



James D. Williams

December 23, 1936 - December 28, 2023

James D. Williams, affectionately known as Jimmy, was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and true Floridian who passed away on December 28, 2023, at the age of 87. Born on December 23, 1936, in Plant City, Florida, Jimmy was the son of the late Annie Mae and Mannie M. Williams. He grew up alongside his older brother, Jack M. Williams, in Lake Panasoffkee, Florida. During this time, he developed a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature that would stay with him throughout his life.

James proudly served his country in the United States Navy, where he learned valuable skills and forged lifelong friendships. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Sumter County and, in the summer of 1960, met the love of his life, Geneva “Neva” Crawford. They married on March 24, 1961, at the First Baptist Church of Bushnell.

Throughout his life, Jimmy was a man of deep faith and unwavering devotion to God. His spiritual journey began as a young boy in Lake Panasoffkee and was nurtured through his attendance at the First Baptist Church of Leesburg.

For 33 years, Jimmy dedicated his professional career to Florida Telephone / United Telephone, which later became Sprint. Jimmy's career began in 1960 when he started as a frame man for Florida Telephone. His dedication and expertise helped him transition to an engineer role and eventually into

management by 1973. He was known for his strong work ethic, reliability, and commitment to excellence. Jimmy's dedication and loyalty earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and superiors.

Outside of work, Jimmy found solace and happiness in the great outdoors. He was an avid fisherman, spending countless hours casting his line into the waters of Florida's lakes and rivers. Whether reeling in a big catch or simply enjoying the serenity of nature, Jimmy found peace and fulfillment in these moments.

Above all else, Jimmy cherished his family. He was a devoted husband, always there to support and uplift his beloved Neva. As a father, he provided unwavering love, guidance, and encouragement to his sons, Ken and Dayne. Jimmy was immensely proud of the men they became and the families they created. His daughters-in-law, Shawna and Stephanie, were like daughters to him, and he treasured the special bond they shared.

Jimmy's greatest joy came from being a grandfather. He adored his five grandchildren and relished every opportunity to spend time with them. Whether attending their school events, cheering them on at sports games, or sharing stories and laughter around the dinner table, Jimmy's love for his grandchildren knew no bounds.

James D Williams will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Jimmy is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Neva Williams, and his sons, Ken (Shawna) Williams and Dayne (Stephanie) Williams. Grandchildren: Jeff Williams, Garrett (Ashton) Williams, Cassidy Williams, Lindsey (Joe) Nugent, and Grayson Williams. No granddaddy has ever been loved and adored more than Jimmy Williams.

As we mourn the loss of this remarkable man, let us also celebrate the

beautiful memories he leaves behind and the profound impact he had on our lives.

The Memorial Reception will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at Tavares Pavilion on the Lake, 200 South Disston Ave, Tavares, FL 32778 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM with remarks by the family at 2:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Memorial Reception

JAN 2. 1:30 PM (ET)

Tavares Pavilion on the Lake
200 South Disston Ave
Tavares, FL 32778

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James D. Williams*



Beyers Funeral Home - December 29, 2023 at 04:53 PM

LH

Somewhere I have a photo of Cole (age 3 or 4) fishing with Jimmy. He was such a good man and I loved him since I first met him many, many years ago. I send the photo when I find it.

Lori Hudson - December 30, 2023 at 03:23 AM

NW

That would be a great photo for us to keep. Thanks, Lori! Your family's friendship has meant so much to both of us!

Neva Williams - January 15, 2024 at 08:35 PM

JB

“ *My memories of Jimmy Williams are of a loving and Christian man who, with Neva were an inspiration to those of us who served along with them at First Baptist, Leesburg. He was a credit to his family, his church and his profession.*

Joan Brown - January 05, 2024 at 10:27 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of James D. Williams.



January 01, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Jimmy was a great man and a good friend. I was lucky to know him for a long time I first met Jimmy when I started to work at the phone company in 1966 and worked around him and with him for about 30 years. If anyone spent any time around him they would know he loved his family. I was very lucky I got to work play fish and spend a lot of time with him and his family. Jimmy you will be truly missed my me and more than you will ever know
God Bless you and All your family
Leon and Bettye Summers

Leon Summers - December 29, 2023 at 04:24 PM