



James Mills (Lebanon)

JUL 25, 1925 - SEP 8, 2011



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FUNERAL HOMES

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James William “Jim” Mills, son of James Kelly and Mabel Caroline Cyrus Mills, was born July 25, 1925, near Ira, in Camden County, Missouri. He departed this life Thursday, September 8, 2011, in his home, near Lebanon, Missouri, at the age of eighty-six years, one month, and twelve days.

On August 18, 1948, he was united in marriage to Opal Mitchell, and to this union one son, Douglas, was born. Opal passed away from cancer when Douglas was four years old.

On July 18, 1959, Jim married Zella Mae Price Tribble, and to this union a daughter, Michelle, was born.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Ralph Mills; and three sisters, Mildred Horne, Marilee Riley, and Peggy Smith.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of fifty-two years, Zella, of the home; a son, Douglas James Mills, of Gladstone, Missouri; a daughter, Michelle Mills, of Kansas City, Missouri; a brother, Sam Webster, and his wife, Dixie, of Eldon, Missouri; a sister, Bonnie Ruth Knoch, and her husband, Arban, of Holt, Missouri; several nieces and nephews; as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

He was born and raised in the Ira community, and attended Merchant School. He then graduated from Lebanon High School in the Class of 1943. He entered the United States Navy on October 19, 1943, and was an Electronics Countermeasure Operator with the Air Crew of Patrol Bombing Squadron VPB-124. He saw lots of action during World War II, and was shot down on patrol over the Pacific in Japan, in 1945. He received various medals and awards including the American Defense Air Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal with one battle star, and the Japanese Occupation Medal. He was honorably discharged from the Navy on May 27, 1946.

He returned to Laclede County and became the parts manager at Montgomery Motor Sales for twenty years. During this time, he was also a part time Deputy Sheriff



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and was an Auxiliary Patrolman for the City of Lebanon for a few years. He received his real estate license under Alexander Real Estate in 1969, and then worked for Compton Realty for one year. In 1971, Jim and Zella became branch managers for Strout Realty and were top listing agents for the Springfield office each year. They left Strout Realty and opened their own real estate office, Mills Realty, in 1987. They continued in their own business for four years before transferring to Douglas Realty, Inc. as Broker-Salespersons. After seven years with Douglas Realty, Inc. they officially retired.

Jim was saved at Zion Church and joined the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. In April of 1947, he became a Deacon in that church. Later, he transferred his membership to the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, where he served as Deacon for thirty-six years. He had also worked in Training Union as Director for two years.

“Red”, as he was sometimes called by his friends, had served on the Lebanon City Council for four years, and was Mayor Pro-Tem for two years. He served on various committees during those years, and was on the Airport Committee when the new 4000 foot runway was completed and the airport was renamed the Floyd Jones Airport. He was a licensed Commercial Sea and Land Pilot for many years, and was a charter member of the Lebanon Civil Air Patrol, serving as the Communications Officer. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 4107, and a longtime member of the Lebanon Kiwanis Club, where he was the oldest member in number of years. He organized and was the first president and charter member of the Laclede County Genealogical Society. He was a member of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and had served on the Hillbilly Days Committee and as chairman of the music committee for a number of years.

In his spare time he enjoyed flying, fishing, traveling, genealogy, playing the harmonica, and collecting coins and Depression glass. His family was always very important to him and he loved his wife and children dearly.

Jim was a loving husband, father, brother, and uncle, and was a caring neighbor and friend. We celebrate his life and his accomplishments and will remember him as a devoted family man, a dedicated realtor, a faithful Christian, and a wonderful friend.



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Anonymous posted:

Zella I am so very sorry for your loss . You all will be in my prayers. Jim was a good friend. I will miss him. With love Lena Peppers###imported-begin##Lena Peppers###imported-end##

September 14 at 8:44 AM



Anonymous posted:

Aunt Zella, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Uncle Jim will be greatly missed. Love, LaDonna, Justice and Grady###imported-begin##LaDonna Cromer###imported-end##

September 13 at 6:41 AM



Anonymous posted:

We treasured Jim's cheerful spirit, wonderful smile, and his warm concern for others. We cherished his friendship, as we cherish Zella's. Jim and Steve's father were special friends. It is good to know that they are having a wonderful time in Heaven.###imported-begin##Katie and Steve Hilton###imported-end##

September 13 at 3:57 AM



Anonymous posted:

Uncle James I'm sure you will be missed by many. I only have faint memories as a child of you coming to our house in Sacramento. Take care of yourself. Until we meet again. Wade (Debbie's son)###imported-begin##Wade Hart###imported-end##

September 12 at 7:20 PM



Anonymous posted:

So many great memories. Until we meet again, Uncle James. Aunt Zella, Doug, & Michelle You are in our thoughts and prayers!###imported-begin##Debbie & Demetrio DelReal###imported-end##

September 12 at 4:53 PM



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Anonymous posted:

What a great man that went to heaven and he done so much for everyone that he knew and he was envolved in so much sure am going to miss him i remember the time he helped with the car went it was broke down sure am sorry i missed the funeral but will get to see him in heaven amen love to all matt n becky

September 12 at 4:24 PM



Anonymous posted:

On behalf of the Knoch family, our sympathy and god bless.

September 12 at 7:47 AM



Anonymous posted:

It was always such a pleasure when Jim would come to Jeffries Abstract for a closing. He looked forward to his visits. He will be greatly missed.

September 12 at 7:28 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dearest Uncle, We shall miss you and look forward to our reunion again with Him in heaven. Family, All our love and prayers to you. Wish we were able to be there. Be comforted and find hope in Jesus.

September 12 at 6:53 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Mrs. Mills & family: I am so sorry to hear of Mr Mills passing and offer our deepest condolences to you and your family. I still remember living on Sherman Street growing up, playing baseball, catching fireflies, walnut fights, treehouses, Skippy (your beagle), snowball fights and forts.....such good memories to hold on to. You were always such good neighbors to our family and my parents talked of you for many years after we all left the old neighborhood. May God watch over each and every one of you and guide you through this difficult time.

September 12 at 6:19 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Bill Nichols and Marie Hails##imported-begin##Bill Nichols##imported-end##

September 12 at 5:55 AM



Anonymous posted:

Jim was a customer of our title business (Chalfant & Tompkins Title Agency) in Camden County for many years. My sympathies go out to his family.##imported-begin##Larry Peterson##imported-end##

September 12 at 4:47 AM



Anonymous posted:

We knew Jim through real estate. He was a pleasure to work with. We have several fond memories of Jim among those - the ice cream cones he paid for and gave to our daughter, Dawn. Jim was a good Christian witness.##imported-begin##Dave & Dorothy Shoemaker##imported-end##

September 12 at 4:32 AM



Anonymous posted:

With deepest sympathy,Karen Simpson##imported-begin##Karen Simpson##imported-end##

September 12 at 3:19 AM



Anonymous posted:

God Bless you and you family.##imported-begin##Randy Neasby##imported-end##

September 12 at 3:18 AM



Anonymous posted:

May you feel Gods arms around you during this difficult time.AAaaa##imported-begin##Bob and Kay Bowman##imported-end##

September 11 at 7:58 PM



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Anonymous posted:

I'm thankful for the memories you've given me. I remember you coming to my house when I was little, I was maybe 7 or 8, and I'd just got a new bunny rabbit. You were so thrilled to be there to witness the moment of happiness! We children were so excited and I remember you recorded it with your video camera. Maybe one day I can view that. I'm sad to say that I didn't know you as well as others but am proud to say that I'm related to a hero who had many achievements in his lifetime of success. My prayers and thoughts are with you all during this time. I have no words to express how deeply sorry I am about your loss and I send you my deepest condolences.##imported-begin##Carly Nicole Hart##imported-end##

September 11 at 7:56 PM



Anonymous posted:

Zella & Family, we are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. This world was certainly better having him in it. Our loss here on earth is heavens gain. Our thoughts, love, & prayers are with you. "May God Bless & Comfort each of you!"##imported-begin##Spencer & Janet Coonce##imported-end##

September 11 at 6:31 PM



Anonymous posted:

card3|fh##imported-begin####imported-end##

September 11 at 4:56 PM



Anonymous posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with your family.##imported-begin##Opal Newell (Builderback)##imported-end##

September 11 at 4:40 PM



Anonymous posted:

##imported-begin##Enjoli Gravatt##imported-end##

September 11 at 12:38 PM



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Anonymous posted:

We extend our sincere sympathy to Zella and her family. It was our pleasure to have known Jim and enjoyed his wit and wisdom for many years. Tom & Hazel Knight

September 11 at 8:31 AM



Anonymous posted:

Thanks everyone for your kind thoughts. Dad would be thrilled to read your messages on this page. I appreciate your sentiments and I know he does, too. Michelle Mills

September 10 at 8:42 PM



Anonymous posted:

Michelle Mills is a very close friend of mine. I have never met James Mills, but I am impressed with how much he had lived his life. It sounds like he had lived a long meaningful life. May he rest in peace. Lori Austin

September 10 at 8:24 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our sympathy to you Zella and your family, we have always admired you and your loving way. May God be near is our prayer for you. My mom thought so much of you. Dorothy (Patton) Brawley and husband Clifford

September 10 at 12:52 PM



Anonymous posted:

I'll miss my Uncle James. All our sympathies to Aunt Zella, Michelle and Doug. Steve & Lisa Riley

September 10 at 12:34 PM



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Anonymous posted:

I worked in the parts dept at Montgomery Motors for a short time when "Red" was parts manager. He was always a gentleman and I could tell that his church and family were very important to him. I pray God will give comfort and strength to the family at this time. Sincerely,##imported-begin##Mary Drennan Morgan##imported-end##

September 10 at 12:27 PM



Anonymous posted:

I have no doubt my ol' bald headed uncle is soaring with the eagles, Lord willing and the creek don't rise. I will truly miss our phone conversations and your humor. Your "little" niece in California Aunt Zella, Doug, & Michelle Your family loves you##imported-begin##Rhonda & Dana Gravatt##imported-end##

September 10 at 10:29 AM



Anonymous posted:

##imported-begin##Jeffrey Knoch##imported-end##

September 10 at 7:32 AM



Anonymous posted:

card1|fh##imported-begin####imported-end##

September 10 at 4:51 AM



Anonymous posted:

Zella and family, may you know you all are in our thoughts and prayers, we are blessed to have known Jim. Johnnie & Sue Montgomery##imported-begin##John Montgomery##imported-end##

September 10 at 4:07 AM



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Anonymous posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Living in Colorado limited the times we could get together. He was one of my special cousins and a great family historian. Much of his work on the family history will continue to live on. My prayers are with you & your family.##imported-begin##Carol Thomas##imported-end##

September 10 at 2:08 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear michele and zella please call me we are so sorry hear about jims passing zella i know you remember us so sorry love you both matt n beckywe are going to miss him he was such a nice man god bless you both##imported-begin##mattnbecky##imported-end##

September 9 at 8:18 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dearest Michelle & Zella:I made Donna Brackett promise to let me know if anything ever happened to Jim or Zella to call me immediately! She made good on her promise, and I am so sorry to hear. You all were so good to us after first moving to Lebanon. We are truly blessed to call you "friend". Our thoughts and prayers are with you!##imported-begin##Scott & Jill Gunzenhauser##imported-end##

September 9 at 4:26 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our sympathy to you all.May God bless you##imported-begin##Sam & Dixie Webster##imported-end##

September 9 at 2:43 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Zella and Family, We trust that you'll all be comforted knowing that our Brother in Christ has gone to be with the LORD. May HE give you His Peace.In Christian Love,Paul & Bonnie##imported-begin##Paul & Bonnie Dockery##imported-end##

September 9 at 1:02 PM



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Anonymous posted:

card9|fh##imported-begin####imported-end##

September 9 at 12:01 PM



Anonymous posted:

Zella, You are in my prayers, You & James were good friends. He was in my LHS class of 1943. May God be with you all. Doug graduated with my daughter Stephanie, where I am living now in Jefferson, City. Love and Prayers to you all, Wanda Lamkins Weaver.##imported-begin##Wanda Lamkins Weaver (LHS Class of 1943##imported-end##

September 9 at 11:09 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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