



James "Red" Ellis Burrell, Sr.

December 18, 1934 - January 15, 2018

James Ellis "Red" Burrell, Sr., age 83, went to be with Jesus on Monday, January 15, 2018, at UT Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, surrounded by his children.

He was born December 18, 1934 in Canton, North Carolina to the late Sidney Ellis Burrell and the late Lelia Frady Burrell. Red was the next -to-youngest son in a family of 13 children. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by 6 sisters and 4 brothers.

Red is survived by his three children: Sandra "Sondy" Burrell Lunsford and her husband, Andy Lunsford of Newport, Tennessee; James "Jamie" E. Burrell, Jr. of Dandridge, Tennessee; Gregory "Greg" D. Burrell and his wife Linda, of Erwin, Tennessee. Also, he is survived by a brother, Lewin Burrell, Sr. and his wife Judy, of Canton, North Carolina; a sister, Loretha Sayles of Maggie Valley, North Carolina, and 3 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, 1 great-grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

At age 13, Red started working as an apprentice brick mason for his older brother, Leonard Burrell. Red was well-known across Western North Carolina, and East Tennessee as a multi-talented and successful contractor and Master Brick Mason, who thoroughly loved his work. Red perfected his craft for over 50 years, until he was diagnosed with lung cancer at age 65. After lung surgery he insisted "if he was physically able he would still be working".

Red loved life and enjoyed making and listening to Bluegrass Music, watching Nascar Racing, and growing beautiful roses. In his younger years, he was the

bass player for the award-winning bluegrass band, "The Carolina Country Boys" from Canton, North Carolina. He travelled extensively around the South and into Indiana to attend bluegrass conventions and competitions. He also enjoyed deer hunting and fishing. Red also served in the North Carolina Army National Guard, CO A 130th Signal Battalion as a Mess Sergeant, with rank of SP5, E5. He was honorably discharged in March 1963.

Red had a God-given talent for connecting with people and making friends; this is how he built his 50 years Master Brick Masonry and contracting business, and established lifelong friendships with many of the people for whom he did masonry work and built homes.

Red gave his life to Jesus at age 65, and was a member of Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge, Tennessee, where he was baptized.

Red was a devoted father, and friend to many, and he will be forever remembered in the hearts of his children, family and friends who loved and respected him.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, January 20, 2018 in Manes Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Mike Hensely officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:00 pm- 1:00 pm, prior to the service at Manes Funeral Home. Burial will follow services at Swannsylvania Baptist Church Cemetery. Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangement by Manes Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *James "Red" Ellis Burrell, Sr.*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. It's been a long time since we saw "Red" but my family was his neighbor for years. Your family will be in my prayers.*

Brenda Cathey - January 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *We were so sorry to hear that Red passed away. Please know you all are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Jeannie, John and Crawford Jump*

Jeannie Jump - January 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sondy, Jamie, Greg and Family, We were so sorry to hear about Red's passing. Please know that you will be in our thoughts and our prayers during this difficult time. We pray that you find peace and comfort in knowing that we will be reunited with our lo*

Pam Rogers - January 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sondy, So sorry to read of your daddy passing, I know your heart is hurting, Lean On the Lord during this time of sorrow, I'll Be praying for you & your family< God Bless You & Remember you'll see Your Dad again In due time. Love you< Angie Shelton*

ANGELA SHELTON - January 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Jamie, Greg, & Sindy... We are so sorry to hear about your Dad.. He fought a long hard battle and now he is picking with the angels I'm sure! So RIP Red, and God speed! I love you all and if I can do anything you know where to find me.*

Jeanne Sutton - January 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Red was a very special man.*

Sandra and Frank Hoilman - January 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, May God bless you all !*

Steve and April Allen - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *Saundra-our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Take care.*

Kathy Leedy - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ *How do I remember Red? A funny man who was a great friend. His ready smile and wonderful conversations made my day whenever I saw Red. His stories were never dull and told with great gusto and humor. I have lost a great friend but am secure in the knowle*

Richard Holt - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Red was a dear friend of our family we will miss him greatly, Our prayers are with all of you at this time.

Robert & Deborah Gaddis - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Red you were like a dad to me. Rest in peace my dear friend. You and my dad Don Mills made lots of memories together from playing music to working together and y'all were always so very close. We LOVE you Sheri , Don n Nancy Mills.

Sheri Mills - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. I pray for comfort and peace in the days to come.

Stacey Newman Blevins - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ SONDY, Greg , Jamie , Fred&I are very sorry for your great loss. Know you are too young to remember those family reunions we had when grandpa & grandma were here, yet there's sure shouting in Heaven tonight as Uncle Red & Aunt Genevieve have rejoin the fami

Fred and Kathy Stokely - January 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Jamie and Greg sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Praying for you and your family.

Tracy Holland Mehaffey - January 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ We are very sorry for your great loss. Red was a very special man and will be missed dearly. Memories of him will be cherished. Love and prayers to each of you.

Rodney & Leigh Lindsey - January 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Prayers For The Family So Sorry For Your Loss!

Patricia Webb - January 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ James "Red" Ellis Burrell, Sr.

Gary Jenkins - January 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM