



## James Harold Bankston

April 19, 1946 - February 23, 2022

### JAMES HAROLD BANKSTON, AGE 75

A lifelong resident of Franklinton, passed away at his home on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 alongside his family that adored him. To know him was to know his unwavering love for Jesus Christ, his family, and everyone he met. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Pauline Crain, for 54 years. They both graduated from Franklinton High School and then from Southeastern Louisiana University with degrees in Education. They shared a wonderful life together educating the students of Washington Parish. James taught over 40 years, including early years as a Franklinton Junior High Math teacher and football/basketball coach and later years as a Special Education teacher at FHS. Many of his students affectionately remember him as "Chicken Box" or "Cornbread", as he never wanted to see the cornbread from the school cafeteria wasted and was always up for some good Danny's Fried Chicken. He continued to substitute in the classroom after retirement to fulfill his passion to help and mentor to not only students but also faculty and staff as well. Prior to his years as a substitute teacher, James worked at Crain Funeral Home for 8 years serving and praying with bereaving families--a job that he cherished dearly.

One of his hobbies that he and Pauline enjoyed together was following the grandkids around in their many sporting events. James was an avid sports fan

and took extreme pride in his grandkids' accomplishments. You could even catch him throwing his hat down to the ground a time or two in disapproval of a baseball call that he thought should have been a strike when his grandsons were pitching.

James was a faithful member of Stoney Point Missionary Baptist church and has a testimony of accepting Jesus Christ as his personal savior at age 14. James considered it a great honor to be the Adult Sunday School teacher, congregational song leader, and humble servant of his church family. If he was not in attendance at Sunday or Wednesday services, the congregation knew to check on him, because only a dire emergency would keep him out of the Lord's house. In addition to his home church, he also supported and attended all of the local Landmark Faith revivals that he could.

James was a kind and loving father to his 3 children and grandchildren, and a main focus of their upbringing was family devotion time every evening. Daily Bible reading and prayer were important routines he wanted to instill in his family, and he made sure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was presented above all else. To this day, many friends of his children testify of the treasured Bible devotions they remember being a part of while spending the night at the Bankstons as kids and the personal and sincere prayers he prayed for them and their families.

As the family grew and visits became sporadic and impromptu, "Papaw" still never let anyone leave his house without leading in prayer. "Pray us out" is the sweet expression his grandson, Max, called this family tradition that will live on to honor Papaw's Christian legacy.

James 5:16 "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

He is lovingly survived by:

Wife -- Pauline Bankston

Three children and Spouses:

Daughter: Tracey Schilling (Darren), Franklinton

Son: Jay Bankston (Kelly), Bella Vista, Arkansas

Daughter: Ashley Wascom (Jerod), Franklinton

Grandchildren:

Ragen McCollum (Austin)

Spencer Watson

Parker Watson (fiance', Ali Cochran)

Sydney Watson (fiance', Peyton Richardson)

Seth Schilling

Max Schilling

Camille Bankston

Will Bankston

Isaac Wascom

Micah Wascom

Claire Wascom

Great-Granddaughter:

Eliza James McCollum

Sister: Eugenia "Jean" Cox

Sister-in-law and Brother in law: Paulette Lantz (Jack)

Sister-in-law: Linda Crain

Niece: Shanda and (Dennis) Glover

And numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, parents Artis Bankston and Camille "Pete" Stafford Bankston, brother-in-law Jesse Harold Cox, father in law and mother in law William and Willie Crain and brother-in-law Robert Wesley Crain.

Visitation will be at Crain Funeral Home Saturday February 26th from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Visitation will continue Sunday at Stoney Point Missionary Baptist Church (36366 Hwy. 450, Franklinton, LA) from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm. A funeral service will be held in the church at 2:00 pm Sunday with Eld. Everett Broome and Eld. Brent King officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial donations to the Stoney Point Baptist Church Building Fund at the address above.

Pallbearers: Rod Graham, Bobby Varnado, Justin Graham, Trey Bond, Todd Edwards, Butch Robertson

Honorary Pallbearers: Darren Schilling, Jerod Wascom, Alvin Graham, Danny Bond, Billy Bond, Kinell Cox, Wayne Cox, Buford McDaniel, Derwood Smith, Earl Bullock, Berman Graham, Ricky Russell

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ Sorry for the family’s loss. Mr. Bankston was a GREAT man! One of my favorite teachers from jr. High.



Shawn Wilson - March 02, 2022 at 02:49 AM

CR

“ Crystal OBryant Roberson lit a candle in memory of James Harold Bankston



Crystal OBryant Roberson - March 01, 2022 at 11:08 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Harold Bankston.



February 27, 2022 at 11:51 PM

DW

“ *Pauline & Family,*  
*We were so saddened to hear of James' illness and departure from this life. He was such an inspiration to us, and we enjoyed seeing hm at our revivals, bible studies, and church services. His thoughtfulness, his kindness, his Christian fellowship shall always be remembered by us. Know that you and your family are in our prayers.*  
*David & Anita Wood*

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**David & Anita Wood** - February 27, 2022 at 10:57 PM

RM

“ *Ray Magee lit a candle in memory of James Harold Bankston*



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**Ray Magee** - February 27, 2022 at 06:48 PM

RM

*MR. Bankston was a great man who was easy to love back in the days in 1975 he was my football coach even i work at FHS to i retired on June 30th he sub another at FHS he was still the same a good Christian man he will be miss. We will be praying 🙏 for the Bankston family 🙏🙏.*

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**Ray Magee** - February 27, 2022 at 06:57 PM

DK

“ *Dickie Knight lit a candle in memory of James Harold Bankston*



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**Dickie Knight** - February 27, 2022 at 06:12 PM

RM

“ *Richard And Bonnie Massey lit a candle in memory of James Harold Bankston*



Richard and Bonnie Massey - February 27, 2022 at 06:10 PM

RM

*Please accept our deepest sympathies for the entire family.*

Richard and Bonnie Massey - February 27, 2022 at 06:11 PM

DS

“ *Thank you for the math and life lessons that you provided to me and countless other students that you taught.*

Dr. Delarious Stewart - February 27, 2022 at 06:43 AM

BS

“ *My condolences to the family.*

Brenda Shanks - February 27, 2022 at 01:44 AM

DC

“ *Sending love, hugs and condolences Pauline to you and your family. I knew James all the way through school at FHS. He was always nice and kind to everyone I only saw him a few times through the years but will always remember him as a wonderful man filled with kindness and love. Prayers for you and your family 🙏🙏🙏*

Delores Crowe - February 26, 2022 at 05:25 PM

LS

“ Mr. James was such a great blessing to all that were privileged to know him. Our community learned about love for others and showing the Light of CHRIST through his example. When we had Revivals or Bible Study, you knew if possible he would visit to honor his LORD and encourage others. He will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers are with you all. Roger and Libby Stephens

Libby, Roger Stephens - February 26, 2022 at 12:36 PM

FC

“ I am always saddened a bit at the passing of one of the good guys that make growing up in small town America unique and special. It would be hard to count the number of students, friends, and family that James influenced in a positive way. I would call it effect by example. Good memories in sad times Pauline and family. God Bless.  
Finley Corkern

Finley Corkern - February 26, 2022 at 11:19 AM

JV

“ Jimmie D. And Joanie Varnado lit a candle in memory of James Harold Bankston



Jimmie D. and Joanie Varnado - February 26, 2022 at 10:07 AM

JV

James was a fine Christian gentleman. Prayers of love for all family members. He will be missed on Earth but he is with Jesus rejoicing. 🙏

Jimmie D. and Joanie Varnado - February 26, 2022 at 10:12 AM

DP

“ Sending prayers and condolences to his family for their loss . My children loved having him as a teacher and have always had a great respect for him . May God give you much comfort and peace now and the days ahead.



Deby Pigott - February 26, 2022 at 09:08 AM



“ Heavenly Sentiments Spray was purchased for the family of James Harold Bankston.



February 25, 2022 at 07:50 PM

SG

“ To the family there was not a finer Christian man around! My Granny Bond always called him her boy. James was a sweet person that I always loved meeting him somewhere and talking. May God bless the family in the days ahead!!

Sherry Graham - February 25, 2022 at 05:54 PM

Juanita Luper

“ Juanita Luper lit a candle in memory of James Harold Bankston



Juanita Luper - February 25, 2022 at 05:24 PM

SL

“ *Mr. Bankston was always so pleasant when I came in contact with him. My prayers go out to Pauline and his family. May God give you the peace and love to see you through at this difficult time.*

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**Sonya Lawson** - February 25, 2022 at 04:57 PM