



James Robert Campbell

June 14, 1930 - October 18, 2014

James Robert Campbell died Saturday, October 18, 2014, evening at home surrounded and embraced by family. He was the cornerstone of strength in the foundation of a beautiful family. He had an increasingly rare combination of strong character, humble demeanor and core values that exemplify what it means to be a "good man". The unique features making up this man were forged in the furnace of a difficult childhood at a time when the lines between right and wrong were crystal clear and people believed in family, friends, community and something bigger than themselves.

He was born in the midst of the great depression on Flag Day in 1930. It was a time when there were no social safety nets and many of the common comforts we consider a necessity today were only considered a luxury and distant dream. Like many of his surrounding neighbors in Charleston West Virginia his parents were struggling to put food on the table. Unfortunately, his father suffered a brain hemorrhage a few weeks before he was born. He was the only son in the family and quickly learned the value of hard work often telling stories of delivering newspapers at 4 o'clock in the morning during elementary school. He did multiple jobs to help his mother make ends meet.

His childhood did not have television, Internet, iPods, iPhones, air-conditioning, closets full of clothes, etc. He learned firsthand that sacrifice, hard work and resolve coupled with a focus on making a contribution to

society as well as giving to others is what really matters. While we may never see the world in similar focus, because we lack the lens of these life experiences, we are all better off having known him.

Like many of the men in his generation, he did not blame the country for his childhood challenges. In fact, he was a true patriot and volunteered to join the Air Force later becoming a decorated veteran of the Korean War. He also was proud to be a Charlestonian and West Virginian. He had an astounding knowledgebase related to West Virginia history and knew the destination of nearly every back road, and highway throughout the Mountain State.

Most outside the family knew Jim as a brilliant engineer who worked his way up to a leadership role in the West Virginia Department of Highways. Later his expertise was called upon by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to natural disasters all over the US including US territories like American Samoa. He was also a pillar in his church dropping everything to be there for any of the church members or family in crisis. Indeed, when he met Betty (his wife) and subsequently married in 1972 his focus on hunting, fishing, golfing and the overall man's man persona quickly shifted to the focus of family. He loved his wife with all his heart and frequently walked in the door with a handful of roses, the most recent time a couple weeks before he got sick. He was so proud of his two twin sons (James and John) who later became respected physicians in the community. One of his major passions was his engineering school alma mater, West Virginia University. He never missed watching or listening to WVU basketball or football games.

He was a selfless man who dedicated his life to his family and those around him. During his final days he reminded us that the most important legacy we could ever leave in our lives is through the investment we make in our family. Through his life he held true to this axiom and imprinted his core values on all

the young people in the family even going out of his way to do so for an ever-growing extended family. He opened his home to several family members and extended family through the years and each time, whether they stayed for weeks or years, they felt embraced and at home.

His sense of humor, kindness, compassion and dedication to family will be missed. His parents; Gladys Hanshaw Taylor, Cameron Bernard Campbell and stepfather William Taylor; sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Joe Halstead, and his sister Karen Taylor preceded Jim in death. He is survived by his wife Betty Erwin Campbell, his sister and brother-in-law Betty and Robert Kinder as well as his children and daughter-in-laws, Dr. James Robert Campbell II and Dr. Yolanda Campbell as well as Dr. John Erwin and Amanda Campbell. His legacy lives on in the hearts of his grandchildren; Cameron, Rachel, Claire, Luke, Katie and Caleb Campbell.

The family would also like to recognize the following: Mark Cline Bates II and Dr. Mark Cline Bates who were both like sons to him. They were both at his side providing around the clock support along side his wife, children and daughter-in-laws through the last week and a half of his life. In addition, over the last few years Mark II has been a blessing for Jim and Betty as he selflessly assisted with anything they needed on a daily basis --- thus the legacy continues.

Funeral service will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane with Pastor Mark Ayers officiating. Burial will follow in White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Barboursville.

Visitation will be from 6:00-8:00 Tuesday at the funeral home. You may visit w www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com to share sympathies with the family.

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane is honored to serve the Campbell family.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Gardens

US Route 60 Midland Trail
Barboursville, WV 25504

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 757-7531
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 757-7531
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Tribute Wall



“ *James Robert Campbell*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *I remember being at the house of Jim and Betty....their love never ceased to amaze me..she went upstairs and he was downstairs...the house is big so...picture him yelling upstairs softly " I love you baby" and hear comes this little voice from upstairs...I love you too honey" in that southern voice....what a love for family and standard that they held together they were an example of family and of love through the good and bad...Jim we love you and you made a difference in our family and Jesus used you in so many ways....*

Betty....love you and please know that Bob and I are thinking of you- don't see you as often as we should...but always know my heart is in WV in those mountains with all of you. Cow Creek...Aunt Zelma and fried apples and church...wow...Jesus is good....

Love you so muchpraying, singing and giving glory to God in the next few weeks. For strength....He is always there and sticks closer than a brother....

Becky

Hugs and kisses and praise....

Becky Blocksom - October 24, 2014 at 02:19 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*
Linda Ballard Price

Linda Ballard Price - October 21, 2014 at 08:40 PM

JA

“ I so much regret that I never had more opportunity to spend time with Jim. Last year, when we met, I felt a closeness with him that we should have been able to enjoy for all those years we missed. May God bring comfort to Jim's family and his many loved ones.

John Anderson - October 21, 2014 at 04:10 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Robert Campbell.



October 21, 2014 at 07:47 AM

RB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Randall and Mary Biller
Jennifer Biller- Dailey
Sarah Biller-Gekas*

Randall Biller - October 21, 2014 at 06:28 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Robert Campbell.



October 21, 2014 at 03:08 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Robert Campbell.*



October 20, 2014 at 01:52 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Robert Campbell.*



October 20, 2014 at 10:15 AM