



James Stafford

January 2, 1933 - August 1, 2020

DR. NORMAN JAMES STAFFORD, JR., AGE 87

And a resident of Franklinton passed away Saturday evening August 1, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center. He was a graduate of Franklinton High School and later obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Southeastern Louisiana University. James also obtained a Master's Degree and his Doctorate of Education from Louisiana State University. He began his teaching career in St. Tammany Parish and then served as Principal of Franklinton High School from 1966 until 1977. James was Assistant Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana in Baton Rouge for 8 years before becoming Superintendent of the Monroe City Schools and an Associate Professor at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. He later served on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for 16 years before retiring back home to Franklinton. James was known as "Mr. Education" within the state because of his extensive experience and he always admired for his ability to work with so many fellow educators on the ultimate goal of the betterment of the lives of countless young people. James was an active member of First Baptist Church of Franklinton, where he served as a Deacon. He also was a member of the Franklinton Rotary Club. He enjoyed his retirement by reconnecting with some childhood buddies and former classmates, even playing pool once a week when they could. James had a love of hunting, fishing and the outdoors which he passed down to his family

and grandchildren. He always remained young at heart and his loving personality allowed him to connect with anyone, across all ages and walks of life, even his beloved young great-grandchildren.

Survived by:

Wife of 65 years: Lillian Williams Stafford of Franklinton

Daughter: Frances Stafford Shea of Covington

2 Sons and Daughters in law: Norman J. "Jimmy" Stafford, III and Tina Stafford of Franklinton,

William Stephen "Bill" Stafford and Teresa Stafford of Hammond

Grandchildren and Spouses: Meghan Rose Shea,

Emily and Christopher Robin,

Kylen Laurel Shea,

David and Jasmine Stafford,

Brandon and McKaila Stafford,

Cameron Stafford,

Dustin and Lindsey Corkern,

Matt Young

Great-grandchildren: Logan, Charlotte, Annabelle, Emma, Ryland

Sister: Margaret Burch of Franklinton

Brother and Sister in law: Rev. Larry and Rita Stafford of Monroe

Brother in law and Sister in law: John and Maria Williams of Zapata, TX

Special Friend: Debbie Garner and her son Rob Garner of Monroe

Also numerous nieces, nephews and other family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents Norman James Stafford, Sr. and Etna Lindsey Stafford, a sister Etna Lou Stafford East, father in law and mother in law Delos and Gertrude Williams, and several brothers in law and sisters in law.

Visitation will be at First Baptist Church of Franklinton (950 Self Street, Franklinton, LA) on Tuesday August 4th from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. A funeral service will be held in the church at 11:00 am Tuesday with Rev. Larry Stafford, Rev. Joe Baugh, and Rev. Cody Warren officiating. Burial will follow in the Fisher United Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial donations to First Baptist Church New Sanctuary Fund (at the address above), the Gideons International Bogalusa/Franklinton Camp (P.O. Box 871, Bogalusa, LA 70427) or the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home (lbch.org).

Pallbearers: David Stafford, Brandon Stafford, Cameron Stafford, Rob Garner, John Stafford, Thomas Arthur, Richie Williams

Honorary Pallbearers: Carey Bateman, Tommy Arthur, Dick Richardson, Holyne Passman, Richard Morgan, T.J. Butler, Findley Corkern and the members of his Fellowship Sunday School Class at First Baptist.

Obituaries can be viewed online at www.crainfh.com

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Our deepest sympathies to Bill and family. I know Bill from Archives interaction with our BR genealogical societies and had met James at several BESE functions. My wife Claire served with him on BESE and enjoyed their friendship.

Larry and Claire Landry

LARRY LANDRY - August 04, 2020 at 05:50 PM

MC

“ I remember when I was a kid thinking how tough he was and later learning he was one of the most honest and sincere people I've ever known.

Michael Calmes - August 04, 2020 at 08:19 AM

LS

“ We're gonna miss ya "Buddy"



Lib Scheuermann - August 03, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of James Stafford.



August 03, 2020 at 04:05 PM

PP

“ Saddened to see the passing of Dr. Stafford. I came to know and admire the man during our service together on the State Board of Education. I know that initially he had more than a little exasperation with my approach to public service, but over time we built a very strong bond that allowed us to work closely together - unified toward the same purpose, if occasionally approaching the problem from a different perspective. My deepest condolences to Lillian. She was definitely a steady support throughout his service during our tenures together and I suspect for their entire married life. I offer prayers that Jim rests easy having been a great public service to the people of Louisiana, especially its children, and that Lillian is consoled by his exemplary service.

Paul Pastorek - August 03, 2020 at 12:58 PM

EL

“ Dr. Stafford was a very good friend of my uncle, Fred W. Jackson of Angie, La. When he became the superintendent of Monroe City Schools, I met him through my creative work developing innovative programs solving students, teachers and parents academic problems. He sought out the person doing so thus, finding out I was Fred's niece. He was so supportive of all of my supervision efforts. A very good superintendent and public servant
So sad to hear of his passing!!
God bless his family!

Edith Lowe-Douzart - August 03, 2020 at 11:32 AM

KD

“ Dr. Stafford helped me get one of my first teaching jobs in Monroe City Schools, he was a great man, very caring, and very helpful in all aspects of education.
He will be missed by all that knew him.

Kathy Daughdrill - August 03, 2020 at 11:05 AM

SW

“ Aunt Lilian:

Very sorry to hear of the passing of Uncle James. He is now in that beautiful place where one day we will join him. Our prayers are with you, Jimmy, Fran, Bill and the Stafford families during this time of mourning.

God has a purpose in each of our lives, and Uncle James realized that early on and was spot on center. This was reflective in the countless blessings God provided through his life - and it sets a beautiful legacy for generations to follow!

*We are with you all in prayer! Take care and we love you all,
Steven, Norma, and Jacob Williams*

Steven Williams - August 03, 2020 at 10:39 AM

TW

“ *I have always been proud to be his nephew. I am just sorry we didn't get together often due to distance. I loved talking with him about hunting and past memories of the family.*

He was a wonderful man who will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Love and hugs to the family!

Terry and Becky Williams

Terry Williams - August 03, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Stafford.*



August 03, 2020 at 08:12 AM

FC

“ As we goes through life, we find different “buddies” for our activities —school buddies, career buddies, hunting buddies, golfing buddies and so on. Seldom do we find one that fits all our buddy catagories. That is why I was saddened when the call came that said, “You lost your old buddy James today.” We did about all the buddy categories through the years and lately we became mostly reminiscing buddies. I will miss you, James. Wish I could be there. Rest in Peace. Lillian, I know he was more than just a good buddy to you and family. Jane and I will say a prayer.
Finley

Finlry Corkern - August 02, 2020 at 08:56 PM

AJ

*Lillian, Darryl And I were so sorry to hear that James had passed away. We were always very fond of James and you. He was a wonderful person he will surely be missed. Prayers abd thoughts are with you and your family.
Our love,
Annwood abd Darryl*

Annwood Jenkins - August 03, 2020 at 12:16 AM

JB

“ So sorry for your family’s loss. With deepest sympathy, We have all of you in our thoughts and prayers. Such a good man, that did so much to help educate generations. He will be missed. Billy Ray and Janet Breland

janet Breland - August 02, 2020 at 08:16 PM

DW

“ My heartfelt sympathies to each member of James' family. He was a mentor to me, and I'll always remember our first national education convention in Atlantic City, the meals, the movies, and flying back First Class on a Delta DC-10. The deep-sea fishing trips were some of the best. James will always remain in my memories as a well-respected, intelligent, caring individual. It is difficult for me to accept that most of the educators that I was colleagues with have now passed.

David Wood - August 02, 2020 at 06:08 PM

RB

I am thankful the Lord saw fit for me to cross paths with Dr. Stafford. I wish I could be half the man he was. May the Lord comfort all who mourn his passing.

Roy Breithaupt - August 03, 2020 at 08:18 AM

BH

Mrs. Lillian and family, so sorry about Mr. James. I truly believe the saying that behind a good man is a good woman and Mrs. Lillian you fit the bill. May God lighten the load of sorrow! With love, Barbara Hunt

Barbara Hunt - August 03, 2020 at 11:25 PM