



James "Jim" R. Sursavage

November 21, 1948 - November 26, 2025

James R. Sursavage, age 77, known by most as Jim, of The Villages, FL, went to be with the Lord, November 26, 2025 at UF Hospital in Leesburg, Florida after a brief illness. Born in the beautiful town of Andrews, NC in the Appalachian Mountains, on November 21, 1948, he was the youngest child of the late Joseph George and Ruth Russell Sursavage.

Jim was the kindest man, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and friend to many. He was known by his love, kindness and generosity to family, friends and strangers. His faith was important to him. He loved the Lord with all his heart and lived his life sharing love with everyone he met.

Raised in the mountains of North Carolina he loved the beauty surrounding him. He had a happy childhood and loved his parents, sister and brother. He attended Andrews High School graduating in 1967. He was a star athlete and played football at the high school. He attended his beloved Clemson University graduating in 1970. He played varsity football there as a tight end and linebacker. Team members wondered how a guy as nice as Jim could hit so hard. He won numerous awards at Clemson including All-ACC academic and was a captain of the 1970 football team.

Jim began his career in Atlanta at the Federal Reserve Bank. He also worked

at C&S Bank. He began his career in the software industry at MSA in 1980 and followed in several other companies. He was a customer service executive. He worked hard to ensure customers were satisfied. He made numerous lifelong friendships through his work. In 1979 his son Russell Kirkland was born which brought lifelong love and joy to his life. He married Mary Kay Akridge in 1989. They had a 37 years long loving relationship. Mary had two sons and a daughter. Jim loved them and became a very caring stepfather to them.

Jim loved God's nature. He enjoyed all seasons but especially the fall when the mountains became so colorful. He hiked many trails throughout the mountains including many miles on the Appalachian Trail. He loved to find glorious waterfalls.

Fishing was a special passion of his. He loved to fish for trout in a clear mountain stream. He could find a beautiful trout in the smallest hole in a stream. He loved going to church and worshipping the Lord. He liked to be part of the church by attending Sunday School and bible studies. He founded the Faithful Men Bible study group in Atlanta in 1995, which still meets every Friday. He enjoyed joining them online until he passed. He shared his faith with many family members, friends, colleagues and strangers throughout his lifetime.

He loved to help people. Two wonderful examples are when he donated a car to a person in the church who was in need and another time when he saw a man in a wheelchair struggling up a hill, he stopped his car, put the wheelchair in the trunk and took him to his destination. The man was a wounded veteran and was thankful for his help. His life was spent helping others every day.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Joseph (Butch) Sursavage , sister Katherine Holman, brother in law Arthur Holman and niece

Jan Holman.

He is survived by his wife Mary Kay Sursavage, a son Russell Kirkland of Atlanta, GA, two stepsons Tom Callahan and Jon Callahan both of the Villages, FL, a stepdaughter Amy Juhala of Sioux Falls, SD. Six grandchildren Josh Callahan, Andrew Callahan, Rachel Vietmeier, Stephen Callahan, and Mara Callahan all of Sioux Falls, SD and Luke Callahan of FL. And three precious great grandchildren, Daisy Vietmeier, Parker Callahan and Everett Haar. His Sister-in-law Mary Sursavage of Waynesville, NC. Nephews Bud (Tammy)Holman and Mark Sursavage. Nieces Shannon "Fig" Holman and partner Erica Harris and Karen Sursavage. And by many beloved friends and relatives.

Jim will be missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 1 pm on January 10, 2026 at Mount Pisgah Church, 2850 Old Alabama Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30022. A reception will follow.

Memorial donations may be made to Venezuela Now.Org. A Christian Ministry supporting the Global Methodist Church in Venezuela by training church leaders, planting churches; and providing food, clothing and healthcare to the needy in Venezuela.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mount Pisgah Church
2850 Old Alabama Rd
Johns Creek, GA 30022

Reception to follow

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" R. Sursavage*



Beyers Funeral Home - January 02 at 03:13 PM

AJ

Those were awesome memories mom

Amy juhala - January 03 at 11:26 AM

SJ

Mary, you have lived such a blessed life with Jim. So many great memories to help you through your grief. So sorry for your loss, but He is with his Heavenly Father now and watching over you. P.S. Love the photos of the North Carolina Mountains.

Susie Jones - January 03 at 03:00 PM

KB

I will always remember Jim for his big, beautiful smile, and his big, beautiful heart. He was such a kind man. Thinking of you all....

Kate Baar - January 10 at 03:11 AM

TF

“ *The Vanlandingham Family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" R. Sursavage.*

The Vanlandingham Family. - January 09 at 12:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" R. Sursavage.*



January 09 at 12:50 PM



“ *Jim was one of my favorite teammates at Clemson. He was tough as nails on the football field but an absolute Clemson Gentleman off the field. One of the best friends I had at Clemson and I will always keep his memory dear to my heart. Jim Barnette #16*

Jim Barnette - December 31, 2025 at 01:28 PM



“ *My family is from Andrews and both Jim and Butch spent many hours with my Grandmother, Olive Ellis, and the rest of our family. He was such a role model for my and my brothers and I have many friends who attended Clemson and the name Sursavage was recognized by everyone who was a football fan. He came to my grandmother's funeral in 2003 and our family was so appreciative. He truly was a wonderful person and a true man of God. I know he will missed.*

Elaine Ellis Coker - December 30, 2025 at 12:28 AM



Thank you Elaine. I was fortunate to meet Olive after I married Jim. Such a wonderful lady. Jim loved her very much.

Mary Sursavage - December 30, 2025 at 06:36 PM

SU

“ Susie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" R. Sursavage.

Susie - December 22, 2025 at 04:23 PM

SU

“ Susie purchased the A Full Life for the family of James "Jim" R. Sursavage.



Susie - December 22, 2025 at 04:23 PM

AJ

“ I remember Jim like a father to me he one member I remember is when all of us were on St. George Island, Florida when the nieces and nephews were little and I remember I went fishing with them on the ocean. I caught the fish. I couldn't reel it in so Jim came out to help me pull it in. It was an awesome memory and a few other memories about when I went to Atlanta Georgia to visit we all just had a great time went through the lights at one of the parks. They had a Christmas lake show and we all went through it. It's really really really great Ben Jim's stepdaughter I will never forget him. Yes it's hard for all of us that he's gone, but knowing that he's in heaven with the Lord Jesus makes me feel better because one day we'll all get to see him again and I can't wait for that day. I'll miss him dearly.

Amy Juhala - December 20, 2025 at 07:01 AM

TH

“ *As the obituary states Jim was a kindhearted man. He was a joy to work with and blessed to have as a friend. I will always be indebted for the impact Jim had on my life.*

Tony Heringer - December 19, 2025 at 05:22 PM