



## James Griner

December 14, 1927 - January 14, 2014

### Obituary of James Griner

James A. "Jim" Griner, 86, of Leesburg, Florida was born December 14, 1927 and passed away on January 14, 2014. He was a lifelong resident of Leesburg where he served Leesburg Fire Department for 30 years retiring as Assistant Fire Chief. Upon retirement he stayed active in fire service teaching firefighting at both Lake County Vo Tech and the Florida State Fire College in Ocala. He taught career and volunteer fireman for another 15 years after retirement as well as volunteering time at Skeen Elementary and the Villages Elementary of Lady Lake. He was an active member of Main Street Baptist Church in Leesburg serving as a Deacon, Sunday School Director and teacher as well as many other church activities, a member of Midway Baptist Church in Leesburg and Past President of the Leesburg Civitan Club. Mr. Griner was a veteran of the US Navy serving in both WWII and Korea.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Rheda Harbison Griner of Leesburg, FL; daughter Rheda Gail (Larry) Shumate of Lady Lake, FL; sons: James A. "Jay" (Teresa) Griner, Jr. of Eustis, FL and Timmons S. "Tim" (Heather) Griner of Mt. Dora, FL; 6 grandchildren: JAnna Fickett, Larah Sheppard, Jameson Shumate, Linsey Kincaid, Emily Griner and Cara Griner, 7 great grandchildren; 2 brothers: Charles E. "Buddy" (Loyce) Griner and Perry H. (Linda) Griner both of Leesburg; 3 sisters: Mary Katherine "Sis" Griner of

Leesburg, Shirley Ann Town of Tallahassee, FL and Eva H. "Polly" Rosenbalm of Leesburg.

A visitation will be held on Thursday January 16, 2014 in the chapel of Beyers Funeral Home in Leesburg from 6 - 8 PM. Funeral Services will be held on Friday January 17, 2014 at 11 AM in the Genesis Center of First Baptist, formerly Main Street Baptist Church, 1414 W. Main St., Leesburg. For firefighters in attendance, the family requests that Fire Service uniforms be worn. Condolences may be left at [www.beyersfuneralhome.com](http://www.beyersfuneralhome.com), Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg, Florida in charge of all arrangements.

#### Visitation

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#### Services

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#### Interment

Hillcrest memorial Gardens, Leesburg, Florida.

# Tribute Wall

SI

“ To all: So sorry to hear that Jim has passed. I know you all will cherish all the great memories you have. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless all of You. With love and prayers, Scott and Beth Irving and Family.

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**Scott and Beth Irving** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ We loved the man. Our hearts aches with the family's hearts. Our vocabulary is not broad enough to describe the positives that Chief Griner gave the Leesburg and area communities. RIP Chief.

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**Tommy & Susan Neal** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Sorry to hear of your family loss. I have memories of Jim as a very nice man. Always friendly and respectful. He and my dad, Tom Horton were firemen together. May God be with you in this time of tragedy.

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**Donna Cunningham** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ You are in our thoughts. May your thoughts and love of Jim carry you through the difficult times.....

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**The Sennetts** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ My heartfelt condolences to each family member and to all friends of Jim Griner. His faith and works will surely score well with his maker. He will be missed by all whose earthly path he crossed. "Bunky" Standridge.

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**L. PierceStandridge** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Jim was one of the sweetest men I have known in Leesburg. He always greeted me in a way that let me know that he cared. He was faithful to the Lord, his Church, family and the Leesburg community. What an example for so many to follow. I am praying for all of you.

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**Gary Blanchard** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ We are so sorry to hear of Chief Griner's passing. Our condolences to all the family and friends. He will surely be missed by all that knew and dearly loved him. He taught my husband and myself during standards and taught us well. We will always be grateful for the knowledge and love he passed on to us.

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**Terry and Linda Sue vinup** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ I will always have many fond childhood memories of my time spent in "Mr.Griner's" company at the fire station and at his home. Such a wonderful caring man, he will be greatly missed.

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**Keith and Nancy Taylor Trumbull** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Rita Gale and Ms. Griner, so sorry to hear about your loss. My prayers and thoughts go out to you and the family. I wanted to go down and give my condolence in person but was able to make it. Keep strong, God just has another angel.

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**Margaret Ann Shepard Stokes** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

OG

“ Chief Griner's contribution to our profession will forever be greatly appreciated. We thank him for for two great OFD leaders.

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**OFD Honor Guard** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Griner family. May Chief Griner rest in peace.

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**Ellen & Larry Earley** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ Mr. Griner was one of the finest men I ever had the privilege of knowing. He was a great family man, Sunday school teacher and public servant. He was there for me when I was a kid and my father passed away and I will always be grateful of that. May God bless the Griner family.

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**Patrick Earp** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Mr Griner was such a sweet man. I remember the times he would come to my school in Leesburg to teach fire safety, and of course, bring Sparky the fire dog. I remember our many visits, getting to sit on the fire truck, and just being in awe of this great man. Amazing that some 35 years after that, those memories are still so real. I can only imagine how many other lives that he touched. He was a true hero in many hearts....*

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**Stephanie Smith Crawford** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *Alway loved Jim Griner and his entire family. He was truly "God's Man" here on earth and he has graduated to Angel staus in Heaven. He touched the life of everyone he ever met and we are blessed that Mr. Griner knew us and touched our lives. I can still see him walking in church at Main Street Baptist; headed somewhere with purpose to meet a need. Praise God for Jim Griner! We loved him and love you all. Our thoughts, prayers, and memories are with you. Love, Jerry, Mary Ann Williams xoxoxoxo*

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**Jerry & Mary Ann Williams** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM