



Jimmy L. "Jim" Kennedy

January 20, 1936 - August 31, 2021

Jimmy L. (Jim) Kennedy, 85, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. He is survived by his daughter Karen and son-in-law Walter Rutledge of Albuquerque, NM; two grandchildren, Jeremy Rutledge of Albuquerque, and Diana Rutledge Thibado and husband Jason Thibado of Seattle; one great-grandson, Sebastian (Bash) Oliver Rutledge Thibado; brother John Kennedy and wife Judy; numerous beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; extended family members; and lifelong friends. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of over 65 years, Sarah, and his parents, John Robert (Straw) Kennedy, Sr., and Daisy Bell Griffin Kennedy.

Born on January 20, 1936, in Griffin Ridge, Alabama, he lived most of his life in the nearby community of Abernant, surrounded by family. He worked in several different industries throughout his career in the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, areas - retail, construction, mining, transportation and real estate. Later in his career, he worked in Houston and Dallas, Texas, Chicago, Illinois, and Litchfield, Missouri, finally retiring and returning home to Abernant.

For many years, Jim was an active member of the Abernant Masonic Lodge and the Alabama Scottish Rite. Both through these associations and personally, Jim quietly helped many people in the area surrounding his home -

from strangers passing through to families in need of food and clothing. He delivered supplies to tornado victims, made personal donations to numerous children's charities, and coordinated transportation for children from Alabama and their families to the Shriners Children's Greenville in South Carolina, also often serving as a driver himself.

Jim's love of family was only rivaled by his love of driving cars and riding motorcycles. He spent many hours on the two Harleys he owned over the years, riding as far as Canada, visiting family and friends along the way. After retirement, he built "the shop" and began collecting his favorite antique cars. Before his health deteriorated, he realized his dream of spending hours in his shop restoring cars and, up until his last few weeks, took immense pleasure at gazing out the window at his remaining collection. He was our Pop, our Uncle Jim, our strong shoulder in a crisis. We are devastated by our loss but thankful his spirit is no longer shackled by the earthly bonds that held him at home these last few years.

Services will be held on Friday, September 3. Visitation will be from 10:00 am to 11:00 a.m. at Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at 11:30 a.m. at nearby Cedar Hill Cemetery. Active pallbearers will be Jeremy Rutledge, Terry Hosmer, Bryan Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Brooks Foster and Jakob Knight. Honorary pallbearers will be his devoted caregivers from A Touch of Love Care, his Amedisys Hospice Tuscaloosa team, and Amedisys Home Health of Brent.

There will be an opportunity during the graveside service for anyone wishing to share a special remembrance.

For the health of all attending, the family is asking visitors to wear a mask at the indoor visitation and observe social distancing at the graveside service.

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Sorry for loss of Jim just now fining out that he had past we moved here 33 year's ago and meet Jimmy vary nice man he will be missed .



Joe & Bertha Arnold - October 03, 2021 at 10:28 AM

BC

“ John.. I am sorry to hear about your brother. God promised that if we believed in him that we will all be together again. Praying for you and Judy sweet friends.

Becky chapman - September 17, 2021 at 10:43 AM

DM

“ Mr. Kennedy was a fine man.

Doster McMullen - September 17, 2021 at 10:43 AM

AB

“ Keeping you all very close in our thoughts and prayers. What a wonderful life and family Jimmy had! The Brawner Family

Ashley Brawner - September 17, 2021 at 10:43 AM

JJ

“*Brother Jimmy was an inspiration. We were in Tuscaloosa for lunch at Zaxby’s and purchased gas at a nearby service station. A lady who was a stranger to both of us was pumping gas. Later we heard the attendant telling her that he was calling the police on her because she could not pay for her gas. I mentioned to Jimmy how said it was. She reminded me of my mother. While I was contemplating what I might do to help, Jimmy had already paid the lady’s bill. She was then allowed to leave. That was Jimmy Kennedy.*

Jim Johnson - September 17, 2021 at 10:43 AM