



James Harper Bell

May 13, 1927 - January 19, 2022

James Harper Bell, Sr., 94, born May 13, 1927 in Asheville, NC passed away peacefully at home on January 19, 2022. A 20-year resident of The Villages, Jim leaves his brother Bill (Louise) of Rock Hill, SC; cousin Charlie Burgess (Bev) of Damascus, MD; Six children - plus 14 grand and numerous great and great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son John and his wife, Rose -the love of his life for nearly 72 years. Jim was a US Navy, WWII Veteran & member of the American Legion. A devout Catholic he was a Knight Grand Cross of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, a 4th Degree life member of the Knights of Columbus and parishioner at St. Timothy's. Jim began his career in public accounting and worked with a Southern Bell Telephone Company before joining IBM where he was a member of the Chairman's Circle and Quarter Century Club before retirement. Then he had a "second" career as a Real Estate Broker. He was an avid golfer for over 60 years and at one time enjoyed a handicap of 9! His favorite courses: Wingfoot & Pinehurst #2.

A master craftsman, Jim remodeled every home the family lived in. He had a passion for stained glass, furniture-making and antique/family heirloom restoration. He & Rose loved to travel and ever-ready for a good challenge he could be seen para-sailing while on a cruise in his 80's. Jim enjoyed ballroom dance, bowling & gourmet cooking along with his daily puzzles & crypto quotes. If you were an overnight guest in his home - your send-off was a breakfast of his famous Eggs Benedict.

Erma Bombeck said it best: "When I stand before God at the end of my life I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say ... I used everything you gave me." He did.

A visitation will be held at the Lady Lake Chapel of Beyers Funeral Home on Monday, January 24, 2022 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM with a Prayer Service at 4:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 8:30 AM at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Lady Lake, FL. Interment to follow at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL at 10:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Cornerstone Hospice, who provided loving care and comfort to Jim & his family or The Salvation Army. Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL. Online condolences may be left at www.BeyersFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Harper Bell* ”



May 11, 2022 at 07:17 PM

MB

“ I love Erma Bombeck's no nonsense writing style. This one about Fathers is especially appropriate now. Rest in Peace Dad. It was my honor to be your caregiver. With love forever, Maryrose

"When God created Fathers"

When the good Lord was creating fathers, He started with a tall frame. A female angel nearby said, "What kind of father is that? If you're going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put fathers up so high? He won't be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping."

And God smiled and said, "Yes, but if I make him child-size, who would children have to look up to?"

And when God made a father's hands, they were large and sinewy. The angel shook her head sadly and said, "Do you know what you're doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can't manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on ponytails or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats."

And God smiled and said, "I know, but they're large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from pockets at the end of a day, yet small enough to cup a child's face."

And then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders.

The angel nearly had a heart attack. "Boy, this is the end of the week, all right." she clucked. "Do you realize you just made a father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him with the kid falling between his legs?"

And God smiled and said, "A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle or hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus."

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had ever seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. "That's not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?"

And God smiled and said, "They'll work. You'll see. They'll support a

small child who wants to ride a horse to Banbury Cross or scare off mice at the summer cabin or display shoes that will be a challenge to fill."

God worked throughout the night, giving the father few words but a firm, authoritative voice and eyes that saw everything but remained calm and tolerant.

Finally, almost as an afterthought, He added tears. Then He turned to the angel and said,

"Now, are you satisfied that he can love as much as a mother?"

The angel shutteth up.

Author: Erma Bombeck

Maryrose Bell - January 21, 2022 at 09:09 PM