



James McDowell

September 6, 1939 - September 2, 2011

James Willie McDowell, 71, of Oppelo, Arkansas, died suddenly in his home Friday, September 2, 2011. He was born in Dardanelle, Arkansas, on September 6, 1939, to Sam and Laura Miller McDowell. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering, he began his career working at the Arkansas State Health Department in Little Rock where he remained for 37 years.

James was a wonderful Christian man who loved the outdoors, food, and traveling. He was a member of the Downtown Church of Christ in Morrilton. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte Biggs Ganus McDowell, son Jimmy (Beth) McDowell of Tequesta, Florida, and daughter Janet Earls of Sheridan; stepchildren: Kelly (Damien) Rorick, Laura (Jacob) Perkins, and Matthew Ganus; grandchildren, Brooke, Brittany, Brye, Brenna, Beau, Catherine, Thomas, Caroline, and Eva; stepmother, Betty Grinder of Russellville; and sisters, Sammie Kay McDowell (Wes Tolar) of Russellville and Lucinda (Danny) Tereza of Dardanelle. He will also be forever remembered by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

James was preceded in death by his late wife of 49 years, Velda (Spivey) and stepbrother, Mike Denton.

A celebration of his life will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 9, at the Downtown Church of Christ in Morrilton with Mr. John McCourt and Rob Gerst officiating. Burial will follow at the Havana Cemetery in Havana, Arkansas, by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

The family will receive friends 6:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, September 8, at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to Southern Christian Home in Morrilton.

Tribute Wall



“ *James McDowell*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *I have known James many years. We have worshiped together, he and Velda many years and migrated from South highland Church, Geyer Springs Church and then Pleasant Valley. I have missed seeing James since he moved to Morrilton. James will be missed. When I think of James, I also think of the Hitchcock s and the Travelers baseball evenings. I know these two families were very close. May God bless and comfort.*

Curtis Eubanks - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM



“ *Great memories of James - Most of them are from the foyer at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ where he headed up the ushers and greeters for so many years. He knew my in-laws , Brooks and Linda Nichols, well and would always ask about them. He was usually upbeat and positive. Had a good last visit with him in Velda's room at Baptist Hospital. He will be missed by all who knew him. Russ & Gay Passafiume*

Russ Passafiume - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

BE

“ To our other 2 kids, Jimmy and Jan: The wonderful memories we cherish are of the best times of our lives. We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of James. You could not have asked for a better dad and friend. Everyone who knew him, loved and respected him, and his laid-back fisherman manner. Our memories will last forever. With Love, Dot and Billy English

Billy and Dot English - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

JB

“ Your family is in our prayers. We knew James and Velda for many years through Pleasant Valley. He was always appreciative of others and enjoyed laughing with friends. We're sorry he and Jan only had a few years together but Jan was sent at just the right time for James.

jerry & christina burchfield - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

CB

“ Charlotte,
Just wanted you to know I am thinking about you. We haven't shared conversation or laughter since our teaching days @ Ganus in New Orleans but I fondly remember your friendship. May God bless you with wonderful memories to fill your heart.

carla boatright - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

JH

“ Jimmy, you have our sincere sympathy in the loss of your dad. We continue to pray for you and the family.
We love you,
Jerry & Shirley

Jerry & Shirley Hopkins - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

CC

“ CHARLOTTE, I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. YOU ARE IN MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AND WISH FOR YOU LOVING THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES AND STRENGTH IN THE FUTURE.
CAROLYN CODY

Carolyn Cody - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

TH

“ We are so very sorry James has passed away so suddenly. He was always so sweet to us, letting us come swim at his house, very giving and happy. we will miss him. we love you all very much. please know we are praying for you and we are here if you need anything.
love the hippensteels

terri hippensteel - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

KL

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. McDowell he was such a wonderful man and such a joy to be around. My fondest memory of him is when he just married Charlotte and I had the privelidge to do his banking for him and his new bride and how funny the both of them were together. Again my condolences to the family my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kelly Gunderman Lentz - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

JM

“ MY THOUGHTS AND MY PRAYERS ARE WITH JIMMY AND JANET AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF JIM'S FAMILY AT THIS TIME. I HAVE WARM THOUGHTS OF JIM, VELDA AND THE KIDS FROM LONG AGO.

JOHN K. KAGY, M.D. - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

NG

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time.*

Nettie Garrett - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

DB

“ *Charlotte -- My prayers are with you in your time of grief. I am reminded of the times that we have so often shared and discussed the troubles of life, and I know that God is strengthening you in this time. I remember sharing lines from hymns with you from time to time, and I believe this one will help you today, "Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!*

Power, all power, surely is Thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine." The healing touch of the Savior is with you right now.

Dr. Bruce Bryant - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

AM

“ *Jan and Jimmy,*

I was saddened to read of the sudden loss of your dad. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Anne Maxey

Anne Maxey - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM

CB

“ Charlotte, The first time I met James was when he was at the nursing home with his wife, Velda, then things happened. When i read of you too getting married, I thought it was so neat that both of you, after having lost a spouse, found each other and seemed to be so happy. God's blessing you and James is enjoying that place we're looking forward to, but never in any hurry to get there. Make God bless you and all of your family and extended family.

Charles and Dianna Bane

Charles Bane - June 30, 2018 at 01:29 AM



“ Charlotte, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

September 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Jimmy and Jan, my deepest sympathy in your loss. I only saw your Dad every few years, but I have literally known him my whole life. When you were little my sister Jane and I babysat for you, and when I was 11, I made a cake and let a piece of egg shell get in the batter, and your Mom and Dad always teased me for it. I remember them coming for Razorback games while they were in college. Ten years this December when Daddy had his heart bypass surgery, your Mom and Dad came to the hospital to visit. They are two people who are woven into the fabric of my life. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Judy

Judy Snow Parks - March 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM