



## James D. Williams

January 23, 1932 - May 11, 2015

James David “Jim” Williams, 83, of St. Albans passed away May 11, 2015 surrounded by family and friends after a long, well lived life and a brief illness. Jim will be forever remembered for not only what he accomplished in his private life, professional career and volunteer leadership roles but more importantly how he went about that...consistently displaying a diplomacy, love and respect for all he encountered (and adding a lot of fun along the way). In all roles - husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, president, commissioner, friend, golf partner.....it was all the same.....that was him.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents Orville and Bessie Williams and his dear daughter Mary Beth; brothers, Bill and Bob Williams and sister, Maxine Pauley.

Jim was born in East Bank and moved with his family to Piedmont Road in Charleston and lived on the hill behind old Laidley Field. At age 10 Jim sold peanuts and cokes at Laidley Field during sporting events where he learned to handle money, make change and read people....all the important aspects of being a successful banker. He graduated from Charleston High in 1949 and then spent two years in the U.S. Army medical corp.

He attended Morris Harvey College after the service and took his first banking job with Charleston National in 1954. He moved from Charleston to St. Albans

after taking the assistant cashiers position with the Bank of St. Albans in 1958 and moved his way up through the ranks to President. Later in his career he greatly assisted the successful merger efforts with the larger One Valley Bank while insuring the maintaining of the local, individualized service level that the Bank of St. Albans was known for. He developed strong relationships and provided assistance to many individuals and businesses with their financial needs over the course of his career. He served on the board of the Bank of St. Albans and One Valley Bank.

While Jim's commercial banking career touched many types of businesses, he found a connection and expertise with contractors and the construction industry. His distinguished work with the Contractors Association of WV, where he held various leadership positions, led to an appointment to the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Council where he assisted in helping fund a significant increase in infrastructure projects throughout the state. That experience won him the respect of state agency officials and elected leaders alike and he was asked to serve as the Chairman of the WV Public Service Commission in 2001.

During his professional career Jim took the time to also serve multiple charitable and civic organizations. He always felt the need to give back. He served on the boards of the Salvation Army, March of Dimes, St. Albans Regional Development Authority, Rotary Club, St. Albans Chamber of Commerce and many others. He was instrumental in gathering funding and contractor assistance in the creation of a Salvation Army recreation lake for kids at Camp Happy Valley. In honor of his effort the Salvation named the lake in his late daughter's honor – Lake Mary Beth.

While his professional accomplishments were many, his devotion as a loving husband, rock solidness as a dad, loving support as a grandfather were truly unique and most special of all....to him and to us. He was truly a special

combination of professionalism, gentleness, strength, compassion and love.

He is survived by his loving wife Gloria; his son and daughter in-law, Steve and Diana Williams of Mason, OH; grandchildren, Amanda and Harvey Forinash of Hurricane, David and Brandi Williams of Lanexa, VA, Drew Williams of Hurricane and Allie Williams of Morgantown; great grandchildren, Nathanyel, Alexander and Peyton of Virginia and sister, JoAnn and Jim Waggy of Charleston.

Service will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, May, 16, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans with Rev. Paul Romine officiating. Entombment will follow in Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans.

Visitation will be held from 5-8 pm Friday, May 15, 2015 at Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home, St. Albans.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to First Presbyterian Church, 201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, WV 25177 or Salvation Army, 301 Tennessee Ave, Charleston, WV 25302. You may also share memories or condolences with the family at [www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com)

Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 409 Sixth Avenue, St. Albans is honored to serve the Williams family.

# Cemetery Details

## Cunningham Memorial Park

815 Cunningham Lane  
Saint Albans, WV 25177

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home  
409 Sixth Avenue  
St. Albans, WV 25177  
(304) 727-4325  
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com  
<http://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

## Funeral Service

MAY 16. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
201 Kanawha Terrace  
St. Albans, WV 25177

# Tribute Wall



“ James D. Williams

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ Faye(Harris)Marple lit a candle in memory of James D. Williams



Faye(Harris)Marple - June 14, 2015 at 09:38 PM



“ Gloria,

*I'm so sorry that that Jim has passed. I know that you will be so sad for many years. I truly hope that God eases your pain and loss, and that you will understand in a few months that he is in a better place and this is just the cycle of life. Stay in touch! Your Cousin, Mick.*

Michael Worstell - May 21, 2015 at 09:26 PM



“ Gloria,

*I was so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. I know he was your soul mate and you had such a beautiful life together. I remember spending time with you at The Greenbrier for the contractors and I always enjoyed your company. I am sure there are no words of comfort that I can say but I want you to know I am thinking of you and praying for your strength in the coming months. Sincerely, Sue Lewis Thomas (Margo's friend)*

susan thomas - May 17, 2015 at 06:25 PM

ND

“ *My prayers for you and family. I remember Jim at our 50th class reunion. Wish I knew him better but know that he was loved by many and will be missed.*  
Nancy Perkins Dunn

Nancy Perkins Dunn - May 16, 2015 at 11:47 AM



“ *Gloria, so saddened to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Joe and Mary Ellen Zeigler SAHS '56*



Joe Zeigler - May 16, 2015 at 09:15 AM

PS

“ *We are very sorry for your loss. We'll always remember Jim's wonderful personality and smile. We will miss seeing him at the CAWV's annual meeting at The Greenbrier. John and Pat Strickland, and employees of Maynard C. Smith Construction Company, Inc.*

Pat and John Strickland - May 15, 2015 at 04:58 PM

KK

“ *Gloria and family,  
My sincerest sympathy to you all. Jim was a good friend. Every time I am on a golf course and am fortunate to hit a straight shot I will remember Jim. That's the kind of man he was. He was always a straight shooter with me. I will miss seeing him at church and having the thought provoking conversations that he could inspire. May God watch over you in this time of loss and hold you in the palm of his hand as you deal with the days ahead.*

*Kirk*

---

**Kirk King** - May 15, 2015 at 11:45 AM

DF

“ *Donald Pauley and Family, April Swada and Family purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of James D. Williams.*



---

**Donald Pauley and Family, April Swada and Family** - May 15, 2015 at 11:00 AM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of James D. Williams.*



---

May 15, 2015 at 08:49 AM

OC

“ Gloria and Steve,  
I'm very sorry about your loss. Jim was a wonderful man, who befriended me when I was a young barber in St. Albans and we have been good friends ever since. He gave me my first loan and has helped me in many other ways.  
You guys will feel a terrible loss in your life. Know that me and many others will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. If there would ever be anything that I could do to be of help in any way please let me know.  
I will be in Chicago during his services and cannot attend but I will be making a contribution to his church in his honor.

Love you much  
Oshel Craigo

---

Oshel Craigo - May 15, 2015 at 08:17 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James D. Williams.



---

May 14, 2015 at 09:21 PM

LG

“ Gloria, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Lori Good (Dr Graham's office)



---

Lori Good - May 14, 2015 at 11:29 AM

NP

“ Sorry for your loss. Praying for your family and friends.  
*The Paxton Family: Brian, Nicki, Gracie, Malia, and Addie*

Nicole Paxton - May 14, 2015 at 07:00 AM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James D. Williams.*



May 13, 2015 at 07:59 PM

PJ

“ *To Aunt Gloria and family,*

*Of all of the people I know and have known Uncle Jim was without a doubt the most kind, loving, and positive thinking person imaginable. With a twinkle of the eye and a wonderful smile, he was able to charm his way into the heart of everyone he met. What made the whole thing possible was he did so in a manner so genuine and natural you knew it came from the inside out. I have nothing but wonderful memories of the times I spent with him and though they were few, that only made them more precious. Marci and I looked to him for advice and encouragement and always found a great measure of both. We love and will miss him deeply. We both pray for the family the some of the strength Uncle Jim always displayed during trying times.*

*With Much Love,*

*Paul Matthew and Marci Johnson*

Paul Johnson - May 13, 2015 at 07:17 PM

JC

“ I am so sorry to lose one of my best friends. Jim helped me in so many ways over the years as my banker, my golf partner, a mentor to me and my sons.....words can't express the positive influence he had on our whole family. The most anyone can hope for with their time on this earth is that people you touch are better off for your having been here. Jim was the poster child for that philosophy.

*I love you partner.*

*Jack Cipoletti*

---

Jack Cipoletti - May 13, 2015 at 05:37 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of James D. Williams.



---

May 13, 2015 at 12:07 PM