



James (Jim) Graham

January 22, 1936 - September 9, 2011

One of God's farmers went to his heavenly harvest at the beginning of an earthly harvest season - his favorite time of the year. James Rufus (Jim) Graham, Sr., 75, of Newport died peacefully at his home on Friday, September 9. He was predeceased by his wife, Yvonne Ladd Graham, in 2005, and a son, John Howard Graham, in 1994. He was a son of the late William A. and Myrtle Seals Graham.

The Grahams were former residents of Loudon, TN, and moved to Newport, TN as their farm was taken by TVA for the Tellico Dam lakeway in 1970. A graduate of Loudon High School, Jim received an A.S. Degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee. He returned to manage the home dairy farm, in 1958 when his father was stricken with cancer. His unequalled and demanding work ethic built two successful farming operations in his lifetime - a dairy farm that grew into a large row-crop operation.

A career farmer and agriculturist, he believed in being a community contributor. Mr. Graham was a leader in many agricultural organizations. He was president of the Cocke Farmers Co-op Board, served on the State Board of Directors for Tennessee Farmers Cooperative from 1985-1991, and was State Chair in 1990-91. He served as Chair of the Cocke Co. NRCS Board, president of Cocke Co. Farm Bureau, and for several terms on the TN FB Grain Commodity Committee.

Farming in partnership and in agribusiness with his son, Jay, Mr. Graham received several awards. He was named Tennessee/Lancaster Southeastern Farmer of the Year in 1980 by the Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie Georgia. The Graham Farm has won awards in National Corn Growing Contests. The family was also part-owners of Tri-State Tractor and Turf in Greeneville, TN.

A lifelong Republican, he was an elected Road Commissioner, followed by several terms as Chair of the Cocke Co. Legislative Body. He was a candidate for State Representative. He was an active member of a group that became known as the 'Tellico Resisters' which challenged questionable eminent domain projects in the 60's and 70's.

He was a deacon of the Loudon Cumberland Presbyterian Church, followed by active membership at First United Methodist Church of Newport, especially in his Sunday School Class and on the Administrative Board.

'Devoted' father and grandfather was an understatement. In between planting and plowing, "Daddy Jim" always made time to pick up kids at school, or take them to dance practice. An avid sports enthusiast, his 'favorite' ball park was wherever any of the kids and grandkids was playing at any given moment. His greatest achievement in life was to watch any of his family excel at any endeavor they undertook.

His legacy is his family's continued involvement in farming, agribusiness, or education. His life's work has been about 'sowing seeds' - seeds to feed hundreds of thousands of Americans their bread, meat, and milk; seeds to pursue success in any life's work; and seeds to leave the world better than you found it.

He is survived by daughters, Julia Graham Walker, Elizabeth Graham Parker,

a daughter and son-in-law Nancy and Dr. Bolling Brawley, a son and daughter-in-law, James R. (Jay) and Courtney Graham; seven grandchildren and indicated spouses, Justin Parker & Jessica Fuqua, Travis & Emily Parker Denton, Lucas & Jaymie Graham, Austin Graham, Savannah Brawley, Blair Brawley, and Caroline Brawley; one great-granddaughter, Hayden Graham; sister Peggy Graham Bates of Knoxville, her children Rosemary, Bill and Rachel and families; trusted farm employees, Bill & Brenda Ford, and a nationwide network of extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends at First United Methodist Church, Newport, Tennessee on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The funeral service will begin at 5:00 pm, church pastoral staff presiding; the family will continue receiving friends following the funeral service. Committal service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 12, at Union Cemetery in Newport. Pall bearers will be grandsons and close friends, Bill Ford and Mark Hill.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Cocke County Education Foundation / Graham Scholarship Fund, c/o Tommy Bible, Treasurer, 122 Hwy 25E, Newport, TN 37821; or to the First United Methodist Church - Maintenance Fund; 517 2nd Street; Newport, Tennessee; 37821.

Manes Funeral Home, Newport, in charge.

Tribute Wall



“ *James (Jim) Graham*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Sincere condolences to all of the Graham family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

abby balch - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincere sympathy to the family of Jim. Cocke County is and has been blessed to have had Jim & Yvonne & family as one of ours. I was priviledged to have worked with Jim when he served on the CLB-honesty, humbleness, dedication are only a few of the wo*

Dot Barnes - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Graham family With sympathy to you all . You are in many heartfelt thoughts at this difficult time . Sincerely Betty McMillan*

Betty McMillan - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *James (Jim) Graham*

Kaye Bryant Balch - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Nancy & Elizabeth, We were so sorry to hear of Jim's death. I always enjoyed working with Jim while I worked with FSA in Newport and we valued our friendship with Jim and your family as members of First Methodist Church. You and your family are in our pr

Leon & Martha Jane Broyles - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ James (Jim) Graham

Doug, Elizabeth & Jace Ailor - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ To the Graham Family: We are so sorry for your loss. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Ronnie and Pam Lowe - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Nancy and family, My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time. I know your Dad will be missed and is much loved by many people. I'm your ole 6th grade teacher from Grammar...Malinda Southerland. Malinda Johnson

Malinda (Ottinger) Johnson - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Sorry about your loss.

Bobby Black - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Our Prayers and thoughts are with you at this time. Will sure miss Jim next door at Lunch.. We all looked fwd to his company.

Jeff Kyker - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RY

“ Norm and I feel so lucky to have known Jim. It was only for the last 2 years, but, we thought the world of him and will miss him very much. We will never be able to drive by a farm and watch the crops growing without thinking about the man who loved the I

Rebecca and Norm Young - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ I last saw Jim at the Tellico Dam Resisters Reunion held in Vonore a couple of years ago. He was sharing that experience with one of his daughters. Having grown up with the Graham family in the Loudon Cumberland Presbyterian Church, we witnessed Jim having

Sarah Simpson Bivens - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ I cherish the memories I have of Mr. and Mrs. Graham. They were always so kind to me. Deepest Sympathy to all.

Tammy Binkley - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ So deeply sad for your family. Jim was a great man and loved by all he met.

Ben Hicks, Susan Hicks Ball - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ Jim will be missed by so many people. He was one of our most favorite people maybe next to Yvonne. The last thing he said to me was that he had been worried about us and was so glad to see us back in Sunday School. Then I got a big hug. I won't forget tha

Fletcher and Penny Ervin - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Jay and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your father. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Amy Burnett Dorsey - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ So sorry to hear of your loss.

Ron Millsaps - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ so sorry in the loss of you dad. you all have had a lot of loss in the last few years and i am sure this is a big hurt. my sympathy and prayers are with you all.

Jim O'Lear - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ We are very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. We will be thinking of you and praying for comfort for you at this sad time.

Charlotte Atkins & family - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Susan Laws Moser Carolyn Laws Florine Stinnett Brenda Fancher

susan laws moser - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Nancy, I know what you are going through and it seems no words can comfort you. I do know that with time and the good Lord's help it gets a little easier but never quite heals. Just hold on to the good memories and be thankful for all the years you had t

Sheryl Clevenger - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Aaron and Susan McMahan - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers.

James Riddle - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ James (Jim) Graham

Robyn Lane - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ Love and Prayers, Heather Greene

Heather Greene - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Nancy, we are so sorry for your loss. Hold on to your precious memories. Walt & Gail

Gail Sutton - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Jim made this community a better place and represented us well. I will miss him.

Jeff Foster - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ To Nancy and all the Graham family So sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Graham. Will keep you in my prayers.

Debbie Davis - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ James (Jim) Graham

Wiley & Kate Morgan - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of a good man. Jim was a classmate of mine at Davis Elementary and Loudon High School. He was also a long time family friend of my family when we lived at Loudon. May the grace of God be with his family as you go through th

Jim Amburn - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ James (Jim) Graham

Jimmy Hux - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ James (Jim) Graham

jack shepherd - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to your entire family. I hope the precious memories you have will help you through this difficult time.

Rhonda Williams - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Graham family, Sorry for your lost. Jim will be missed by all that he touched. You all will be in my thought and prayers.

Chuck Strange - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ We are so sorry for your loss.

Gerald, Dale & Nancy Raines - September 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ We are so sorry for your loss. You and your family or in our thoughts and prayer.

SPANKY AN ROBIN KELLER - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To all the family, we are sorry for your loss. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you and give you strength in the days ahead. James and Gail Frisbee

JAMES and GAIL FRISBEE - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Nancy, Courtney and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I will be thinking of you all in the days to come.

Michelle Crum - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Julie and family, my sincere condolences to you in the loss your dad. He certainly left a heritage behind with his love for agriculture and the land he so faithfully worked. My prayers are with you during this time.

Lynice Broyles - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Nancy and family, I'm was so sadden to learn about Jim's passing. He was a great man and a good friend to many. I will miss seeing him at the FSA office and at all the ballgames. May God Bless you all and comfort you in this time of sorrow.

Janie Holt Valentine - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ To all the Graham family We are sorry for a big loss in your family You all are in our thoughts and prayer Justin we love you so much

Steve and Donna - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

OA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. With deepest sympathy, Ola M. Archer

Ola M Archer - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Our hearts grieve for you and all the family. I remember the first time I met Jim. It was at the University of Tennessee, I believe, before a football game. Yvonne and Jim were there. I know you will miss Jim so much. May God give you peace and comfor

Ann Burgess Taylor - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Our prayers are with your family not only today but as you continue on your own path.* ”

Martha & Jim Hawk - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss.* ”

Linnie Denton - September 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM