



## James Dana Spence

July 30, 1950 - January 27, 2020

James Dana Spence, 69, of Charleston, WV, died on January 27, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his father, James Spence, and his beloved grandmother, Lora May, known as “LaLa”.

He is survived by his mother, Doris Spence Keefer, and his stepfather, Charles Keefer, of Winfield, brother John (Kathy) Spence of Nitro, brother Steve Spence, stepbrother Tom (Rose) Keefer and Charles “Chuck” (Ellen) Keefer all of Winfield, WV.

After retiring from Nationwide Insurance Dana dedicated himself to serving those struggling with addiction. In recent years he appreciated the opportunity to work with Hope For Appalachia.

The funeral service will be held Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 pm at Bible Center Church where Dana faithfully attended. Visitation will begin at 1:00 pm. Burial will be in Winfield Cemetery, Winfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bible Center Church or Hope For Appalachia, PO Box 20076, Charleston, WV 25362.

You may share memories of Dana by visiting his tribute page at

[ChapmanFuneralHomes.com](http://ChapmanFuneralHomes.com)

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 12848 Winfield Road, Winfield is honored to serve the Spence/Keefer families.

# Cemetery Details

## Winfield Cemetery

Rocky Step Road  
Winfield, WV 25213

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bible Center Church  
100 Bible Center Drive  
Charleston, WV 25309  
<https://www.biblecenterchurch.com>

## Funeral Service

FEB 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bible Center Church  
100 Bible Center Drive  
Charleston, WV 25309  
<https://www.biblecenterchurch.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Dana Spence*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Dana's passing. I met him at church and over those many years he was always very friendly and kind. Jokingly, he always greeted me with "Hello, Trouble." I will miss him.*  
*Trouble*

**Dianna Perdue** - February 05, 2020 at 08:12 AM



“ *Dana was my friend and roommate at WVU. It was a privilege to have known such a wonderful man. Our days at WVU were some of my fondest memories. From going to mountaineer games, eating at the lair or just studying ha! ha! we were a great pair. I will miss you my dear friend.*  
*My prayers are with Doris, John and Steve.*

**Al & Linda Cehlar** - February 03, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ *Dana passed the WV claims torch to me upon his retirement from Nationwide and he was a very tough act to follow. Dana was a mentor and friend, but most of all a man of God. I never stopped learning from him. A great loss to us all and our condolences to his family and friends. -The Tim Porter family*

**Tim Porter** - February 03, 2020 at 11:05 AM

CS

“Dana and I went to high school together at Nitro High. My sister, Leslie, graduated with Dana in the Class of '68, and was kind enough to let me pal around with her circle of friends. Dana was in that circle.

Dana and I developed a deep friendship. When he went to WVU, we wrote back and forth and would get together when he came home. Later when I went to WVIT, we still continued to write and he visited me on campus several times when he was home.

We both loved movies. We frequently went to the movies and then went to Shoney's to critique what we had just seen. We went to "Honey in the Rock", basketball games, prep rallies, and talked for hours on the phone. He was my dearest friend.

The hardest letter I had to write was when I told Dana that I had met someone and we were planning to marry. I knew everything would change. After that, we still telephoned and caught up on things. When I attended my 20th reunion, we went out to lunch and time seemed to stand still. Later, we continued to call but things seemed strained, and then we lost touch.

Today, my sister called and told me of Dana's death. I feel like a piece of my heart has been removed. My world, like many others, has become dark. A bright light has gone from this world and heaven has gained a very special angel.

Dana, I love you."

Carol Smith Spraker

---

Carol Smith Spraker - February 01, 2020 at 12:49 PM

LK

“ When Charlie Peal, Dana, my sister, Carol, and I were coming home from a high school football game in Dana's car, we decided to see what was at the end of Kelly Road. It had been raining & we crested a hill in the dark and started down with no way to stop the downhill slide as we hit mud. The four of us, covered in mud, trekked back to our house laughing like crazy. It was the next day before a tow truck could retrieve Dana's car. It's a memory that has replayed itself many times over the years as though it was just yesterday vs 1968. Rest in peace my friend.

---

**Leslie J. Smith King** - February 01, 2020 at 12:24 PM

PL

“ The always fun and funny duo of Dana Spence and Bob Sullivan, affectionately known as "DanaBob", made the Nationwide years more bearable. Dana loved the Lord and people and was always a blessing and an eager helper/coach/adviser. Very knowledgeable about so many things. Sadly, we let our paths separate over the past 20 years but his positive influence on me continues. Rest easy, my brother, in the bliss and presence of your Savior. Farewell, until my journey is completed, as well.

---

**Phil Light** - January 31, 2020 at 05:37 PM

PT

“ Dana was my "work husband". We spoke almost every day for over two decades. He was mine and Hoppy's travel buddy extraordinaire. We enjoyed many trips together in the states and abroad. My memories of him will be comforting. Knowing he and Hoppy are together is equally comforting. To say I miss you is an understatement, but you know that. Safe travels dear friend. Forever in my heart. Patty



---

**Patty Teubert** - January 31, 2020 at 02:40 PM

PT

“ 2 files added to the album My travel buddies



---

**Patty Teubert** - January 31, 2020 at 02:33 PM

BS

“ Dana and I met almost 40 years ago when we were a couple of trainee claims adjusters for Royal Insurance and roomed together at Vale Tech in Blairsville Pa. It was a God awful course that kept us away from home for four straight weeks, but I had the opportunity to make a number of good friends. Chief among them was Dana. Sometime after that, my wife and I visited him in Washington DC and we couldn't have had a better guide. We corresponded for a number of years but eventually lost touch with one another as so often happens. Facebook provided me with the opportunity to reconnect a bit, but I had no idea that he might be in any distress. Very sad. He was too young to leave this earth. .

*Dana was one of the nicest people I've ever known and I'm sure he has left behind a vast number of people whose lives he touched with his kindness, humor and grace.*

*RIP Dana.*

---

**Brian C Stahl** - January 31, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Dana Spence.



---

January 31, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Dana Spence.*



---

January 31, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ *Dana was such a great man with a big heart who loved God. He was so kind to everyone. He will be missed. Prayers for the family.*

---

**David and Joanie Cushing** - January 30, 2020 at 10:43 PM



“ *Dana Spence was the most pleasant person to be around I have ever had the opportunity to meet. I enjoyed working with him for several years. RIP my friend. We have lost a gem!*

---

**Tom Parker** - January 30, 2020 at 10:21 PM

SB

“ Dana and I were coworkers and friends at Nationwide. He was like my big brother and took me under his wing from day one. Dana was always in a good mood and could put a smile on your face with his witty humor. We traveled together and he was like our own personal tour guide in Italy and Washington, DC. He was selfless and generous. After Nationwide, our paths did not cross as often. He was passionate about his new mission in life. However, when we would see one another, it was like we hadn't missed a beat. No judgement for the lack of phone calls, birthday cards or lunch dates. Dana loved his family and was a Godly man. He will be missed by me, his Nationwide family and many others who have been lucky enough to know him. Sending love and hugs to his mom Doris and family.

*Shelley Brightwell*

---

**Shelley Brightwell** - January 30, 2020 at 03:50 PM

TP

“ Tim and Becky Provens purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Dana Spence.



---

**Tim and Becky Provens** - January 30, 2020 at 02:28 PM

ST

“ I first met Dana in 1998 through work at Nationwide. I never forgot Dana's kindness or the fact that he looked out me when I was just starting out, as the younger 'kiddo' on the block. Always a good conversation with Dana. Sorry to learn of his passing. Too soon. 🙏

---

**Scarlett Tarley** - January 30, 2020 at 02:22 PM

MP

“ *One of the best people I’ve met over the past several years. You’ll be missed, my friend.* ”

---

**matt porta** - January 30, 2020 at 12:12 PM