



# James William Anderson

APR 11, 1932 - DEC 22, 2017



Scan to Visit



MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **James William Anderson**

APR 11, 1932 - DEC 22, 2017

**J**ames William Anderson passed away on Friday, December 22nd peacefully at the age of eighty-five. He was born in Cape Girardeau, MO but his family soon moved to Memphis, TN. At age thirteen his first job was delivering newspapers on his bicycle to help support his family. This started a life-long strong work ethic he passed down to his children and grandchildren. Jim graduated from Tech High School in 1951 where he was Junior and Senior Class President. He formed lifelong friendships with many of his fellow students and hosted many of their class reunions at his home in Germantown. They still continue to meet. Next, Jim attended Memphis State University and graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts in 1956. Immediately following that he served in the U.S. Army from 1956-1958 where he earned his jump wings as part of the 82nd Airborne. As a college graduate, he taught World War II Veterans by helping them obtain their GED. This combination of jumping out of airplanes and education led to his future professions. Many years later while working full-time and raising a family he earned a Master's Degree from Memphis State University in Education Administration. In 1958 he spent the first of five summers working for the U.S. Forest Service as a Smoke Jumper in Montana. He made over fifty jumps fighting fires in rural areas. He always remembered fondly that period of his life. He returned to Montana many times for reunions and also performed volunteer trail maintenance work in with the Forest Service in remote areas of Montana until he was nearly eighty years old. In 1959 he married Shirley Snider and they remained together for the rest of his life and had four children together. He worked for the Shelby County School System for thirty-eight years beginning in 1959. He served first as a teacher at Oakhaven High School for five years teaching History. After that he moved into Administration where over the years he worked his way up the ranks. In 1985 he was appointed Superintendent of the school system where he served for twelve years until his retirement at age sixty-five in April,



## Obituary

**James William Anderson**

APR 11, 1932 - DEC 22, 2017

---

1997. During this time he served with distinction over tremendous growth of the system. He was known as a “firm but fair” administrator earning the respect and admiration of his staff. In retirement Jim enjoyed spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, and traveling. For several years he volunteered with the FedEx/St. Jude Golf Tournament and also volunteered feeding the homeless in downtown Memphis serving his community. In 2014 Jim and Shirley moved into the Kirby Pines Retirement Community. Jim was loved by all there with his pleasant disposition and warm smile. The family would like to express their warm thanks to the Kirby Pines staff for their tender, loving care. Jim is preceded in death by his parents Thelma Anderson and Clarence William Anderson, his sister Betty Edwards, and his brother Charles Anderson. He leaves his loving wife of over fifty-eight years, Shirley. He also leaves his four children Leslie Mayfield (Daryl), Tracy Depperschmidt (Mark), Jim Anderson, and William “Tim” Anderson. He had four grandchildren, Lindsey Teders (Johnie), Kelly Depperschmidt, Lauren Mayfield Pica (Tyler), and Katie Depperschmidt. Lastly, he proudly lived to become a great-grandfather to Kenley Teders. Visitation will be at Memorial Park Funeral home on Thursday, December 28 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. with the funeral to be held Friday, December 29 at 1:00 p.m. All services will be held at Memorial Park.



## Tribute Wall

**James William Anderson**

APR 11, 1932 - DEC 22, 2017

JM

**Jim Mitchell** posted:

To the Anderson Family: Jim Anderson was an outstanding leader who inspired others that had the opportunity to work with him. Jim made a positive contribution to the lives of thousands of children in the legacy Shelby County Schools. He was a gentleman who will be fondly remembered.

December 25 at 4:25 AM

PL

**Pat Lawrence** posted:

Dear Shirley So sorry to hear about Jim. He always had a special place in my heart. May the lord wrap his wings around you and your family and give you comfort in the days to come. Your friend Pat Lawrence

December 24 at 12:09 PM

WE

**Wendy** posted:

Dear Shirley, I feel honored to have known Jim and to have been a part of the school system he led with such talent and dedication. I hope wonderful memories of him will bring you comfort and I pray that he is resting in peace, celebrating the awesome family and professional legacies he left. Hugs to Leslie, Tracy, Jim, and Timothy William and their families. Love, Wendy

December 23 at 5:35 PM

CG

**Catherine Grossner** posted:

My dear Shirley, I think of you and your family often and especially at this time in your lives. May you feel God's presences and be lifted up today and always. Your friend, Catherine

December 23 at 6:51 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



Scan to Visit



**MEMORIAL PARK**  
Funeral Home & Cemetery