:52 PM



Georgie
Miller

“ Growing up In Ada Valley was a unique experience, and J.T. certainly did his part to be sure it stayed that way, as he was the most unique person in the valley and I said if you ever met him you will remember him. I will truly miss him and going home to the valley will never be the same. My sincere condolences to the family and his many friends of which I know I was one.

Georgie Miller - September 30, 2019 at 08:46 AM



“ Oh Uncle T, you took a very bright light with you when you left. You were always my Uncle T, no matter what, you always understood what no one else did and you never failed to make me blush no matter what either. Your leaving has left a void that can not be filled for you were truly one of a kind, absolutely original and priceless.

Julie Ward - September 30, 2019 at 07:23 AM

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“ Memories of J.T. will remain treasured in my heart until I get the great privilege of getting a great big hug from him in Heaven. From the first time I entered his home I was loved and cared for like family. And, like the rest of his friends, family, rivals and anybody who was smart enough to listen, I too was the benefactor of much wisdom that was at times inappropriate by some standards. His stories, advice and life lessons have stayed with me always. J.T. paid close attention to life and people. He knew what was what about everything and nobody could get anything over on him. He was as honest about everything as a person could be. He raised a great family to be proud of and I am honored to have known him. I treasure that last big hug I got when I last visited and we sat at the table while he smoked and joked and talked about his moonshine and told stories of growing up a country boy. He used to tell me I needed to find a good country boy to settle down with (not in those exact words!). Well J.T., unless there's another out there just like you, I don't see that happening! The mold was broken! J.T. will be sorely missed and very fondly remembered. I raise my Mason jar to one of a kind. Many Condolences and much love to Connie, Tim, Josh, Lindsay, Evan, the KKK (the girls), Pug and family. Much love to Betty who is like a mama to me. My heart goes to all of you.

Lisa Fox - September 29, 2019 at 04:31 PM